

&
electoral
questions
& answers



STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE
South Australia

&

electoral
questions
& answers



STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE
South Australia

contents

Advertising	4
1 What is an electoral advertisement ?	4
2 Do election/political advertisements have to be authorised ?	4
3 Will there be any ban on political advertising broadcasts this election?	4
4 How can I make a complaint about an advertisement?	5
5 How large can electoral signs/advertisements be?	5
6 What is misleading advertising?	5
7 Are candidate/party signs permitted?	5
Candidates, Nominations, Parties and Scrutineers	6
8 Who can stand as a candidate ?	6
9 Which candidates are standing in the election?	6
10 Do parties/candidates have to disclose donations and election expenses?	6
11 Which parties/independents held seats in the House of Assembly prior to the 2006 election?	6
12 Which parties/independents were represented in the Legislative Council prior to the 2006 election?	6
13 How many candidates contested the last election?	6
14 How do I nominate as a candidate?	7
15 Do public servants standing as candidates have to resign before the election?	7
16 How do I register a political party?	7
17 What is a scrutineer ?	7
18 When will we know which candidates are standing in the election?	7
Election Results	8
19 Election Results: House of Assembly 1890 – 2002	8
20 How many parliaments has South Australia had?	9
21 When will the election results be known?	9
Elections	9
22 How much did the 2002 election cost ?	9
23 How many polling booths were there last election?	9
24 How often are State elections held?	9
25 What hours are polling booths open?	9
26 What is a Returning Officer (RO) ?	9
27 Who or what determines the rules for an election?	9
28 How many polling booth staff are employed at the time of an election?	9
29 What was the voter turn out at the last election?	9
Election Timetable – SA Parliaments	10
30 What is the time frame for holding an election?	10
Electoral Boundaries/Districts	11
31 Which maps show current electoral boundaries ?	11
32 How many electoral districts/members of parliament are there?	11
33 How are electoral districts determined?	11
34 Where can I buy electoral boundary maps ?	11
35 When was the last electoral boundary redistribution ?	11
Electors - Special Voting Categories	12
36 I am leaving soon to work in the Antarctic . How can I vote?	12
37 What is the Register of Permanent Declaration Voters ?	12
38 I am in a nursing home/hospital , how do I vote?	12
39 I'm going overseas . How do I maintain my enrolment?	12
40 I have no permanent home. Can I still enrol to vote?	13
41 I live in a remote area of the State. How can I vote?	13
42 Can I get on the roll before I turn 18?	13

Enrolment 14

43	How do I enrol or change my enrolment details ?	14
44	I am not an Australian citizen , can I enrol?	14
45	Is State enrolment compulsory ?	14
46	How can someone with dementia be removed from the roll?	14
47	A family member has died . How do I have their name removed from the roll?	14
48	What electoral district (House of Assembly) am I enrolled for?	14
49	Can I buy or view the electoral roll ?	14
50	Who can enrol ?	15
51	Who cannot enrol to vote at State elections?	15
52	Am I enrolled ?	15
53	Can I fax my electoral enrolment form ?	15
54	I am physically handicapped and I can't sign an enrolment form. How do I enrol?	15
55	I have Power of Attorney for a person, can I enrol/vote on their behalf?	15
56	Are prisoners entitled to enrol and vote in South Australian elections?	15
57	Can someone of unsound mind be removed from the roll?	16
58	Can my address details be suppressed from the roll?	16
59	I have moved to a different address, how do I update my enrolment details?	16

Referendums in SA 17

60	What SA referendum questions have been put to the people, what were the results ?	17
----	---	----

Voting 18

61	On polling day I will be away in the country. How do I vote?	18
62	Must I mark the ballot papers ?	18
63	How do I fill in my ballot papers ?	18
64	Is voting compulsory ?	20
65	Is there an age when voting is no longer compulsory ?	20
66	Is my declaration vote (postal/pre-poll/absent) secret ?	20
67	How can an elderly or disabled (eg. blind) elector vote?	21
68	What happens if I am enrolled but do not vote ?	21
69	I do not understand English very well, who can help me vote?	21
70	What is the fine for not voting?	21
71	What is a formal and/or an informal vote?	21
72	What is a ' How to Vote ' card?	21
73	I am going interstate/overseas ? How do I vote?	22
74	How many members of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council are elected at each election?	22
75	I have moved recently. What do I need to do?	22
76	I am in a nursing home/hospital , how do I vote?	23
77	I will be outside my enrolled district on polling day. How do I vote?	23
78	Do I have to vote if I'm overseas ?	23
79	Where is my nearest polling booth ?	23
80	What time are the polling booths open?	23
81	Where can I get a postal vote application form?	23
82	I have returned my postal vote but I want to change my vote, can I have new ballot papers ?	24
83	What is preferential voting?	24
84	What is pre-poll (early) voting?	24
85	Can prisoners vote in South Australian elections?	24
86	What is proportional representation (PR) ?	24
87	What is a quota ?	24
88	How can I vote if I can't get to a polling booth on election day?	25
89	Do all polling booths have wheelchair access?	25

Electoral Glossary 26

Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission 2003 Redistribution Metropolitan Area	35
Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission 2003 Redistribution Country Region	36

1 What is an electoral advertisement?

An electoral advertisement means any advertisement pamphlet; poster or notice that contains electoral matter that is intended to or likely to affect voting in an election.

2 Do election/political advertisements have to be authorised?

Yes. Electoral advertisements may not be printed, published or distributed unless the name and address (not a PO box number) of the author, or the person authorising its publication appears at the end of it. In the case of electoral advertisements printed other than in a newspaper, the name and address of the printer's business must appear at the end of the advertisement. This is to ensure that electors are informed about the source of political advertising.

Authorisation is not required for car stickers, T-shirts, lapel badges, pens, pencils or balloons. Ads must be authorised at all times, not just during the election period.

Penalty: up to \$1250 for an individual, and up to \$5000 for a body corporate. *Electoral Act s112(1).*

3 Will there be any ban on political advertising broadcasts this election?

The ban or blackout applies to party/candidate election advertising (*not news broadcasting, printed media, talk back radio or interviews with candidates*) and begins at midnight on the Wednesday before polling day and ends at 6pm on polling day. This is a requirement of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* not the (SA) *Electoral Act 1985*.

Background: The 3-day election advertising blackout was introduced on 1 July 1942 with the commencement of section 116 of the *Australian Broadcasting Act 1942*. The blackout was further extended by the *Broadcasting Amendment Act (No. 3) 1987* to include all internal and external Australian territories, and further expanded by provisions of the *Political Broadcasts and Political Disclosures Act 1992*.

On 28 August 1992 the High Court ruled in *Australian Capital Television Pty. Ltd. v Commonwealth (No. 2)* that the political ads ban was unconstitutional. *The Australian Broadcasting Act 1942* was then repealed as of 5 October 1992 by the *Broadcasting Services (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1992*.

Sections 20 and 35 of the Transport and Communications Legislation Amendment Act (No. 3), commencing on 24 December 1992, amended the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and the *Special Broadcasting Service Act 1991* to re-instate the 3 day electoral blackout before polling day.

4 How can I make a complaint about an advertisement?

All complaints relating to electoral advertising must be made in writing, addressed to the Electoral Commissioner and be accompanied by original examples of the material.

Refer to *Electoral Act 1985 sec 113*.

5 How large can electoral signs/advertisements be?

Advertisements on a vehicle, vessel, building, bill board or other structure (eg fences) must not be larger than 1 square metre. This does not apply to ads in theatres. No restriction in size applies if an advertisement simply contains the name of a candidate and/or political party and is exhibited near the office or room of that candidate or party and is displayed more than 100 metres from the entrance of a polling booth.

6 What is misleading advertising?

An electoral advertisement may not be published by any means (including radio or television) if, in claiming to be a statement of fact, it is inaccurate and misleading.

If it can be proven that a candidate, or any other person determining the content of the advertisement could reasonably be expected to have known that the statement was inaccurate and misleading, that candidate or person shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalties are prescribed in the *Electoral Act 1985*, s113(2).

7 Are candidate/party signs permitted?

Council consent must be obtained before any signs relating to the promotion of candidates in a Federal, State or Council election can be attached or erected on property under the care and control of a Council, ETSA Utilities (stobie poles) or Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure.

They can be displayed during the election period, that is from issue of the writs until close of polling. They must be removed within 2 days (48 hrs) or they will be considered illegal signs and Councils can implement proceedings. See 'Codes and Guidelines' www.lga.sa.gov.au

candidates, nominations, parties and scrutineers

8 Who can stand as a candidate?

Candidates standing in either the Legislative Council or House of Assembly, must at the time of roll close for the relevant election, be enrolled and qualified to vote for a South Australian address. They are not required to be enrolled in the electorate they are contesting.

9 Which candidates are standing in the election?

Following the close of candidate nominations a list of candidates and party/group affiliation or independent candidate category will be published on the website www.seo.sa.gov.au and in the newspaper, or alternatively contact the State Electoral Office on 1300 655 232 for information.

10 Do parties/candidates have to disclose donations and election expenses?

No.

11 Which parties/independents held seats in the House of Assembly following to the 2006 election?

Australian Labor Party	23
Liberal Party	20
National Party	1
CLIC	1
Independent	2
Total	47

12 Which parties/independents were represented in the Legislative Council following to the 2006 election?

Australian Labor Party	7
Liberal Party	9
Australian Democrats	3
Family First	1
SA First- People before Politics	1
Ind No Pokies	1
Total	22

13 How many candidates contested the last election?

A total of 302 candidates contested the 47 House of Assembly elections and 76 candidates stood for election to the Legislative Council. 15.6% of all candidates were independents.

14 How do I nominate as a candidate?

Nomination forms can only be lodged after the issue of the writ and before 12 noon on the date fixed for close of nominations. Intending candidates must be nominated by at least two electors who are enrolled for the district the candidate proposes to contest. The forms must be lodged with the State Electoral Office or appropriate returning officer before the close of nominations together with a deposit of the prescribed amount, \$450 (Electoral Regulation 7) in cash or a banker's cheque. Nomination forms for party affiliated candidates are available from the parties registered officer who can lodge bulk party nominations 48 hours prior to close of nominations. Independent candidates can obtain nomination forms from the State Electoral Office or returning officers.

A candidate cannot withdraw consent to nomination once nominations have closed.

Deposits are returned if the candidate or his/her group receives more than 4% of the total first preference votes cast in that election.

Nomination forms cannot be faxed.

15 Do public servants standing as candidates have to resign before the election?

The *SA Constitution Act 1934* precludes any officer or employee of the Crown from being elected to the South Australian parliament. The Act states that the resignation of a public servant must be effective before the date of declaration of the poll. If however, there was only one candidate contesting a district they would be declared elected on the day of close of nominations. Where an employee has chosen to resign in order to contest an election and is not successful, the *Public Sector Management Act 1995*(s54) requires that the employee be reappointed and the break in service will be deemed to be leave without pay.

16 How do I register a political party?

To be **eligible** for registration the group seeking registration must either:

- be a *political party* that has at least 150 members who are on the South Australian electoral roll
- be a *parliamentary party*, ie, a political party with at least one member in a parliament of the Commonwealth, a State, or Territory.

Applications for registration must be lodged with the Electoral Commissioner by the party secretary or any other person authorised by the party.

The application must set out the name of the party, its abbreviation (if any) and the name, address and signature of its proposed registered officer. It must also set out the name and address of the applicant(s) and be accompanied by a copy of the party's written constitution.

Note An application for registration cannot be processed by the Electoral Commissioner in the period between the issue of the writ for an election and polling day. A current list of registered political parties is available on the web site.

17 What is a scrutineer?

A scrutineer is a person appointed by a candidate to observe the procedures at polling booths and at other places where votes are issued or counted. Scrutineers have the right to question the validity of any votes.

18 When will we know which candidates are standing in the election?

The names of candidates contesting the election and their party/independent/group affiliation will be known after the close of nominations.

election results

19 Election Results: House of Assembly 1890 – 2002

Year	Seats Won				
	Total	LAB	LIB	IND	Other
1890	54			54	
1893	54	10	11	33	
1896	54	12	17	25	
1899	54	11	15	28	
1902	42	5	19	2	12 (LIB), 4 (Ind. Lib)
1905	42	15	10	12	5 (FPPU)
1906	42	19	9		4 (FPPU), 20 (LFDU)
1910	42	22	20		
1912	40	16	24		
1915	46	26	20		
1918	46	17	28		1 (F & S)
1921	46	16	25		4 (F & S), 1 (PCP)
1924	46	27	17		2 (CP)
1927	46	16	28	1	1 (Prot. Labor)
1930	46	30	134		2 (CP), 1 (Single Tax)
1933	46	6	29	3	4 (PPL), 3 (Lang), 1 (Single Tax)
1938	39	9	15	12	2 (Ind. Labor), 1 (Single Tax)
1941	39	11	21	5	2 (Ind. Labor)
1944	39	16	20	3	
1947	39	13	23	3	
1950	39	12	23	4	
1953	39	14	21	4	
1956	39	15	21	3	
1959	39	17	20	2	
1962	39	19	18	2	
1965	39	21	17	1	
1968	39	19	19	1	
1970	47	27	20		
1973	47	26	20		1 (CP)
1975	47	23	20		1 (CP), 2 (LM), 1 (Ind. Labor)
1977	47	27	17		1 (CP), 1 (AD), 1 (Ind. Liberal)
1979	47	19	25		1 (CP), 1 (AD), 1 (Ind. Labor)
1982	47	24	21		1 (NP), 1 (Ind. Labor)
1985	47	27	16		1 (NP), 2 (Ind. Labor), 1 (Ind. Liberal)
1989	47	22	22		1 (NP), 2 (Ind. Labor)
1993	47	10	37		
1997	47	21	23	1	1 (NP), 1 (Ind. Liberal)
2002	47	23	20	2	1 (NP), 1 (CLIC)

Legend

AD	Australian Democrats
LDU	Liberal and Democratic Union
CP	Country Party
LIB	Liberal
FPPU	Farmers & Producers Political Union
LM	Liberal Movement
F&S	Farmers & Settlers
NP	National Party
IND	Independent
PCP	Progressive Country Party
LAB	Labor
PPL	Premiers Plan Labor
CLIC	Community Leadership Independence Coalition Party

Sources

Hughes C.A.(et al) *Voting for the Australian State Lower Houses 1890-1984*, ANU Press, Canberra
 Jaensch D. (Ed.) *The Flinders History of South Australia*, Wakefield Press 1986.
 State Electoral Office Statistical Returns.

election results

20 How many parliaments has South Australia had?

The first bi-cameral parliament to be elected after the passing of the South Australian *Constitution Act* and *Electoral Law Acts* was in 1857.

The parliament elected on the 18 March 2006 will be the 51st.

21 When will the election results be known?

House of Assembly provisional results are known on election night but the count cannot be finalised until all postal and absent (declaration) votes are received by Returning Officers. (Postal votes received during the prescribed period following the election are admitted to the scrutiny/count).

Legislative Council results are not known for several weeks. Counting takes longer as the counting process is more complicated and cannot commence until all postal and absent (declaration) votes are received and a 'quota' is calculated.

elections

22 How much did the 2002 election cost?

The estimated cost of the 2002 election was \$6.7M. The estimated cost per elector was \$5.29

23 How many polling booths were there last election?

There were 692 polling booths set up for the 2002 election, 70 of these were 'shared locations'.

24 How often are State elections held?

Elections are held on the 3rd Saturday in March every 4 years. The Constitution (Parliamentary Terms) Amendment Act 2001 introduced fixed four year terms, see Constitution Act 1934 s28

25 What hours are polling booths open?

Polling booths are open from 8am until 6pm on the day of the election.

26 What is a Returning Officer (RO)?

A Returning Officer is the official responsible for conducting an election in an electoral district.

There are 47 House of Assembly Returning Officers and one Returning Officer for the Legislative Council; all are employed by the State Electoral Office.

27 Who or what determines the 'rules' for an election?

The *Electoral Act 1985* and Regulations set down the 'rules' relating to the conduct of an election of candidates to the South Australian Parliament.

28 How many polling booth staff are employed at the time of an election?

Over 4 751 polling booth staff were employed at the 2002 election.

29 What was the voter turn out last election?

Participation increased for both houses to 94.1% (LC) and 93.6% (HA).

election timetable - SA parliamentary elections

30 What is the time frame for holding an election?

Issue of the Writ

Close of the Roll

Rolls close not less than 7 days nor more than 10 days after the Issue of the Writ
Electoral Act s48(3)

Close of Nominations

Nominations close not less than 3 days nor more than 14 days after the Close of Rolls
Electoral Act s48(4)

Polling Day

18 March 2006

Polling day must be 3rd Saturday in March every fourth year
Polling day can not be less than 14 days nor more than 30 days after the Close of Nominations
Electoral Act s48(5) Constitution Act 1934 sec28

Return of writ

Date specified in Writ

Parliament sits

Within 12 calendar months of last sitting day
SA Constitution Act 1934 s7

Following issue of the writ:

Minimum time frame for holding an election 25 days

Maximum time frame for holding an election 55 days

Sources: *SA Constitution Act 1934 s28, SA Electoral Act 1985 s48, SA Acts Interpretation Act 1915 s27*

31 Which maps show current electoral boundaries?

A redistribution of State electoral boundaries is conducted by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (EDBC) following each general election. The election due on 18 March 2006 will be contested on the redistributed boundaries gazetted on 20 March 2003. **New boundaries determined by the EDBC become effective at the next general election.** Maps are available at www.seo.sa.gov.au

32 How many electoral districts/members of parliament are there?

There are 47 House of Assembly (lower house) districts, each electoral district is represented by **one** member who is elected for a four year term.

The State serves as one electoral district for the Legislative Council (upper house) and has 22 members, half of whom are elected at each general election for an 8 year term.

33 How are electoral districts determined?

In 1975 an 'independent' Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (EDBC) was created. The members of the EDBC comprise the most senior Supreme Court judge available – who acts as chairman, the Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General. When carrying out a redistribution the Commission's primary responsibility is to attempt to ensure that the party that obtains 50% or more of the overall vote at a general election is able to form a government. The EDBC must also set boundaries so that the number of electors in each district do not vary from the 'quota' or State average by $\pm 10\%$ at the time of the redistribution order. This is calculated by dividing the number of SA electors by the number of electoral districts (47). Other matters which must be considered by the Commission are:

- communities of interest – economic, social, regional or other kind
- the population of each proposed district
- the topography of areas
- communication between electors and their elected representatives
- the nature of any substantial demographic changes likely to occur before the next election
- any other relevant matters.

34 Where can I buy electoral boundary maps?

Printed maps are available from the SEO. There are 2 wall maps, one indicating metropolitan boundaries and the other country boundaries. (gazetted 20 March 2003). Cost \$11.00 each (+ postage). Boundaries effective 18 March 2006 until March 2010. District maps can also be downloaded from www.seo.sa.gov.au

Individual A4 size maps of each district are available free of charge.
A complete set of these maps (47) cost \$5.50 (+ postage).

Commonwealth boundary maps of the 11 Divisions cost \$10.80 each and are available from the Australian Electoral Commission Office, 1 King William Street, Adelaide.

35 When was the last electoral boundary redistribution?

On 20 March 2003 the new boundaries were gazetted. They will become effective at the election due on 18 March 2006 and remain current until March 2010. The Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission is required to conduct a redistribution after every general election.

36 I am leaving soon to work in the Antarctic. How can I vote?

For State purposes you can remain on the roll for your present address, providing you consider it to be your principal place of residence and you intend to return to that address when you re-enter SA. However, to ensure that you are not removed from the roll during a roll review, it is advisable to inform the Australian Electoral Commission of your proposed absence in the Antarctic. Phone 13 23 26.

No special voting arrangements are made for voting at State elections therefore no action will be taken if you fail to vote.

37 What is the Register of Permanent Declaration Voters?

The 'Register of Declaration Voters' maintained by this office, contains details of those electors who are unable to attend a polling booth to vote because of **physical disability, religious beliefs, the remoteness of their place of residence and those with a suppressed address (silent enrolment)**.

Electors registered as a 'permanent declaration voter' automatically receive ballot papers after all candidates have nominated for the election. The ballot papers must be filled in by 6pm on polling day and returned in the pre paid envelope provided.

Application forms for registration as a State 'permanent declaration voter' are available from the State Electoral Office. As the Commonwealth maintain their own list, an additional application must be made to the Australian Electoral Commission.

Copies of the register can be purchased. The cost is \$1.00 per page + GST (21 electors per page).

38 I am in a nursing home/hospital, how do I vote?

Staff employed by the State Electoral Office visit most hospitals and nursing homes ('declared institutions') providing a voting facility for patients/residents sometime during the period following 3 days after the close of candidate nominations and up to and including polling day. If electoral staff are not scheduled to visit, apply for a postal vote.

39 I'm going overseas. How do I maintain my enrolment?

For **State** enrolment purposes:

You can remain on the roll for your current enrolled address, providing you consider it to be your main place of residence and you intend to return to that address when you re-enter SA. To ensure that you are not removed from the roll during a joint State/Commonwealth roll review, it is advisable to inform the Australian Electoral Commission of your proposed absence and apply for registration as a Commonwealth 'overseas elector' if you are going for an extended period of time.

If you apply before you leave Australia and intend returning to the same address you remain eligible to vote for both the State and Commonwealth.

If you apply for 'eligible overseas' status after you leave SA only Commonwealth voting rights apply.

For **Commonwealth** enrolment purposes.

If you are going overseas for 6 years or less you may register as an 'overseas elector' with the Australian Electoral Commission. You must register either 3 months before you leave Australia or within 3 years after your actual date of departure. Registration is for a maximum period of six years.

40 I have no permanent home. Can I still enrol to vote?

For State purposes, if you do not have a permanent address you are not entitled to remain on the State roll. For Commonwealth purposes however, if you do not have a permanent home you can enrol as a Commonwealth 'itinerant elector' and have your name listed on the electoral roll for a Division either:

- where your next of kin is enrolled, or
- where you last had the right to enrol, or
- where you were born, or
- if none of the above apply, the electoral Division with which you have the closest connection.

Forms to enrol as a Commonwealth *itinerant elector* are available from any Australian Electoral Commission office.

If you are enrolled as a Commonwealth *itinerant elector*, it is compulsory for you to vote at Commonwealth elections. If you do not vote you may be fined and your enrolment may be cancelled.

41 I live in a remote area of the State. How can I vote?

Teams of electoral officials who provide a voting facility visit outback communities and towns some time during the 12 days immediately before and including polling day. The schedule of visits is advertised widely throughout remote areas on local radio, in newspapers and by distribution of posters.

42 Can I get on the roll before I turn 18?

If you are 17 years old and an Australian citizen, you can have your name added to the electoral roll by applying for **provisional enrolment**. This means that when you turn 18 you will automatically be listed and be able to vote without having to fill in another enrolment form.

This means that if you turn 18 after the close of rolls but on or before polling day (a period when no new enrolments are taken), you may still vote.

- | |
|--|
| <p>Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Provisional enrolment does <u>not</u> entitle you to vote before you turn 18.- If you change your name or address while provisionally enrolled you will have to fill out a new enrolment form. |
|--|

43 How do I enrol or change my enrolment details?

Fill out an electoral enrolment form, available from any post office, the State Electoral Office (SEO), any Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office or download from the Internet www.aec.gov.au. The form should be completed and returned to an AEC office or the SEO before the close of rolls for an election.

If you do not update your enrolment details before the close of rolls you will have to vote for the address you are still enrolled for.

44 I am not an Australian citizen, can I enrol?

No. However, British subjects who are not Australian citizens may re-enrol for State elections if they were on the State roll within the period 26 October 1983 and 25 January 1984 inclusive or re-enrol for the Commonwealth if they were on the Commonwealth roll on the 25 January 1984. Otherwise you must be an Australian citizen to enrol and vote. If you are unsure of your eligibility to enrol, contact the Australian Electoral Commission on 13 23 26.

45 Is State enrolment compulsory?

Initial (first time) enrolment for State elections is not compulsory, however, after having enrolled you must maintain your enrolment details and vote.

[It is compulsory to enrol for Federal elections once you turn 18.](#)

46 How can someone with dementia be removed from the roll?

An elector can be removed from the roll if their doctor has certified in writing that the person is no longer able to understand the enrolment and voting process because of 'unsound mind'.

47 A family member has died. How do I have their name removed from the roll?

The Registrar-General forwards lists of deceased persons to the AEC on a regular basis. If a family member provides the information it is noted and passed on to the AEC who have responsibility for maintaining the electoral roll data base.

48 What electoral district (House of Assembly) am I enrolled for?

The State Electoral Office can provide this information or check the web site www.seo.sa.gov.au to establish your House of Assembly district.

49 Where can I buy or view an electoral roll?

47 individual State electoral district rolls are printed following roll close for an election and can be purchased from the State Electoral Office (SEO). Rolls are currently priced at \$11.00 each.

The SA electronic roll can be viewed by the public at the SEO or any Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office. The national roll is available at the AEC head office located at 1 King William St, Adelaide.

50 Who can enrol?

If you:

- are 17 years of age or over (you can provisionally enrol at 17 and vote at 18). If an election is announced and you are due to turn 18 between roll close and the day of the election, your name will appear on the electoral roll meaning that you are eligible to vote at that election,
- are an Australian citizen
- have lived for at least one month at your current South Australian address
- are a British subject who was on the electoral roll on 25 January 1984 may re-enrol.

By enrolling you become eligible to vote at all Federal, State and local government elections.

51 Who cannot enrol to vote at State elections?

A person cannot enrol if they are:

- of unsound mind
- a resident (non citizen).

52 Am I enrolled?

Check your enrolment details at www.aec.gov.au or call the SEO on 1300 655 232 or the AEC on 13 23 26. Completion of the one enrolment form entitles you to vote at all federal, state and local government elections.

53 Can I fax my electoral enrolment form?

Yes. Faxed copies of enrolment forms received by any Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) office or the State Electoral Office before the close of rolls will be processed. Write 'Form faxed (date)' on the original and forward by post.

54 I am physically handicapped and I can't sign an enrolment form.

How do I enrol?

'If a person who is unable to sign his/her name in writing makes a mark as his/her signature to an electoral paper, the mark will be taken to be the personal signature, if it is identifiable as such, and is made in the presence of a witness who signs the electoral paper as witness', Electoral Act 1985 s131 (2).

55 I have Power of Attorney for a person can I enrol/vote on their behalf?

As Power of Attorney you cannot enrol or vote for a person but you may witness the person's mark or signature. You will also need to write the words 'his mark' or 'her mark' above the electors mark.

56 Are prisoners entitled to enrol and vote in South Australian elections?

Yes. They may enrol for the place that was their principal place of residence prior to imprisonment or the new address of a parent, spouse or child providing that the prisoner was residing with them before imprisonment, or at the place at which the prisoner is imprisoned and vote at State elections.

Note As at November 2005 Commonwealth legislation precludes prisoners with a sentence of 3 years or more from having their name placed or retained on the roll for Federal elections.

57 Can someone of unsound mind be removed from the roll?

An elector may only be removed from the roll when a registered medical practitioner has certified in writing that the person is incapable of understanding the nature and significance of enrolment and voting because of unsound mind.

58 Can my address details be suppressed from the roll?

Yes, if you have reason to believe that having your address appear on the roll places the safety of you or your family at risk, apply to have your address suppressed by completing a 'Silent Enrolment Application Form', available from any Australian Electoral Commission office. Fill out the form together with a signed statutory declaration supporting your claim and you will be advised of the outcome of your application in writing.

59 I have moved to a different address, how do I update my enrolment details?

If you have moved to an address in another electoral district you must reside in that new district for at least one month before updating your enrolment details. If you have moved to another address in the same district, change your enrolment details as soon as possible. To enrol for your new address fill in an electoral enrolment form.

Enrolment forms (and pre-paid envelopes), can be obtained from any post office, the State Electoral Office, Australian Electoral Commission offices or you can download a form from the Internet www.aec.gov.au and return it to the reply paid address provided.

referendums in SA

60 What South Australian referendum questions have been put to the people, what were the results?

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA – REFERENDUM DETAILS 1896-2005

Date	Proposal (%favour (%))	In favour passed	Not in	Whether
25 April * 1896	(1) "Are you in favour of the continuance of the present system of education in State schools?"	51 681	17 819	YES
	(2) "Are you in favour of the introduction of Scriptural instruction in the State schools during school hours?"	19 280	34 834	NO
	(3) "Are you in favour of the payment of a capitation grant to denominational Schools for Secular results?"	13 349	42 007	NO
<i>* Incomplete data available for this Referendum</i>				
4 June 1898	"Are you in favour of the proposed Federal Constitution Bill?"	35 800 (66.5%)	17 320 (32.2%)	YES
29 April 1899	(1) "Are you in favour of the Amended Commonwealth Bill?"	65 990 (70.2%)	17 053 (18.2%)	YES
•	(2) "Are you in favour of extending the franchise for the Legislative Council to all householders as provided in the Bill passed by the House of Assembly in 1898?"	49 208 (52.3%)	33 928 (36.0%)	YES
• Section III of the Bill provided that where a man and his wife lived in the same dwelling, of which either was the householder, then each should have a vote. Although accepted by the electorate, the extension to the Legislative Council franchise did not become law at that time.				
26 April 1911	"Are you in favour of increasing the payment of Members of Parliament to Three Hundred pounds per annum?"	42 934	89 042	NO
27 March 1915 (Renmark 3 April)	Referendum as to the Hour for Closing of Bar-Rooms in Licensed Premises a) that the hour be 6pm b) that the hour be 7pm c) that the hour be 8pm d) that the hour be 9pm e) that the hour be 10pm f) that the hour be 11pm	6pm - 100 418 (56.3%)* 7pm - 839 (0.5%) 8pm - 2 087 (1.2%) 9pm - 9 865 (5.5%) 10pm - 1 966 (1.1%) 11pm - 61 362 (34.4%) <i>* This remained the closing hour for more than 50 years.</i>		YES NO NO NO NO NO
20 November 1965	"Are you in favour of the promotion and conduct of Lotteries by the government of the State?"	344 886 (65.7%)	142 196 (27.1%)	YES
19 September 1970	"Are you in favour of shops in the Metropolitan Planning Area and the Municipality of Gawler being permitted to remain open for trading until 9pm on Fridays?"	177 296 (42.9%)	190 826 (46.2%)	NO
6 November 1982	"Are you in favour of Daylight Saving?"	568 635 (70.1%)	225 310 (27.8%)	YES
9 February 1991	"Do you approve the Constitution (Electoral Redistribution) Amendment Bill, 1990?"	649 906 (76.7%)	197 244 (23.3%)	YES

voting

61 On polling day I will be in away in the country. How do I vote?

If you will be outside your enrolled district but still within the State, you may vote as an absent voter (declaration voter) at any other polling booth in the State. Otherwise arrange to vote by post or cast a pre-poll (early) vote before you go away.

62 Must I mark the ballot papers?

Voting is secret and you are not legally obliged to mark the ballot papers. Your obligation is to have your name marked off the roll and be issued with ballot papers that must then be placed in the sealed ballot boxes. An elector must not take the ballot papers out of a polling booth.

63 How do I fill in my ballot papers?


House of Assembly:

To make a formal vote on your House of Assembly ballot paper you must number every square.

- mark the number 1 in the square beside the candidate who is your first choice
- the number 2 in the square beside the candidate who is your second choice,
- the number 3 in the square beside the candidate who is your third choice, and so on until you have numbered every square.

Do not use ticks (v) or crosses (x).

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
BALLOT PAPER
ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER FOR THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



DISTRICT OF ADELAIDE
DIRECTIONS
Number the squares 1, 2, 3, 4 in the order of your choice.
You are not legally obliged to mark the ballot paper

CANDIDATES

3	JONES Jackson	Purple Party
1	FINN Natasha	Orange Party
2	MILNE Stuart	Brown Party
4	KELLY Ellie	Yellow Party

After voting, fold the ballot paper and place it in the ballot box or declaration envelope.

Legislative Council:

The Legislative Council ballot paper is white and has **two sections**.

You can vote **either** in the section **above the red line** by placing the number **1** in one of the squares beside the name of the party or political group you prefer or **vote below the red line** by numbering every square with consecutive numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on).

If you vote in the **above the line** section your preferences will be allocated the way the party, candidate or group you voted for have nominated on the voting ticket(s) they lodged with the Electoral Commissioner.

The voting tickets showing how the parties, political groups or candidates have listed their preferences will be available in all polling booths.

To **vote above the red line** (ticket vote) mark a 1 in one of the squares above the line and nothing else. Instructions are also printed on the ballot paper.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

voting

OR:

to vote **below the red line** mark consecutive numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and so on until you have marked a preference for all candidates and there is a number in every square. Instructions are also printed on the ballot papers.

This way you are choosing your own preferences.

Do not use ticks (✓) or crosses (x).

3	9	13	12	1	7	8	16
4	10	14		2			17
5	11	15		6			

64 Is voting compulsory?

Yes, once enrolled voting is compulsory. You are technically obliged to accept the ballot papers and vote in private in a voting compartment and then place the papers in a ballot box. If you fail to vote you will receive a notice asking you to explain why and if the reason is unacceptable in accordance with the *Electoral Act s85(8)* you may be fined.

65 Is there an age when voting is no longer compulsory?

No, there is no age when voting becomes optional.

66 Is my declaration vote (postal/pre-poll/absent) secret?

Yes. You need to provide enrolment details on the declaration envelope so your eligibility to vote can be established. Once this eligibility has been checked by State Electoral Office staff the declaration envelopes are bundled and sent to the appropriate Returning Officers. The declaration flaps (the section where elector details have been provided) are detached and the envelopes shuffled prior to them being opened and the enclosed formal ballot paper(s) are included in the district election count. Scrutineers observe the voting and counting process.

67 How can an elderly or disabled (eg. blind) elector vote?

A person approved by the polling booth manager may assist an elector to vote or alternatively, if walking into the polling booth is difficult, the polling booth manager can take ballot papers to their vehicle.

If the elector can sign their name or make a mark they can vote by post or if they have a permanent physical disability they can apply for registration as a Permanent Declaration voter and have ballot papers sent to them automatically at each election.

Note Voting is compulsory for everyone listed on the electoral roll.

68 What happens if I am enrolled but do not vote?

You could be sent an 'Apparent Failure to Vote Notice' asking you why it appears that you did not vote. Voting without a valid and sufficient reason is an offence. It is also an offence not to respond to the notice. If you fail to pay the expiation fine the Courts may issue an 'Enforcement Order'.

69 I do not understand English very well, who can help me vote?

Every polling booth has printed voting information available in 23 languages. The polling booth manager can also arrange assistance for you on polling day.

70 What is the fine for not voting?

If you fail to vote without a valid reason you would be required to expiate the offence by payment of an Expiation fine (\$10 expiation plus \$10 Victims of Crime Levy); if this is not paid a Reminder Expiation Notice is issued requiring the payment of an additional \$30. Non payment could result in the Courts Administration Authority issuing an Enforcement Order.

71 What is a formal and/or an informal vote?

A ballot paper is **formal** if it has been correctly filled in. It is **informal** if it has not been completed correctly or has writing on it that identifies the elector, is blank, or is not deposited in a ballot box. Informal ballot papers are set aside and are not included in the count.

72 What is a 'How to Vote' card?

'How to vote' cards indicate how a candidate in an election would like you to mark your preferences on the ballot papers. They can be taken into the polling booth.

73 I am going interstate/overseas. How do I vote?

Pre-poll (early) voting

Once the time allowed for candidates to nominate has closed and ballot papers have been printed you can vote in person at a pre poll voting centre (*approximately 2 weeks before election day*) in SA, interstate or overseas up until 5pm on the Friday before polling day.

Locations:

Designated Australian Electoral Commission offices in SA

Intra State metro and country offices

Interstate State/Territory Electoral offices

Office of the Agent General in London, and approx 11 other overseas locations

Contact the State Electoral Office to confirm locations or see www.seo.sa.gov.au

Postal Voting

If you are:

- sick, disabled or caring for someone who is
- travelling
- more than 8 kilometres from a polling booth
- a member of a religion which prevents you from voting on a Saturday
- working through out the hours of polling

You can pick up a 'Postal Vote Application Form' from any post office or from www.seo.sa.gov.au. Once your completed application form has been received by the State Electoral Office ballot papers will be sent to you after the nomination of candidates has closed and ballot papers have been printed (approximately 2 weeks before election day). The ballot papers must be filled out by 6pm on polling day and returned; they are accepted into the count if received during the week following the election.

If you are travelling overseas and your itinerary will prevent you from voting you should advise the office of your absence to prevent a 'Failure to Vote Notice' being issued.

74 How many members of the House of Assembly and Legislative Council are elected at each election?

At each general election 47 House of Assembly members and 11 Legislative Council members are elected.

75 I have moved recently. What do I need to do?

If you send in an enrolment form notifying of your change of address before the close of rolls for an election you will be eligible to vote for the candidates contesting the electoral district in which you are now living. You will receive an acknowledgment from the Australian Electoral Commission office notifying you of your State, Federal and local government areas.

If you do not re enrol or enrol after roll close date then you will still be listed for your previous address and you will have to vote for the candidates contesting that electoral district.

76 I am in a nursing home/hospital, how do I vote?

Some time during the period following 3 days after the close of candidate nominations and up to and including polling day, staff employed by the State Electoral Office visit 'declared institutions' to provide a voting facility for residents. These are nursing homes, hospitals or prisons that meet the criteria specified by the Electoral Commissioner. At the 2002 election there were 311 'declared institutions'. Institutions that do not meet the criteria are sent postal vote application forms for residents/patients to complete.

77 I will be outside my enrolled district on polling day. How do I vote?

If you will be outside your enrolled district but still within the State, you may vote as an absent voter (declaration voter) at any other polling booth in the State.

78 Do I have to vote if I'm overseas?

Where possible you are encouraged to either have a pre-poll (early) vote in person before departing SA at a pre-poll voting centre set up at various locations in the State or vote at an overseas pre-poll centre (contact the State Electoral Office or see www.seo.sa.gov.au for locations). Alternatively apply for a postal vote and have ballot papers sent to a specified address overseas where you will be located some time during the 2 weeks before the election.

Persons who are travelling interstate or overseas are considered to have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting.

79 Where is my nearest polling booth?

Polling booths are usually located in schools, community centres or church halls. A list of polling booths will appear in the election Easy Guide that is delivered to every household. They will also be published in the newspaper sometime during the week before the election, again on election day and are listed on the State Electoral Office web site www.seo.sa.gov.au

80 What time are the polling booths open?

Polling booths are open from 8am until 6pm on the day of the election.

81 Where can I get a postal vote application form?

Forms are available from any post office or the State Electoral Office web site www.seo.sa.gov.au When you return the application, ballot papers will be sent to your enrolled address or an address you have provided on the form.

Note Postal votes can not be issued until candidate nominations have closed and ballot papers have been printed. This occurs approximately 2 weeks before election day.

82 I have returned my postal vote but I want to change my vote, can I have new ballot papers?

No. Once you have posted your ballot papers new ones can not be issued.

83 What is preferential voting?

This is a method of voting that requires an elector to mark a preference for every candidate listed on the ballot paper by using consecutive numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on). The candidate that gains more than 50% of the formal votes is elected.

If no candidate achieves this at the first count the preferences of the least successful candidate are distributed to the remaining candidates until one has an absolute majority (more than 50% of the formal votes) and is elected. See 'How your Vote Counts' demonstration on www.seo.sa.gov.au

84 What is pre-poll (early) voting?

You can vote in person at a pre-poll voting centre in SA, interstate or overseas if you can't get to a polling booth on the day of the election.

85 Can prisoners vote in South Australian elections?

Yes, prisoners can enrol and vote in SA elections.

(Note: Commonwealth legislation precludes prisoners serving a sentence of 3 years or more from enrolling and voting in Commonwealth elections)

86 What is proportional representation (PR)?

A system of vote counting designed to elect representatives who obtain a specified *quota* or proportion of votes. Used for Legislative Council, Senate and South Australian local government election counts. See 'How your Vote Counts' demonstration on www.seo.sa.gov.au

87 What is a quota?

The proportion or percentage of votes required for a candidate to be elected to the Legislative Council. At a State general election each Legislative Council candidate must obtain a quota (approx. 8.3%) of the total votes cast to be elected.

See 'How your Vote Counts' demonstration on www.seo.sa.gov.au

88 How can I vote if I can't get to a polling booth on election day?

If you :

- will be working throughout the hours of polling
- will be interstate/overseas
- are ill/ infirm/disabled or caring for someone who is
- will not be within 8km of the nearest polling booth
- are prevented by your religious beliefs from attending a polling booth on a Saturday
- will be travelling on polling day under conditions which prevent you from attending a polling booth?

You can vote in one of the following ways:

- **pre-poll** (early voting) is available once nomination of candidates closes and ballot papers are printed, approximately 2 weeks before election day. Pre poll voting facilities will be available during office hours up until 5pm on the Friday before polling at designated regional State Returning Officer offices, Australian Electoral Commission offices in South Australia, inter-state State Electoral offices and some locations overseas

OR

- obtain a **postal vote** application form from any post office, the State Electoral Office or from www.seo.sa.gov.au

You must fill out the ballot papers by 6.00pm on polling day.

Most hospitals and nursing homes (**declared institutions**) are visited by electoral officials who provide an on the spot voting facility on or before polling day. Confirm details regarding this service with administration staff or contact the State Electoral Office on 1300 655 232.

Mobile voting teams visit remote areas of the State and set up mobile voting facilities some time during the 12 days up to and including election day. Local radio and press provide details of the schedule of visits.

Postal votes received during the week following the election are included in the scrutiny but rejected if the vote was not made before the close of polls or if a ballot paper is informal.

89 Do all polling booths have wheelchair access?

Approximately 69.4% of polling booths (480 of the 692) at the last election had wheelchair access. Their location is indicated by a wheelchair symbol on all published lists of polling booths.

electoral glossary

Absent Vote	A vote cast by electors who attend a polling booth outside their enrolled district on election day. Enrolment details are written on a declaration vote envelope, completed ballot papers are placed inside the envelope which is then sealed, placed in a ballot box and later distributed to the appropriate district Returning Officer for inclusion in the scrutiny and count. <i>see Declaration Vote.</i>
Absolute Majority	In SA a candidate must receive more than 50% of the formal votes (absolute majority) to be elected to the House of Assembly. <i>see Preferential Voting.</i>
Act of Parliament	A Bill, which has become law after being passed by both houses of parliament at three readings and then received Royal Assent from the governor.
Assembly, House of	<i>see House of Assembly.</i>
Backbenchers	Members of parliament who are not members of the ministry or the shadow ministry.
Balance of Power	The control held by a minority party/group or independents who use their 'balance of power' when voting on issues when no party or coalition has a majority of members in parliament.
Ballot Box	A sealed box (generally cardboard) into which ballot papers are placed by electors after voting.
Ballot Paper	A paper printed for an election showing the candidates' names and affiliation or the paper containing a question to be decided in a referendum, which voters mark to record their vote.
Bi-Cameral	A system of government in which there are two houses of parliament - an upper and lower house. All Australian state parliaments are bi-cameral <u>except</u> Queensland (upper house was abolished in 1922) and the parliaments of the ACT and NT.
Bill	A proposal for new legislation. A Bill must be approved by both houses, then presented to the governor for formal assent and once gazetted (or on a date specified by parliament) becomes law (an Act of parliament).
Boundaries Commission	The Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (EDBC) reviews and makes adjustments to South Australian electoral boundaries following each general election. Members are the most senior Supreme Court Judge available, the Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General.
By-Election	An election held in one House of Assembly electoral district to fill a casual vacancy resulting from the resignation, death or retirement of a member.
Cabinet	Ministers are appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the premier. The number of ministers are specified in The South Australian <i>Constitution Act 1934</i> . While Cabinet has no formal legal powers or status, it operates under conventions and principles established under the Westminster system. Major decisions of policy and administration are made in the Cabinet, meetings are strictly confidential. <i>see Ministry.</i>

Campaigns	The activities which are undertaken by parties, candidates and pressure groups prior to an election to persuade electors to vote in a particular way.
Candidate	A person who has nominated to stand for election.
Casual Vacancy	A vacancy in parliament due to the retirement, death or resignation of a member between general elections. A vacancy in the House of Assembly is filled by conducting a by-election in that district. A Legislative Council vacancy is filled after a joint sitting of both houses to choose a person to fill the vacancy.
Citizen's Initiated Referendum	Usually a petition with a specified number of signatures is required before a referendum is put to the people. A form of direct democracy used in Switzerland, New Zealand and some American states.
Coalition	An alliance (or combining) of political parties or groups to gain the parliamentary numbers to form a majority government.
Compulsory Voting	Enrolled electors must attend a polling booth, have their name marked off the electoral roll and accept the ballot papers (or obtain a pre-poll or postal vote). Introduced for SA lower house elections in 1942 and upper house elections in 1985. There is a penalty for failing to vote without a valid reason.
Conscience Vote	A vote in parliament (usually relating to a 'moral or social issue') when all members are able to make their own decision on how to vote, regardless of the party line.
Constitution	A document that sets out a statement of laws or rules. Every state has its own Constitution. <i>The Australian Constitution</i> sets out the procedures, processes and powers of the Commonwealth parliament. see <i>South Australian Constitution Act</i> .
Court of Disputed Returns	see <i>Disputed Returns</i> .
'Cross the Floor'	When a member of parliament crosses the floor and votes with the opposition.
Deadlock	A situation that occurs when the upper and lower houses of parliament fail to agree on an issue, obstructing the passage of legislation.
Declaration of Poll	A formal announcement of the result of an election by a returning officer declaring the successful candidate(s) as the elected member(s). see <i>Returning Officer</i> .
Declaration Vote	see <i>Absent Vote, Postal Vote and Pre-poll Vote</i> .
Declared Institution	A hospital, nursing home or other institution meeting certain criteria that are visited by electoral officials on polling day or during the week before the election to provide a voting facility to residents unable to attend a polling booth.
Democracy	'Government by the people', from two ancient Greek words <i>dem</i> (people) and <i>kratos</i> (power). see <i>Representative Democracy</i> .

electoral glossary

Disenfranchise	To deprive a person of the right to vote.
Disputed Returns	A challenge to the validity of an election result. Disputed elections are referred to a court of disputed returns for resolution.
Dissolution	The formal process that ends a term of parliament. Only the governor, the South Australian representative of the Queen can dissolve state parliament. General elections for state parliament are held in March every four years.
Districts (electoral)	Defined geographical areas of the state. The whole of the state is one electoral district for the Legislative Council, while there are 47 electoral districts for the House of Assembly, each having approximately an equal number of electors.
Division (voting)	Most parliamentary motions are decided by a verbal vote, but if more than one member challenges the decision then a 'division' is called. The 'ayes' and 'noes' are then recorded and reported in Hansard.
Divisions (electoral)	Defined geographical areas throughout Australia containing approximately equal numbers of electors, each division is represented by a member in the House of Representatives.
Donkey Vote	A donkey vote is one that is marked 1-2-3-4-5-6 etc. up or down the ballot paper. It is still a valid vote (estimated to be approx. 2%-3% of the formal votes cast in an election).
Droop Quota (formula)	<p>The method of calculating the quota required for a candidate's election under certain forms of proportional representation. Named after English barrister HR Droop.</p> $Q = \frac{V}{S + 1} + 1$ <p>Q = the quota necessary for 'election' V = the total number of formal votes S = number of seats to be filled</p>
Double Dissolution	The simultaneous dissolving of all seats in both houses of parliament by the governor (for the state) or the governor-general (for the Commonwealth). Used as a means of breaking a dead-lock between the two houses of parliament.
Draw (or Lot)	An object such as a named or numbered ball or slip of paper drawn from a container to make a choice. The order of candidates' names on the ballot papers is determined by a draw or 'lot'.
Election	Choosing representatives to occupy official positions by voting.
Elector	A person entitled to vote at an election.
Electoral Act	The legislation which sets down the rules for the conduct of parliamentary elections and other electoral procedures.
Electoral Commissioner	The statutory officer responsible to the minister for the administration of the Electoral Act.

Electoral Offence	Any action which breaches electoral law as specified by the Electoral Act.
Electoral Office (State)	The agency that is responsible for administering and overseeing the conduct of South Australian parliamentary and local government elections and some union/industrial ballots.
Electoral Quota	A 'quota' of electors for each House of Assembly electorate is calculated by dividing the total number of people enrolled in South Australia by the number of House of Assembly electoral districts (47).
Electoral Roll	A certified list of electors who have enrolled and are eligible to vote, also used to check that no person votes more than once and a means of identifying those who fail to vote at an election.
Electoral Visitor	Electoral officials who visit 'declared institutions' (hospitals, nursing homes etc) on or before election day to provide on-the-spot voting facilities for electors unable to attend a polling booth.
Electorate	This refers to electors (the constituency) or an electoral district. In SA there are currently 47 House of Assembly districts and 1 Legislative Council district. see <i>District and Division</i> .
Endorsement	A person, who in the preselection process is chosen (endorsed) by a political party/group to stand as a candidate in an election.
Enrolment	The process of filling out an 'Electoral Enrolment Form' so as to have one's name included on the electoral roll.
Faction	A group of people who are members of a larger group, eg a political party, who can influence party decisions made on certain issues such as leadership, candidates and ministry positions.
Federal/Commonwealth Government	The national government of Australia. The <i>Australian Constitution</i> distributes formal authority between a central government and those of the states. At Federation in 1901 the colonies handed over certain powers to the Federal government while other functions were reserved for state government responsibility.
Federation	On 1st January 1901 the people of all states (colonies) were united as one nation known as the Commonwealth of Australia as a result of favourable referendum results. The Commonwealth of Australia was established by an Act of British parliament that included the Australian Constitution.
First Past The Post Voting	(Simple Majority) This is the simplest method of voting requiring the elector to indicate their preferences by placing a (v) or a (x) in the square opposite the name(s) of a candidate(s) equal to or less than the number of vacancies. see www.seo.sa.gov.au ' <i>How Your Vote Counts</i> ' program.
Formal Vote	A ballot paper which has been correctly marked and counts towards the result of an election.
Franchise	The right to vote. 'Extending the franchise' means giving more people the right to vote. For example in 1972 the voting age was lowered in South Australia from 21 years to 18 years.

electoral glossary

General Elections	In South Australia general elections are held for all House of Assembly seats (47) and half the Legislative Council seats (11) every four years. <i>see Term.</i>
Gerrymander	The drawing of electoral boundaries to maximise the number of seats that one particular party might win. Named after Governor Gerry of Massachusetts (1812) who approved a rigged boundary shaped like a salamander, hence the term 'gerrymander'.
Government	A system by which a community is governed. Australia has three spheres of government: federal, state and local.
Group Voting Ticket	<i>see Voting Ticket.</i>
Hansard	The printed transcript of parliamentary debates named after the Hansard family who printed the <i>Journals of the House of Commons</i> in England from 1774.
House of Assembly	The lower house of state parliament comprising 47 members who are each elected by the voters in an electoral district in South Australia.
House of Representatives	The lower house of federal parliament comprising a total of 150 members (as at election held 9/10/2004).
How-to-Vote Card	A card distributed by parties/groups and independents indicating how they want electors to record their preferences when voting.
Independent	A candidate or member of parliament who is not a member of a political party.
Informal Ballot Paper	A ballot paper is informal if it does not comply with prescribed formality provisions and as a result cannot be accepted into the count.
Legislation	The name given to a law that has passed both houses of parliament and has been assented to by the governor. <i>see Bill and Act.</i>
Legislative Council	The upper house of the South Australian parliament has 22 members elected for an eight year term, half (11) are elected on a state wide basis at each general election.
Local Government (Councils)	The 'third' sphere of elected government. In South Australia non compulsory postal elections are held in November every four years.
Lower House	<i>see House of Assembly.</i>
Majority	<i>see Absolute Majority and Simple Majority.</i>
Malapportionment	The result of geographic zoning of electoral districts that allows for less electors in some districts than others; deviating from the democratic principle of 'one vote, one value'. Although once quite common throughout Australia it rarely occurs now except as a result of rapid population growth in some electorates and not others.
Mandate	A government's claim that once elected they have the right and

Marginal Seat	responsibility to implement their policies. A seat requiring a swing of less than 6% is regarded as marginal.
Member of Parliament	An elected representative.
Ministry (Cabinet)	A group comprised of the premier and select members of the elected parliament who are in charge of one or more government departments. They are appointed by the governor on the recommendation of the premier. The <i>SA Constitution Act</i> allows for 15 ministers in the South Australian parliament. see Cabinet .
Minority Government	A government formed by a party that does not have a majority of members in the House of Assembly (lower house) and therefore has to rely on the support in parliament of independents or members of another party.
Mobile Polling	A voting facility provided some time during the 12 days up to and including polling day for electors in remote areas of the state.
Nomination	The formal process by which a person becomes a candidate in an election.
Offence	see Electoral Offence .
Opinion Poll	A survey of the opinions of voters or the general public.
Opposition	The party or parties that do not have sufficient seats in parliament to form the government.
Optional Preferential Voting	A form of preferential voting that does not require an elector to mark preferences for all candidates listed on the ballot paper. This method of voting could be seen to be disadvantageous to some allied groups that benefit from the flow on of one another's preferences. see ' How your Vote Counts ' demonstration www.seo.sa.gov.au
Parliament	The name given to the legislative body made up of members of parliament, derived from the old French word ' <i>parlement</i> ' meaning 'speaking'.
Party	see Political Party .
Plébiscite	see Referendum .
Plural Voting	A system that allows voters additional votes. Abolished in every state for parliamentary elections by 1905.
Plurality	see Simple Majority .
Politician	see Member of Parliament .
Political Party	An organised group of people with a common political ideology whose aim at each election is to win and hold government. The party or a coalition of parties with the majority of members in parliament forms the government.
Poll	An election.

electoral glossary

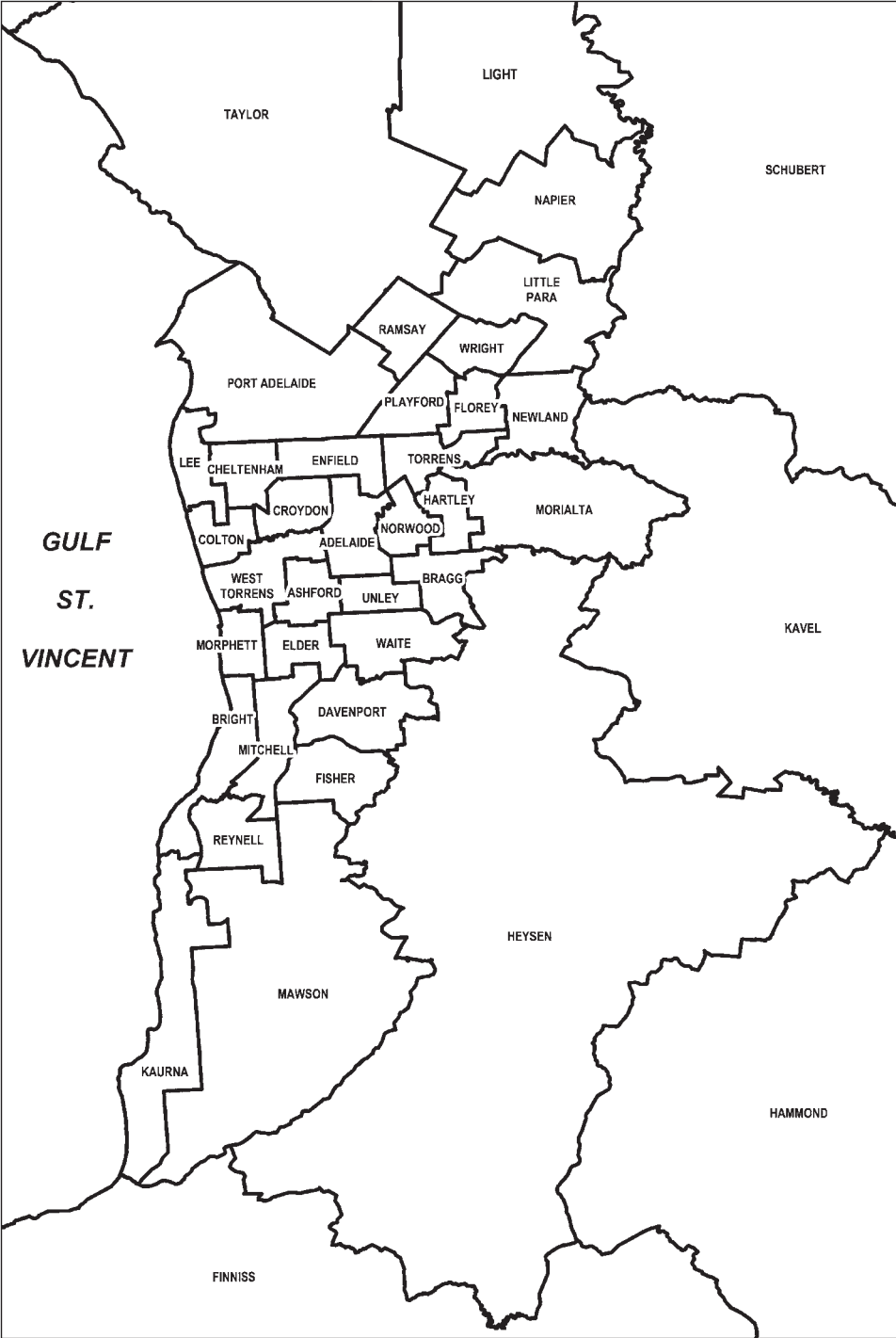
Polling Booth / Place Postal Vote	Location where voting takes place. Electors who are unable to get to a polling place on polling day or are out of the state, may apply to have ballot papers sent by post. Ballot papers must be filled out and witnessed by 6pm on polling day and they are admitted into the count if they are received by the State Electoral Office during the week following the election. see Declaration Vote .
Pre-Poll Vote	A vote made in person at an authorised voting centre after the close of candidate nominations and prior to polling day. see Declaration Vote .
Preferential Voting (full)	A method of voting where electors are required to mark the ballot paper using consecutive numbers to indicate a preference for all candidates. At the count, a candidate receiving an absolute majority, more than 50% of the formal vote is elected. If no candidate achieves this then the preferences of the least successful candidate are distributed to remaining candidates until one candidate has more than 50%. This system of voting and counting is used in House of Assembly elections. see Optional Preferential Voting www.seo.sa.gov.au 'How Your Vote Counts' program.
Premier	The title given to the leader of a state government.
President	The officer elected by members of the upper house who is responsible for directing the business of the Legislative Council or Senate.
Proportional Representation	A system of vote counting designed to elect representatives who obtain a specified quota or proportion of votes. This system is used in Legislative Council, Senate and South Australian local government elections. see www.seo.sa.gov.au 'How Your Vote Counts' program.
Provisional Enrolment	Seventeen year olds can 'provisionally enrol' so once they turn 18 their name is automatically listed on the electoral roll.
Quota	The proportion or percentage of formal votes required under a system of proportional representation (PR) for a candidate to be elected. $Quota = \frac{\text{Number formal votes}}{\text{Number of vacancies} + 1} + 1$
Recount	A second or further count of votes to verify a result.
Redistribution	Changes to boundaries of electoral districts in line with the principle that the number of voters in each district must not vary from a predetermined <i>electoral quota</i> by more than 10%. A redistribution of state electoral boundaries is carried out by the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission (EDBC) following each general election.
Referendum (also plebiscite)	A vote taken to allow electors to have their say on an issue. A national referendum must be held to implement any change to the Federal Constitution. A proposal must pass all readings and then be approved by a majority in both houses of parliament prior to being put to the people in a referendum. The proposal must then be approved by a majority of voters in a majority of states in a national referendum.

Registered Declaration Voter	An elector who either lives in a remote area, has a physical disability, has a suppressed address or holds religious beliefs that prevent attendance at a booth on polling day can apply to the State Electoral Office to have his/her name included on a permanent register of voters automatically sent ballot papers by post at each election.
Regulations	Often described as 'sub laws' as they provide the detail not contained in the original Act.
Representative Democracy	A system of government where elected representatives make decisions on behalf of the people.
Republic	A country with a president as head of state who is either elected by the people or appointed by the government.
Return of the Writ	When a general election is completed, the writ is returned to the governor with the names of the successful candidates. Following a by-election in the House of Assembly the writ is returned to the speaker. <i>see Writ.</i>
Returning Officer	The electoral officer responsible for conducting an election.
Roll	<i>see Electoral Roll.</i>
Safe Seat	A seat which is held by a sufficiently large margin of votes that it is unlikely to be lost at the next election. Those seats requiring a swing of more than 10% are usually regarded as safe.
Scrutineer	A person appointed by a candidate to observe the polling process and the sorting and counting of ballot papers, also having the right to question the validity of any votes.
Scrutiny	The sorting, counting and rechecking of ballot papers following the close of voting.
Seat	A seat in parliament held by an elected member. Can also refer to a member's electorate (district).
Secret Ballot	A vote made in secret. Adopted in South Australia in 1856, often called the 'Australian Ballot'.
Senate	The upper house of federal parliament. Currently 12 senators are elected from each state and 2 from each territory.
Shadow Ministry	The parliamentary leaders or front bench of the opposition whose task it is to review, endorse and/or suggest alternative policy.
Silent Electors (suppressed address)	Electors can apply to have their address details not appear (<i>suppressed</i>) on the electoral roll if they believe that publication of this information could threaten the safety of themselves or family members.

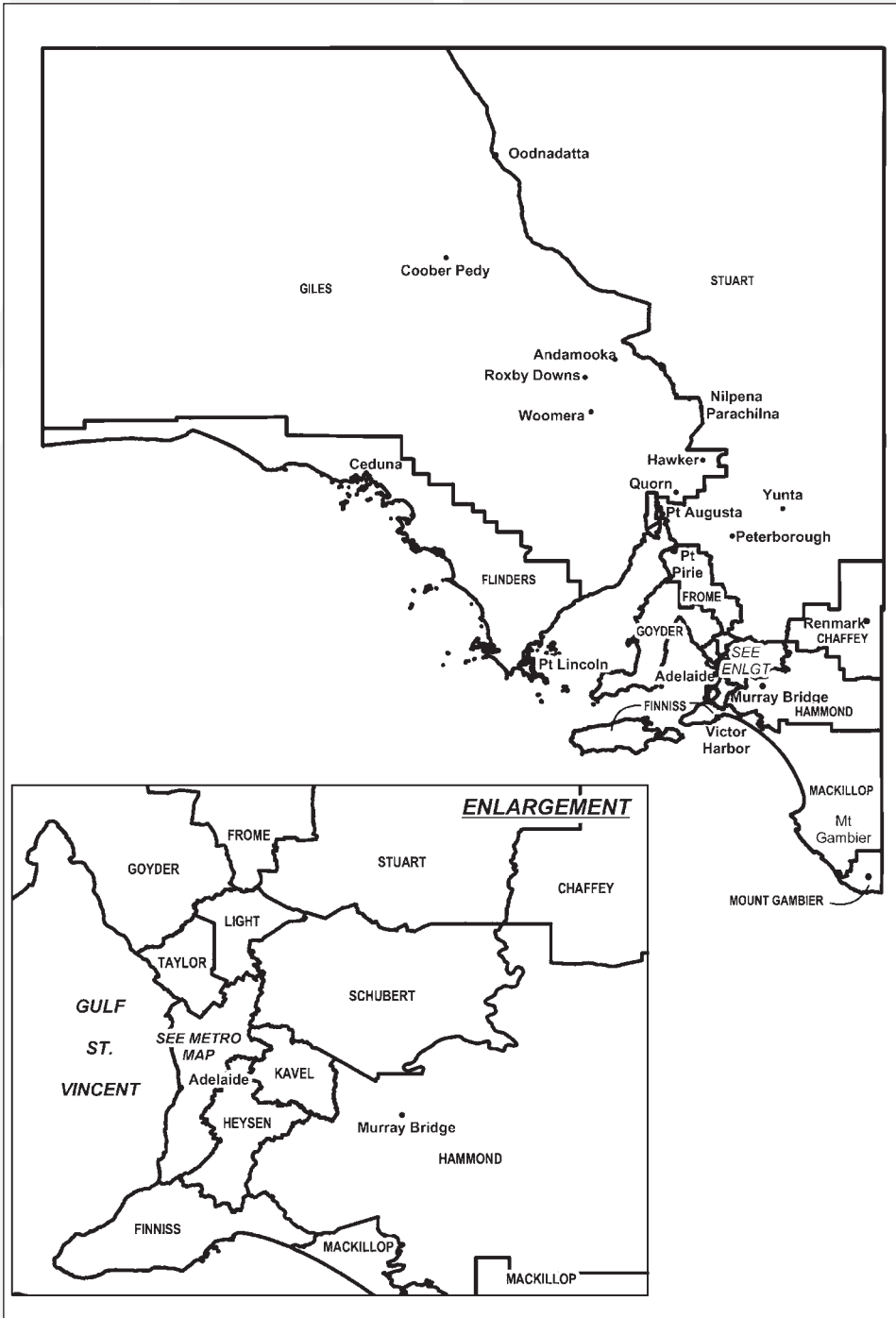
electoral glossary

Simple Majority or Plurality	<p>Under the 'first past the post' system a candidate who receives the most votes (a majority or plurality) is the winner. Used for parliamentary elections in USA, Britain and other countries. Eg: 1000 votes cast</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Candidate A</th><th>Candidate B</th><th>Candidate C</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>335</td><td>375</td><td>290</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">elected</td></tr></tbody></table>	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	335	375	290	elected		
Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C								
335	375	290								
elected										
South Australian Constitution Act	<p>Sets out the principles and rules and procedures for the government of the State. Provides for certain sections to be altered by the process of a Bill proposing a change passing all readings, approval by a majority of members in both houses of parliament prior to being assented to by the governor. This act also specifies those sections of the SA Constitution that must not only pass a majority vote in both houses but must then be put to the people of SA at a referendum.</p>									
Speaker	<p>A member of parliament elected by the House of Assembly to preside over debates, enforce the rules for preserving order and supervise the business of the lower house.</p>									
Suffrage	<p>see <i>Franchise</i>.</p>									
Swing	<p>An analysis of previous election results (in percentage terms) used to identify the shift in political support that would be required in electoral districts for seats to be won or lost at the next election.</p>									
Tally Room	<p>Location where voting figures are collected and provisional results announced following a general election.</p>									
Term	<p>The length of time a parliament may sit before an election can be called. The South Australian parliament has a 4 year term.</p>									
Two-Party Preferred Vote (TPP)	<p>The votes allocated to the candidates representing the two major parties, eg Labor and Liberal, following the distribution of preference votes from all candidates contesting an election.</p>									
Upper House	<p>see <i>Legislative Council and Senate</i>.</p>									
Voluntary Voting	<p>The right to vote or not to vote.</p>									
Voting	<p>The process of electing a candidate by marking a ballot paper see <i>Absent, Declaration, Formal, Informal, and Postal Vote</i>.</p>									
Voting Ticket	<p>A written statement of preferences lodged by a candidate, group or a political party within 72 hours after close of nominations for use in interpreting the ballot papers of electors who either vote 'above the line' (ticket voting) for the Legislative Council or do not indicate a preference for all candidates on the House of Assembly ballot paper. A candidate can lodge two voting tickets with the State Electoral Office.</p>									
Westminster System	<p>The system of a bi-cameral (two house) parliament developed in Britain.</p>									
Writ	<p>The legal document issued by the governor authorising a general election or referendum, specifying the dates by which various procedures must be completed. The speaker issues writs for House of Assembly by-elections.</p>									

Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
2003 Redistribution Metropolitan Area



Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission
2003 Redistribution Country Region





State Electoral Office

134 Fullarton Road Rose Park South Australia 5067

GPO Box 646 Adelaide South Australia 5001

Telephone (08) 8401 4300 Facsimile (08) 8401 4333

TTY (08) 8332 9454 Web www.seo.sa.gov.au

ABN 99 891 752 468