

Declaration Voting by Mail

State Election
MARCH 21

ecsa.sa.gov.au →

Dear voter,

This is your opportunity to vote and participate at the 2026 State Election. Inside, you'll find your ballot papers and a declaration envelope—everything you need to cast your vote in this election.

To make your vote count, simply complete your ballot papers and sign the declaration envelope provided. Be sure to do this before 6pm (South Australian time) on polling day, 21 March 2026, so your vote is included.

You will need a witness who is aged 18 years or older and is not a candidate for this election when you sign the envelope. Your witness must watch you sign. Make sure your witness reads this leaflet and knows what to do.

Complete your ballot papers, place them in the declaration envelope and return as soon as possible, to ensure your vote counts.

Sample

South Australia

Issuing Officer Initials

Ballot Paper

Election of one Member for the House of Assembly

DISTRICT

Number the squares from 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.

You are not legally obliged to mark the ballot paper.

4	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
2	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
3	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
1	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent

Example of a completed ballot paper

How to Complete Your Declaration Vote

- 1. You will have 2 ballot papers**, a small green paper for the House of Assembly, and a large white paper for the Legislative Council to complete.

If you need assistance, watch the video on the ECSA website ecsa.sa.gov.au.

You can also see the 'How to Vote' cards on the website.

- 2. Instructions are included on each ballot paper to follow.** Cast your vote in private by filling out your ballot papers yourself.

Fold your ballot papers so your choices are hidden and insert them into your Declaration Vote Envelope.

- 3. Complete Section 2** by providing the answer to your security question or leave blank if you do not have one.

- 4. Sign the declaration:** In Section 3 of the envelope, sign the 'Elector declaration' while your witness watches.

If you cannot sign yourself (and have a doctor's certificate), an assistant can sign for you.

- 5. Witness:** Ask your witness to fill out and sign Section 4 of your declaration envelope.

- 6. Keep everything together:** Do not remove the declaration section from the envelope, or your vote won't count.

- 7. Post your vote:** Put the Declaration Vote Envelope into the reply-paid envelope and follow the How to Return instructions.

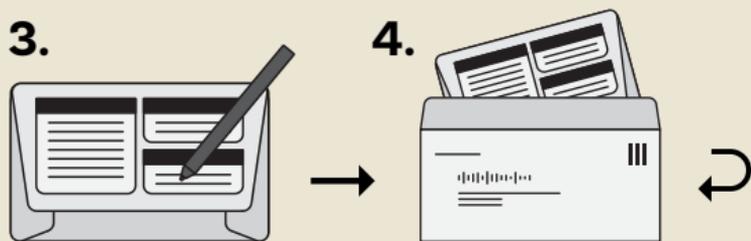
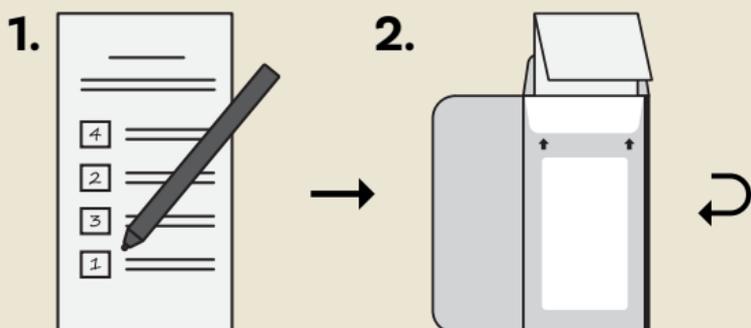
How to return your vote

By mail: Post it via an Australia Post letterbox. It must arrive no later than seven days after polling day (28 March 2026).

By hand in South Australia: Take it to any polling booth before 6pm on polling day (21 March 2026).

By hand in another State/Territory: Deliver it to an Electoral Commission office before 5pm on the Friday before polling day (20 March 2026). Check ecsa.sa.gov.au for details.

If you are overseas: You may be able to deliver it to an international office representative. It must arrive before 5pm on the Friday (20 March 2026) before polling day. See ecsa.sa.gov.au for approved locations.



Mistakes can happen

If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, you can fix it.

Clearly cross out the mistake and write your correct number next to the box.

As long as it's clear what you mean, your vote will still count (see example below).

Sample

South Australia Issuing Officer Initials

Ballot Paper
Election of one Member for the House of Assembly

DISTRICT

Number the squares from 1 to 4 in the order of your choice.
You are not legally obliged to mark the ballot paper.

1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE Name	Political Party or Independent

For your assistant

- Only help the voter fill out the ballot papers if they ask you.
- Only mark the ballot papers the way the voter tells you.
- Do not share how the voter has marked their ballot with anyone, for any reason.

For your witness

- Make sure the voter is the person the ballot papers and envelope are for.
- Watch the voter put their filled and folded ballot papers in the envelope and seal it.
- Watch the voter sign the declaration. Finally you must fill out and sign Section 4 of the envelope.

Important information

It is an offence for the voter or witness to mark a ballot paper or sign a declaration envelope after the close of polling (6pm South Australian time) on polling day, 21 March 2026.

Penalty: \$2,500 or imprisonment for 6 months (*Electoral Act 1985, s82(6)*).

Need an interpreter?

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) on 131 450 between Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Ask them to contact the Electoral Commission of South Australia on 1300 655 232.

Need assistance due to a hearing or speech impairment?

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit: relayservice.gov.au

TTY users can also contact us on our direct TTY line 133 677.

For more information, translated and accessible resources

Visit our website: ecsa.sa.gov.au

Email us at: ecsacomments@sa.gov.au

Phone us on: 1300 655 232