

Official Guide to the 2026 State Election

Includes details about the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament election, also taking place on **21 March 2026**.

Message from the Electoral Commissioner

The South Australian State Election is your chance to have your say and help shape our state's future. Every vote matters and voting really is a good thing.

There have been some changes to make voting easier and more accessible, so that everyone in South Australia has the chance to participate. Here are some highlights:

- **Early voting starts 14 March 2026** — you no longer need a reason to vote early.
- **More early voting centres than ever before.**
- **Postal voting is easier:** apply online at ecsa.sa.gov.au.
- **Telephone assisted voting** is available for people who are blind, have low vision, or a motor impairment.

The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament election will also be held on the same day; it's optional for eligible Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders on the SA electoral roll.

During the election, you might see false or misleading claims about how voting works. Remember, the ECSA is your trusted, official source. For accurate information, always check the ECSA website — ecsa.sa.gov.au.

And finally, remember that voting in the **State Election is compulsory**.

Mick Sherry
ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

What happens at a voting centre?

Voting centres are located in public spaces such as schools and community centres. Find your nearest voting centre on the ECSA website or on the back of your EasyVote card. Signs will guide you.



Scan to view your nearest voting centre on the interactive map



Helpful tip: Queues are often shorter after lunch.

Electoral staff will check your name and address, then give you your ballot papers. If you are outside your district, a silent elector, or voting in the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament election, you will be directed to a separate vote issuing table.

Receive your ballot papers

Green ballot: choose your House of Assembly candidate.

White ballot: choose candidates or groups for the Legislative Council.

Fill in your ballot papers

Use the pencil provided or bring your own if you prefer. If you need help, ask an electoral officer — your vote stays private.

More information overleaf —————>

How to make your vote count

Green House of Assembly Ballot Paper

To make sure your vote counts, you need to number every square in the order of your choice.

- 1 Write the number 1 in the square next to the candidate you want as your first choice.
- 2 Write the number 2 next to your second choice.
- 3 Write the number 3 next to your third choice.
- 4 Keep going: 4, 5, 6 ... until every square has a number.

If you make a mistake, don't worry. Put a line through the error and write the correct number beside it, or ask an electoral officer for a replacement ballot.

White Legislative Council ballot paper

There are 2 ways you can vote on the white Legislative Council ballot paper: above OR below the thick black line.

Voting above the line

If you vote above the line, write the number '1' in the square next to the group that is your first choice. You may choose to continue numbering (2, 3, 4 etc.) as many groups as you like. Don't write any numbers below the line.

South Australia, 2026 Election
Ballot Paper for the Election of 11 Legislative Councillors
You may vote in one of two ways. You are not legally obliged to mark the ballot paper.

If you vote ABOVE the line

If you vote above the line write the number 1 in the square next to the group of your choice. You can show more choices if you want to by writing numbers in other squares starting with the number 2.
Do not write any numbers below the line.

A ☐ 1 Environment First Party	B ☐ 4 Shine Australia	C ☐ 2 The People's Party	D ☐ 3 Farmer's Alliance	E ☐ 5 Southern Cross Party
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Voting below the line

If you choose to vote below the line, you must number at least 12 candidates. Write the number '1' in the square next to the candidate who is your first choice, '2' next to your second choice and continue until you have numbered at least 12 candidates. Don't write anything above the line.

OR

If you vote BELOW the line

If you vote below the line write the numbers 1 to 12 in the squares next to the names of the candidates in the order of your choice. You can show more choices if you want to by continuing to write numbers in more squares. You don't need to write a number in every square.
Do not write any numbers above the line.

A ☐ Lauren Hall ☐ 2 Tony Matic ☐ Jane Nguyen ☐ Oliver Bloom ☐ 7 Sasha Crown ☐ Travis Alves	B ☐ 12 Finn Robinson ☐ Latika Fischer ☐ Andy McMahon ☐ 4 Helen Park ☐ James Ludwig ☐ Ophelia Knight	C ☐ 1 Anita Holland ☐ Joshua McCall ☐ 9 Imane Caskey ☐ Ahren Patel ☐ Vanessa Hollow ☐ 8 Porter Smith	D ☐ Winston Barker ☐ 3 Nina Harris ☐ John Thompson ☐ 11 Rachel McKinnon ☐ Jeremy Choi ☐ 6 Courtney Wilson	E ☐ 5 Naomi Lee ☐ Felix Cross ☐ Jennie Rodriguez ☐ 10 Rory Lane ☐ Katrina Sebastian ☐ Noah Stringer
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After you've voted

Once you have completed your ballot papers, fold and place them in the ballot boxes provided.

If you have voted outside your enrolled district or are a silent elector, return your ballot papers to the electoral officer who will help you place them in an envelope before you put them in the ballot box.

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

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

Key election dates and times

Postal voting applications open:	Monday 2 February 2026
Electoral roll close:	Friday 27 February 2026 5:00pm
Postal votes sent to electors:	From Tuesday 10 March 2026
Early voting period: Saturday 14 March - Friday 20 March	Saturday 14 March - Friday 20 March 8:00am - 6:00pm Sunday 15 March CLOSED Thursday 19 March 8:00am - 8:00pm
Telephone Assisted Voting: Saturday 14 March - Saturday 21 March	Saturday 14 March - Saturday 21 March 8:00am - 6:00pm Sunday 15 March CLOSED Thursday 19 March 8:00am - 8:00pm
Election day:	Saturday 21 March 2026 8:00am-6:00pm

Plan your voting options

You can vote at any voting centre

Who has to vote?

All South Australian citizens aged 18+ must be enrolled and vote in state elections.

Can't vote on election day (21 March 2026)?

Vote early or apply for a postal vote. If you cannot vote in person, you can apply for a postal vote or may be eligible to use telephone assisted voting.

Mobile polling services

ECSA officials will visit aged care facilities and some hospitals to provide voting services. Mobile polling will also be available in remote areas, including Aboriginal communities.

What district am I in?

Districts may have changed. Check your district at: ecsa.sa.gov.au.

Interstate or overseas?

Early voting centres will be open in each state or territory, capital city and selected locations overseas (Hong Kong, London, Wellington).

How to vote by post

Apply for a postal vote at ecsa.sa.gov.au or if you don't have online access phone 1300 655 232.

Applications close at 5:00pm on 13 March for interstate and overseas voters, and at 5:00pm on 17 March for voters in SA.

Postal packs are mailed after candidates are confirmed. Political parties cannot distribute postal vote applications.

Telephone Assisted Voting (TAV)

Available for the blind, vision or motor impaired. Call 1300 951 579 for assistance.

Misleading information during elections

During elections, you may encounter unreliable or deliberately false information online. To protect yourself, always check the source of any election-related information and ensure it is reliable, up-to-date, and safe.

Take the time to consider

Check the source: Is it a trustworthy media outlet or an official social media account?

Check the date: Old information can be shared to look new.

Verify if unsure: AI makes it easier to create false or misleading content.

State Election
MARCH 21

For official and reliable information about SA elections, visit the ECSA website at: ecsa.sa.gov.au.

ecsa.sa.gov.au →

South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament election

The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament is an elected advisory body for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. It is different from the federal National Voice referendum. Only Aboriginals and/or Torres Strait Islanders on the SA electoral roll can vote, however it is not compulsory.

This election is taking place at the same time as the State Election. Eligible electors can vote at any voting centre, by post or telephone assisted voting. Visit the website for more information at: savoicerelection.sa.gov.au.

At a voting centre

Look for the Voice Election posters. Electoral staff will direct you to a separate vote issuing table.

Complete your declaration envelope

You must complete a declaration envelope to confirm you are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Then, you will receive a ballot paper showing all the candidates for your region.

To vote:

1 Write the number 1 in the box next to the name and photo of the candidate who is your first choice.

2 If you want to choose more candidates, continue with 2, 3, 4... in the other boxes.

It is up to you how many candidates you choose, you do not have to number every box.

Finished, now what do I do?

Take all three ballot papers, the green, white and white bordered papers, to the electoral officer at the voting table.

BALLOT PAPER
Election of 7 Members to the
Local First Nations Voice
Region

DISTRICT

Sample

Issuing Officer's Initials

Directions
Choose 1 or more candidates by numbering the box next to their pictures in the order of your choice
After voting, fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot paper envelope.

☐	2	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	1	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	4	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	3	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	5	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	6	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	8	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	9	FAMILY NAME, First Name
☐	7	FAMILY NAME, First Name



Scan for a video about how to complete the SA First Nations Voice ballot paper

Official Guide in other languages

This Official Guide is available translated in 21 different languages on the Electoral Commission SA website. For more information in another language, use the free Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): **Call 13 14 50** and ask them to connect you with the Electoral Commission SA on 1300 655 232.

Information and support



Website: ecsa.sa.gov.au | savoicerelection.sa.gov.au

Telephone: 1300 655 232

Telephone Assisted Voting: 1300 951 579

Email: ecsacomment@sa.gov.au

Feedback and complaints: ecsa.sa.gov.au/feedback-and-complaints

Authorised by M Sherry, Electoral Commissioner, South Australia, Adelaide