

# Australian Electoral Commission Glossary

Home
General info
House of Reps
Senate
Import files
Electoral process
About CD-ROM
Glossary
Index

**absent vote** Electors who are out of their division but still within their state or territory may cast an absent vote at any polling place in that state or territory.

**candidate** A person who stands for election to Parliament. Candidates can be nominated by political parties or stand as independents.

**enrolment** You cannot vote at an election unless your name is on the electoral roll. Australian citizens 18 years of age or over (with a few exceptions) must enrol to vote. Enrolment cards are available at all post offices and agencies and AEC offices.

**exhausted votes** These are ballot papers which show no further valid preference for any candidate and must, therefore, be set aside from the count.

Note that in 1998 the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* was amended to require that for the House of Representatives a ballot paper must have every box numbered, and the numbers must be consecutive starting from '1'. This has meant that in the 1998 election there are no exhausted ballot papers in the House of Representatives counts.

**group voting ticket (GVT)** In the Senate, groups may lodge a GVT which shows the order in which they want their preferences distributed. If a voter chooses to put the number '1' in one of the boxes above the line on the Senate ballot paper, all the preferences will be distributed according to that group's GVT. Electors may choose to vote according to their own preferences below the line.

# Australian Electoral Commission Glossary

Home

General info

House of Reps

Senate

Import files

Electoral  
process

About CD-ROM

Glossary

Index

**informal vote** A ballot paper which has not been completed according to the requirements of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* or has not been filled in at all. Informal votes are not counted.

**mobile team** Mobile polling teams bring the polling to the elector. They visit electors in hospitals and nursing homes, some prisons and remote locations to enable them to vote.

**nomination** Candidates must be nominated before they may be elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives. Nominations can only be made after the writ for an election has been issued and by the time and date specified as the close of nominations. For each nomination a deposit must also be lodged:

- 1993 and 1996      House - \$250      Senate - \$500
- 1998                      House - \$350      Senate - \$700

**ordinary vote** A vote cast at a polling place in the elector's home division on polling day. At the 1996 election 86.21 per cent of electors voted this way.

**political party** Political parties can register with the AEC for federal elections. This is to fulfil legislative requirements under the Funding and Disclosure provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and to enable party names to appear on the ballot paper.

**polling place/  
booth** Polling places are set up in each division to take the votes of the local people. At the 1998 election there were 7 775 ordinary polling places.

# Australian Electoral Commission Glossary

Home

General info

House of Reps

Senate

Import files

Electoral  
process

About CD-ROM

Glossary

Index

## **postal and pre-poll votes**

Electors who for various reasons cannot attend a polling place in the State or Territory for which they are enrolled on polling day can apply in writing for a postal vote. The Divisional Returning Officer will then send them their ballot papers which must be posted back before the close of polling. Alternatively a pre-poll vote can be cast in person at any Australian Electoral Commission office or pre-poll voting centre in the lead up to polling day.

## **provisional vote**

These votes are cast in circumstances where an elector's name cannot be found on the roll or has already been marked off the roll. They are not counted until a careful check of enrolment records has been made.

## **quota**

The number of votes required by a candidate to be elected to the Senate.

## **swing**

The term used to describe the change in support for a party or candidate from one election to the next.

## **transfer value**

In a Senate election a candidate's surplus is transferred at a fraction of its value to the next available candidate.

## **turnout**

The percentage of enrolled electors who voted.

## **two candidate preferred (TCP)**

Refers to a distribution of preferences to the two candidates who are expected to come first and second in the election.

Home

General info

House of Reps

Senate

Import files

Electoral  
process

About CD-ROM

Glossary

Index

**two party  
preferred (TPP)**

Refers to a distribution of preferences between the ALP and the Coalition (LP/NP/CLP). In those divisions where the ALP and Coalition are not the final two candidates, a further Scrutiny for Information is conducted to obtain a notional ALP and Coalition two party preferred result.