

Enrolling for the 2024 council elections

Frequently asked questions

May 2024



Introduction

This FAQ has been developed to provide answers to commonly asked questions relating to enrolment for local government elections.

Scope

This FAQ applies to the 2024 Local Government election and subsequent elections. It does **not** apply to any by-elections before that point.

Who can enrol

Who can vote at local council elections?

There are 2 types of enrolment for local council elections. These are:

1. State-enrolled voters: Australian citizens who are 18 or over and live in the council area.
2. Council-enrolled voters: ratepayers such as property owners, occupiers or corporations.

You have **one vote** per council. If you are a State-enrolled voter, that is the enrolment you use to vote.

I own my own home, can I enrol?

Yes. If you are not an Australian citizen and you are responsible for paying the rates to a property, you are eligible to apply as a council-enrolled voter. Please contact the council to which you pay rates to enrol.

If you are an Australian citizen and are already enrolled for state and federal elections, you are automatically enrolled as a State-enrolled voter for elections in the local council where you live.

I am a landlord, can I enrol?

Yes. If you are a landlord of a property in a different Victorian council other than the one where you reside or if you are not an Australian citizen, you can enrol with the council for the property where you are a landlord.

I run a business on my property, can I enrol?

Yes. If you are responsible for paying the rates on the property and you are not enrolled already as a State-enrolled voter, you can enrol with the council to vote. If you pay rates but do not own the property, you will need to renew this enrolment before each general election.

My corporation pays rates, can I enrol?

Yes. You can appoint a company representative that is either the director or company secretary of the corporation to enrol with the council for the next general election, provided that the representative is not already eligible to enrol by other means. You will need to renew this enrolment before each general election.

I am enrolled for State elections, do I need to enrol for council elections?

No. If you are an Australian citizen and already enrolled for state and federal elections, you are automatically enrolled as a State-enrolled voter for elections in the local council where you live. You have **one vote** per council.

How to enrol

How do I update my State enrolment details?

Please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding updating your State enrolment details.

How do I enrol to vote for the first time?

Please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding enrolling for the first time as a State-enrolled voter.

How do I enrol as a council-enrolled voter?

If you are responsible for paying rates on a property, you can enrol directly with the council to which you pay rates. We will put you through to someone who can assist you with council enrolment queries.

When should I enrol as a council-enrolled voter?

You can enrol at any time up until the close of the roll for an election or by-election.

We encourage you to enrol early and avoid waiting until the last moment. However, if you have owned your property since 2016 you will be unable to apply to enrol until 31 March 2024, or later if a by-election is happening in your area. This is because you remain automatically enrolled for any by-elections which may be held up until this time.

I own multiple properties – can I choose which one I am enrolled for?

You are entitled to one vote per council. If you own multiple properties in the same council, you can choose which property to enrol on the application.

Do I get an extra vote for another property that I own?

You can have one vote per council area. If you are a State-enrolled voter and you pay rates on another property in the same council, your state enrolment determines the address where you are enrolled to vote.

If you pay rates on a property in a different council to where you are State-enrolled, you can apply to enrol to vote in that council.

If you are not a State-enrolled voter and you pay rates on more than one property in a single council, you can only choose to enrol for one of those properties.

I share ownership of this property with others. Can we all enrol to vote?

No more than 2 joint owner ratepayers can be enrolled for a single property. The first 2 eligible joint owners who make an application to council will be enrolled. Anyone who applies to enrol afterwards will have their application rejected.

Checking enrolment

How do I check my State enrolment details?

Please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding checking your State enrolment details.

How do I check my council enrolment details?

We will put you through to someone who can assist you with council enrolment queries.

Ending enrolment

Once I am enrolled, does my enrolment expire?

If you apply to enrol as an owner ratepayer, then you will remain enrolled for all future elections, unless there are changes to your circumstances and you are no longer entitled to be enrolled as an owner ratepayer for that property.

If you apply to enrol as an occupier, or you are appointed by a corporation, your enrolment will expire before the close of roll for the next general election after the election which you enrolled for. This means that you will need to renew your enrolment for each general election. We will write to you to advise you that your enrolment is expiring and invite you to renew your enrolment.

I don't want to be enrolled as a council-enrolled voter anymore, what do I do?

You may resign your council-enrolled status by completing an application. We will put you through to someone who can assist you with this.

If you are automatically enrolled for a by-election before the October 2024 council elections, you are not able to resign your enrolment.

I have sold my property – do I need to do anything?

If you are a State-enrolled voter for the sold property and you have moved house, you will need to update your enrolment details. Please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding updating your State enrolment details.

If you are a council-enrolled voter for the sold property, we will automatically remove you from the voters' list.

Compulsory voting

Do I have to vote at the council election?

If you are eligible to enrol as a council-enrolled voter, enrolment is optional. Once you are enrolled, whether as a council-enrolled or State-enrolled voter, it is compulsory for you to vote. If you don't vote, you may get a fine.

I am a council-enrolled voter, do I need to vote at the council election?

It is now compulsory for council-enrolled voters to vote. If you don't vote, you may get a fine.

Special circumstances

I do not want my details shown on the roll, what can I do?

If you believe that having your address printed on the voters' roll could put your personal safety or your family's safety at risk, you can apply to be a silent elector. This means that you are still required to vote, but the address where you live is not shown on the printed voters' roll.

How do I enrol as a silent elector?

As a State-enrolled voter, please contact the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) regarding enrolling as a silent elector.

As a council-enrolled voter, you can complete a silent elector application directly with us. We will put you through to someone who can assist you with this.

What if I am a silent elector on the State roll and I wish to enrol with council?

You can request a silent elector application when you enrol as a council-enrolled voter. We will put you through to someone who can assist you with this.

