

# **Voting information**

## For people with disability and mobility restrictions

The NSW Electoral Commission provides assistance for people living with disability to ensure you are supported to participate in the electoral process.

### What are your options to vote?

#### **Before election day**



#### Voting at an early voting centre/pre-poll venue or declared facility

If you can't get to a venue on election day, you may be eligible to vote at an early voting centre (for state government elections), or a pre-polling venue (for local government elections). Eligibility criteria for early voting can be found on the NSW Electoral Commission website or by contacting the NSW Electoral Commission via telephone on 1300 135 736. To find out where you can vote early, visit the NSW Electoral Commission website shortly after an election or by-election is announced. NSW Electoral Commission visits a select number of declared facilities which include nursing homes and aged care facilities to allow residents to vote onsite before election day. Contact the NSW Electoral Commission on 1300 135 736 for more information.



#### **Postal voting**

If you are unable to vote at a venue on election day, you may be eligible to vote by post. If you want to vote by post, you will need to complete a postal vote application form found on the NSW Electoral Commission website.

To register for postal voting, check your eligibility at <u>elections.nsw.gov.au</u>, then apply online or over the phone by calling 1300 135 736. You can also apply by downloading the application form on our website and sending your completed form back to the NSW Electoral Commission.



#### **Deadlines for postal votes**

We recommend you submit your postal vote application as early as possible to ensure that you receive your voting material before election day.

For State elections:

- We must receive your postal vote application by 6pm on the Monday before election day.
- To be counted, your postal vote must be received by the NSW Electoral Commission by **6pm on the 13th day after election day**.

Local government elections or by-elections:

- We must receive your postal vote application by 5pm on the Monday before election day.
- To be counted, your completed ballot papers and postal vote certificate must be received by the NSW Electoral Commission no later than **6pm on the 13th day after election day**.

#### Before or on the day



#### **Telephone voting**

Voters who are blind or have low vision can cast a telephone-assisted vote. Telephone voting will be available in the lead up to election day. Telephone voting is a two-step process and NSW Electoral Commission voting assistants are available to assist you through the process. Information about eligibility and how to use the telephone voting service will be available prior to each election.

#### On election day



#### At an accessible polling place

Each of the NSW Electoral Commission venues is given an accessibility rating. This rating is published on the NSW Electoral Commission website and allows voters to make informed decisions about the most appropriate venue to cast a vote. You can click on the rating listed against each polling place to find out more about its accessibility features including:

- wheelchair accessible
- assisted wheelchair access, or
- not wheelchair accessible

Venues have other accessibility features, such as:

- Virtual Auslan interpreter services
- A magnifier
- A maxi-pen

## How can I request assistance?

If you need assistance to vote at a venue, you can ask someone to help you. Venue staff are trained to assist you or you can nominate any person (other than a candidate) to assist. This could be a friend, relative or another person. If you do not nominate someone, then the venue official in charge may provide assistance. If you cannot get out of the car, ballot papers may be brought to you for completion.

## Would you like more information?

You can learn more about the electoral system, enrolment and voting on our <u>website</u> or by contacting the NSW Electoral Commission via telephone on 1300 135 736. Electoral information will be available in accessible formats. This information can be obtained from the NSW Electoral Commission website after the election or by-election is announced.

## How to contact the NSW Electoral Commission if you are deaf or hard of hearing

## **National Relay Service (NRS)**

**TTY users** phone 133 677 then ask for 1300 135 736

**Speak and Listen users** phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 135 736

Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 1300 135 736