

Types of votes

fact sheet

Types of votes

There are two types of votes. They are:

- 1 Ordinary votes
- 2 Declaration votes

1. Ordinary votes

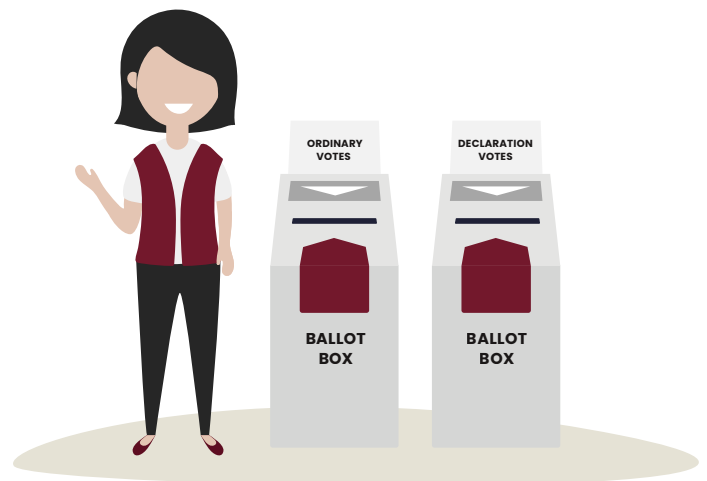
An ordinary vote is issued to an elector at a polling booth in their enrolled electorate. Their name is found on the electoral roll and then marked off before receiving their ballot paper when:

- early voting, or
- election day voting, or
- absent voting, or
- remote/mobile voting, or
- telephone voting.

2. Declaration votes

Declaration votes are votes where the elector 'declares' they are eligible to vote because they are:

- postal voting, or
- voting in person, their name can't be found on the electoral roll and they believe they are enrolled, or
- voting in person, they have enrolled prior to election day and their name is not found on the roll.



More about ordinary votes

Early voting

An early or pre-poll vote is any vote issued to an elector who is voting in person at an early voting centre in their enrolled electorate after their name has been marked off the electoral roll.

Election day voting

Electors can vote in person at an election day polling booth from 8am to 6pm.

Absent voting

Voting in person outside your electorate is known as absent voting.

In a Queensland general election, electors can vote in person outside their electorate at any early voting centre or election day polling booth in Queensland.

Absent vote ballot papers are placed in a different ballot box by the elector so that after the close of polls on election day, these ballot papers can be returned to the 'home' Returning Officer.

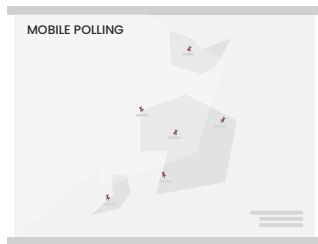
For example, if an elector from the electorate of Ipswich voted in Rockhampton, the vote is couriered to the Ipswich Returning Officer to be included in the count for that electorate. This process is called the 'vote exchange' and it takes place on the Sunday after election day.

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Remote/mobile voting

Mobile polling votes are issued by election officials in eligible remote areas, declared institutions or by way of electoral visits.

Mobile polling votes are placed into a sealed ballot box and on completion of the mobile polling service, are returned to the Returning Officer for inclusion in the count after 6pm on election day.



Telephone voting (also known as Electronically Assisted Voting or EAV)

Telephone voting is a limited voting service available only to those electors who meet strict eligibility criteria. A telephone vote involves a multi-step process that includes:

- an elector calling and registering for a telephone vote, and
- the elector calling again and casting their vote.

See ECQ's [Telephone voting fact sheet](#) for further details.

Just as with mobile votes, after 6pm on election day ballot boxes containing telephone votes are unsealed, sorted into each electorate, and dispatched via courier to the relevant Returning Officer, so they can be included in the count.

Please note, due to COVID-19 health restrictions, there is no declared institution or electoral visit mobile polling for the 2020 State general election. Electors in these categories are eligible to choose either telephone voting or postal voting.

More about declaration votes

Postal voting

A postal vote is a declaration vote that is mailed to an elector's nominated postal address. This can be different than their enrolled address. For example, an elector may be on holidays, or staying with friends or family in another location.

Postal votes are declaration votes because the elector must make a 'declaration' on the envelope, claiming their entitlement to vote.

If a postal declaration envelope is not admitted to the count for any reason, the elector is notified in writing.

Postal votes must be completed before 6pm on election day and must be received by an ECQ Returning Officer within 10 days of election day to be included in the count. Any votes received after this time can't be included in the count.

Any elector can apply for a postal vote. In addition, electors may be registered as a 'special postal voter' and automatically receive postal votes.



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Declaration vote – in person

If an elector goes to vote in person but their name can't be found on the electoral roll, a declaration vote is issued. This means the voter 'declares' they are entitled to vote. They will then be issued with a ballot paper for the electorate in which they have declared they can vote. The ballot paper is then placed inside the declaration envelope and placed in a specific ballot box.

After election day, declaration envelopes are scrutinised. Where an elector's details are confirmed on the electoral roll for their electorate, their vote is included in the count.

Where an elector's details are unable to be confirmed, they are informed in writing of the reasons their vote could not be included in the count.

Declaration vote – in person – 'enrol and vote'

At an early voting centre, an elector can 'enrol and vote' by completing an online or paper enrolment form. They will then be issued with declaration envelope to complete and a ballot paper for the electorate in which they have declared they can vote. Once they have completed their vote, the ballot paper is then placed inside their declaration envelope and placed in a specific ballot box.

An in-person 'enrol and vote' declaration can occur up to 6pm on the day before election day.

An elector cannot 'enrol and vote' on election day.

After election day, declaration envelopes are scrutinised by the Returning Officer. Where an elector's details are confirmed on the electoral roll, their vote is included in the count.

Where an elector's details are unable to be confirmed, they are informed in writing of the reasons their vote could not be included in the count.

