



# The 2016 ACT Election

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ACT ELECTORAL COMMISSION OFFICERS  
OF THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 



The background features a light beige color with various white icons including a car, a question mark, a pencil, a speech bubble with the word 'VOTE', and a person. A prominent yellow banner with a green curved line above it spans the top of the slide. A large red ink splatter is on the left side of the banner.

# What is Hare-Clark?

- ✦ A quota-preferential method of proportional representation
  - ✦ Using the “single transferable vote”
- 
- A yellow ink splatter is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# What is a quota?

✦ A quota is the minimum number of votes a candidate needs to be certain of election

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{No. of votes}}{\text{No. of vacancies} + 1} + 1$$

# 2012 Ballot Paper

Ballot Paper

Election of 5 Members

2012



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

## Electorate of Ginninderra

Number five boxes from 1 to 5 in the order of your choice

You may then show as many further preferences as you wish by writing numbers from 6 onwards in other boxes

A THE ACT GREENS	B AUSTRALIAN MOTORIST PARTY	C ACT LABOR	D LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	E MARION LÈ SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY	F CANBERRA LIBERALS	G BULLET TRAIN FOR CANBERRA	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> James HIGGINS	<input type="checkbox"/> Chic HENRY	<input type="checkbox"/> Jayson HINDER	<input type="checkbox"/> Mustafa JAWADI	<input type="checkbox"/> Karamia LÈ	<input type="checkbox"/> Alistair COE	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris BUCKNELL	<input type="checkbox"/> Darren CHURCHILL
<input type="checkbox"/> Hannah PARRIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Darryl WALFORD	<input type="checkbox"/> Chris BOURKE	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt THOMPSON	<input type="checkbox"/> Nehmat Nana JBEILI	<input type="checkbox"/> Matt WATTS	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony HALTON	<input type="checkbox"/> Norm GINGELL INDEPENDENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Meredith HUNTER		<input type="checkbox"/> Mary PORTER		<input type="checkbox"/> Kate REYNOLDS	<input type="checkbox"/> Merinda NASH		<input type="checkbox"/> Emmanuel EZEKIEL-HART INDEPENDENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yvette BERRY		<input type="checkbox"/> Marion LÈ	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacob VADAKKEDATHU		<input type="checkbox"/> Glen TAKKENBERG
		<input type="checkbox"/> Glen McCREA		<input type="checkbox"/> Majlinda BITANI	<input type="checkbox"/> Vicki DUNNE		

Sample

# Casting a vote in 2016

- ✿ Polling places on polling day – 15 October
  - New polling places in Bonner and Franklin
- ✿ Pre-polling in the 3 weeks before polling day (27 Sept)
  - Closest at Gungahlin Library
  - All other major business districts
  - Electronic voting available

# Casting a vote in 2016

## ✦ Postal voting

- Apply online, phone, email, for yourself or on behalf of someone else
- Online available in June
- Ballot papers available 27 Sept
- Must be returned by 21 Oct, post marked 15 Oct

## ✦ Mobile polling

# Casting a formal vote

- ✖ A ballot paper is formal if:
  - there is a single number 1 on the ballot paper
- ✖ A ballot paper is informal if:
  - it is totally blank
  - the number 1 does not appear against any candidate
  - the number 1 appears against two or more candidates
  - a tick or a cross has been used instead of a number 1 to show the elector's first preference
  - it is marked in any way by which the elector can be identified, such as a legible signature (but usually not initials)
- ✖ Repeating or omitting a number other than number 1 does not make a ballot paper informal.

# Size of the Assembly inquiry

- ✿ 5 person Expert Reference Group appointed by the Chief Minister in December 2012; chaired by the Electoral Commissioner
- ✿ Report submitted to Chief Minister on 28 March 2013
- ✿ Commonwealth legislation to increase the size of the Assembly passed in March 2013
- ✿ Increasing the size requires amending the Electoral Act by a 2/3 majority of MLAs
- ✿ Assembly voted to increase its size to 25 MLAs – 5 by 5 – on 4 August 2014



# Redistribution of electorate boundaries

- ✿ Redistribution Committee appointed in October 2014
- ✿ Committee includes Electoral Commissioner, chief planner, surveyor-general & head of ACT ABS
- ✿ Tasked to propose redistribution into 5 equal-sized electorates
- ✿ Public consultation: 56 suggestions, 9 comments and 8 objections received
- ✿ Augmented Electoral Commission announced final boundaries on 18 May 2015





# ACT electoral innovations

- ✦ Computer voting and counting used in 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012
- ✦ ICR scanning used to count paper ballots in 2008 and 2012
- ✦ Electronic electoral rolls used in polling places in 2008 and 2012
- ✦ These will be used again in 2016



# Electronic Voting

- ✦ Used at 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2012 elections
- ✦ 5/6 pre-poll voting centres for 3 weeks
- ✦ 59,200 electronic votes taken in 2012  
(43,525 in 2008; 28,169 in 2004; 16,559 in 2001)
- ✦ 25.8% of all votes counted in 2012  
(19.8% in 2008; 13.4% in 2004; 8.3% in 2001)



# Benefits of electronic voting

- ✦ No manual counting of electronic votes
- ✦ Reliable, secure and transparent – open source software
- ✦ Eliminated unintentional voter errors
- ✦ Reduced informal votes
- ✦ Audio version for sight-impaired
- ✦ Instructions in 12 languages



# ICR scanning of paper ballots

- ✦ Prior to 2001 all ballot papers counted by hand
- ✦ In 2001 and 2004 all paper ballots were manually data-entered
- ✦ In 2008 and 2012, intelligent character recognition scanning of handwritten paper ballots was used
- ✦ Faster and more accurate – 7 day count
- ✦ Australia-first for a parliamentary election
- ✦ Will be used again in 2016



Any questions?

More information available:  
[www.elections.act.gov.au](http://www.elections.act.gov.au)

