



# Access to Voting at the 2021 State Election

At the 2021 State general election, the WA Electoral Commission will provide a range of services aimed at reducing barriers to electoral participation and improving accessibility.

## Technology Assisted Voting

The Electoral Act allows eligible electors to vote by means of an electronic device such as a telephone or computer. An eligible elector includes anyone who is unable to vote independently without assistance because of insufficient literacy skills, vision impairment or because they are otherwise incapacitated.

At the 2021 State general election the following two technology assisted voting options will be available:

### Telephone Assisted Voting

Telephone Assisted Voting (TAV) allows eligible enrolled electors to vote over the telephone by calling 13 68 00 (or +61 8 9214 7290 if overseas). This is a two-stage process involving separate Vote Application and Vote Cast Call Centres whereby the secrecy of an elector's vote is maintained. Commission staff verbally read the voting instructions and ballot paper information to the elector who then instructs the operator how they want their ballot papers marked.

### Vote Assist

Vote Assist allows electors who visit one of two selected venues to listen to pre-recorded voting instructions and ballot paper information, select their preferences using a special keypad and then have their completed ballot papers self-printed prior to ballot box lodgement. Vote Assist is available at the ground floor, 150 St Georges Terrace, Perth and at the Visibility Centre (Handa Hall), 61 Kitchener Road, Victoria Park.


Telephone Assisted Voting and Vote Assist will be available from Wednesday 24 February to Saturday 13 March from 8.00am to 6.00pm business days, plus during these hours on Saturday 6 March.

## Postal Voting

Electors who may find it difficult to attend a voting venue in person, can apply now for a postal vote online at [www.elections.wa.gov.au/pva](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/pva) or call 13 63 06 to have an application form posted to them. Once applications have been processed, postal vote ballot papers will be progressively sent to electors from 22 February. You don't need to provide a reason to be able to apply for a postal vote.



## Access to Voting Venues

Early voting centres and polling places with the best wheelchair access will be depicted on the Commission's website at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au) and in other advertising with the following symbol . This indicates that access to the voting room itself is suitable for a wheelchair.


## Accessibility Centres

In addition to the voting aids such as magnifying sheets and desk top voting screens available at all voting venues, 25 locations with good wheelchair access will also have the following assistive devices:

**Reader Pen:** Electors who experience literacy difficulties or for whom reading the English language is a challenge, can use a reader pen to assist them to read and mark their ballot papers. The reader pen will verbalise the text that the pen is moved over.

**Hearing Loop or Hearing Amplifier:** Hearing loops can be used to assist people who use a hearing aid, while the amplifiers can provide assistance to electors who are hard of hearing in general.

**Desktop Video Magnifier:** Enable people who find reading smaller font sizes difficult, to enlarge all text contained on a ballot paper when casting their vote.

Accessibility centres will be depicted on the Commission's website at [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au) and in other advertising with the following symbol .

## Contact Details

**Further information:** [www.elections.wa.gov.au](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au)

**General elector telephone enquiries:** 13 63 06

**General elector email enquiries:** [waec@waec.wa.gov.au](mailto:waec@waec.wa.gov.au)

**Telephone Assisted Voting Call Centre:** 13 68 00

**National Relay Service:** Speak and Listen number 1300 555 727

SMS Relay number 0423 677 767

**Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS):** 13 14 50, then ask for (08) 9214 0400

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