

## ACT Government

The Legislative Assembly (the Assembly) is the ACT's parliament. There are 25 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

The ACT has five electorates: Yerrabi, Ginninderra, Kurrajong, Murrumbidgee and Brindabella. Five MLAs represent each electorate.

ACT Assembly elections happen every four years on the third Saturday of October. This year, 2024, that is October 19th.

## ACT Voting made easy

### Voting

A vote is a number in a box on the ballot paper (no ticks, no crosses, no words, no other marks).

Elections ACT suggests put at least a number 1 and you vote for at least five candidates but may keep voting for as many as you want.

Your vote will be counted up to the point you stop numbering.

CAPaD recommends **put 1 in the box of the person you most want elected. Put 2 in the box of the person you prefer to get in if your number 1 doesn't get elected. Keep numbering every box in the order you prefer people to be elected, until, ideally, you have numbered every square, or you get to candidates you don't want elected (and leave those boxes empty).** That way your vote will continue to support your next preferred candidate until one of them is elected. If you stop numbering before every square is filled, you stop affecting the election result. Your numbered preferences make a difference.

### How votes are counted

Under the ACT's Hare-Clark voting system ([see here for more detail](#)) we elect five MLAs for each of the five electorates to the ACT Assembly.

Candidates are elected if they achieve a certain proportion of the vote (called a quota). Candidates who reach the quota are elected (this rarely happens on the first round of counting) and have the rest of their preferences distributed among the other candidates in the order that each voter has put them as second preference on the ballot paper.

Candidates who don't reach a quota are eliminated from the count after each round of counting, starting with the person with the least votes at that stage. That candidate's second preference votes are distributed to other candidates.

This continues until five MLAs are elected for each electorate.

**That's why it is important to number every square, so all your preferences count.**