

Version 01 06 April 2016

Nomination Guide for Candidates

Federal
Parliamentary
Elections



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

If you're thinking about standing as a candidate for the Commonwealth Parliament, this pamphlet outlines the steps you will need to take when nominating for the Senate or the House of Representatives.

The information in this pamphlet is current as at April 2016 and outlines the following:

Step 1: Determine your eligibility

Step 2: Complete appropriate nomination form(s)

Step 3: Arrange your nomination deposit

Step 4: Decide whether you want to appoint an agent

Step 5: Lodge your nomination, deposit and agent appointment form

Step 1: Determine your eligibility

To nominate for either the Senate or the House of Representatives, you must be:

- at least 18 years old;
- an Australian citizen; and
- either enrolled or eligible to be enrolled on the Commonwealth electoral roll.

You cannot nominate for the Senate or the House of Representatives if you are:

- currently a member of a state parliament or territory legislative assembly and have not resigned before the hour of nomination;
- disqualified by section 44 of the Constitution.

See [Electoral Backgrounder on Constitutional Disqualifications and Intending Candidates](#) available at www.aec.gov.au.

Step 2: Complete nomination forms

There are several different options when nominating for the Senate or the House of Representatives, each option using a different nomination form.

You need to complete the nomination form for the relevant option, as well as an individual candidate details form for each candidate nominated.

Note: for elections held on the same day, you can only nominate once for the Senate in only one state or territory, or once for only one House of Representatives division. If you nominate more than once, all your nominations will be invalid.

A registered party may not nominate more than one candidate for a single House of Representatives division in a state or territory.

Individual candidate details forms

On either Form 59 'Nomination of a Senator' or Form 60 'Nomination of a Member of the House of Representatives' you must provide:

- your name;
- your place of residence (unless you are registered as a 'silent' elector on the electoral roll);
- your occupation;
- your contact details (you can request that these are not publicly released);
- whether you have been endorsed by a registered political party; and
- if you are nominating for the Senate you can request that your name be included in a group of candidates on the ballot paper.

You must nominate using the name under which you are enrolled or entitled to be enrolled.

Nomination forms, including your contact details, become publicly available after the declaration of nominations.

If you are a 'silent' elector, you are not required to write your address on the nomination form, but you must provide a correspondence address. This address may be a postal address and is not made publicly available.

You must sign a declaration on the nomination form that you:

- are an Australian citizen;
- are at least 18 years of age;
- are an elector or qualified to be an elector;
- are qualified to be elected under the Constitution and other laws of the Commonwealth;
- are not, and do not intend to be, a candidate in any other Commonwealth election on the same day; and
- consent to act if elected.

Senate forms

There are five types of nomination forms available for the Senate:

FORM	USE
Form 59a Multiple party group nomination by registered officer	This form should be used where two or more candidates for the Senate are nominated as a group endorsed by multiple registered parties and are nominated by the parties' registered officers.
Form 59b Group nomination by registered officer	This form should be used where two or more candidates are nominated as a group by the registered officer of one registered political party.
Form 59c Unendorsed group nomination	This form should be used where two or more unendorsed candidates for the Senate are nominated as a group.
Form 59d Single nomination by registered officer	This form should be used where an individual candidate is nominated as a single candidate by the registered officer of a registered political party.
Form 59e Single nomination of unendorsed candidate or incumbent independent	This form should be used where an unendorsed candidate for the Senate is nominated by 100 eligible electors or where an incumbent independent candidate for the Senate is nominated by one eligible elector.

Note: Each nomination must include one of the above forms plus a Form 59 'Nomination of a Senator' for each candidate nominated. Unendorsed candidates who wish to form a group must complete Form 59 and Form 59e for each candidate nominated as well as Form 59c for the group nomination.

House of Representatives forms

There are three types of nomination forms available for House of Representatives candidates:

FORM	USE
Form 60a Bulk nomination – endorsed candidate	This form should be used where a registered political party nominates all its House of Representatives candidates in a particular State or Territory at the one time.
Form 60b Single nomination – endorsed candidate	This form should be used where an individual candidate for the House of Representatives is endorsed by a registered political party and nominated by the registered officer of the political party.
Form 60c Single nomination of unendorsed candidate or incumbent independent	This form should be used where an unendorsed candidate for the House of Representatives is nominated by 100 eligible electors or where an incumbent independent candidate for the House of Representatives is nominated by one eligible elector.

Note: Each nomination must include one of the above forms plus a Form 60 'Nomination of a Member of the House of Representatives' for each candidate nominated.

Support for your nomination

If you are endorsed by a registered political party, the nomination should include verification of your endorsement by the registered officer or deputy registered officer of the party.

If you are not nominated by a registered political party, your nomination must be supported by 100 eligible electors who are entitled to vote in the election in the state or territory (for Senate candidates) or the division (for House of Representatives candidates) for which you are nominating.

If you are a Senator or a member of the House of Representatives who was elected as an unendorsed candidate at the previous election, your nomination must be supported by one elector (other than the candidate) entitled to vote at the election in the state or territory (for Senate candidates) or the division (for House of Representatives candidates) for which you are nominating.

If a nomination is endorsed by a registered political party and the party endorsing a candidate for the election has a logo entered in the Register of Political Parties at the time of nomination, the registered officer/deputy registered officer of that party may request, as part of the nomination process, to have the logo printed adjacent to the candidate's name on a House of Representatives ballot paper, or printed adjacent to the party name above the line on the Senate ballot paper. Where candidates in a Senate group have been endorsed by more than one political party, no more than two party logos may be printed on the ballot paper.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the AEC website, by visiting an AEC office, or calling 13 23 26.

For help filling out a nomination form, please see the [sample nomination forms](#) on the AEC website. These have been developed to assist candidates and parties with this process.

Step 3: Arrange your nomination deposit

Your nomination must be accompanied by a deposit paid in cash, or by a cheque drawn by a bank or other financial institution on itself (cheques drawn by credit unions on banks are not acceptable). Cheques for nomination deposits should be made out to the Australian Electoral Commission. Money orders, electronic funds transfers, credit cards, personal cheques or other business cheques cannot be accepted.

A deposit is required for each individual candidate. The deposit required is \$2 000 for each nominated Senate candidate and \$1 000 for each nominated House of Representatives candidate.

Refund of deposit

The deposit will be returned to the person who paid the amount, or someone authorised by that person in writing, if the candidate is elected or receives at least four per cent of the formal first preference votes, or is part of a Senate group that receives at least four percent of the formal first preference votes.

All unsuccessful candidates not meeting these criteria forfeit their deposit.

For further details, see the [Candidates Handbook](#) available from the AEC website or an AEC office or by calling 13 23 26.

Step 4: Decide whether you want to appoint a candidate agent

All candidates, including candidates who are members of a Senate group, have financial disclosure responsibilities.

Candidates and Senate groups may appoint an agent to act on their behalf with regards to election financial disclosure matters. Candidates who do not appoint agents become their own agents and are responsible for lodging their own returns. The first listed candidate in a Senate group is responsible for lodging the group's return if an agent has not been appointed for the group.

In addition to financial disclosure responsibilities, the agents of independent candidates and Senate groups (i.e. candidates not endorsed by political parties) are the persons to whom any election funding entitlements will be paid.

To appoint an agent, you must complete an Agent appointment form and ensure that it is received by the AEC's National Office in Canberra before the close of nominations. An appointment is valid for a single election only.

Appoint Candidate Agent and Appoint Senate Group Agent forms are available from the AEC website.

Note that an agent of a party is not automatically a candidate's agent unless specifically appointed by the candidate for the election. The exception to this is for a Senate group where all the members of the group have been endorsed by the same registered political party, then the party agent is responsible for meeting the disclosure obligation of the group in the annual disclosures submitted for that political party.

Further information on appointing an agent is available in the [Financial Disclosure Guide](#) for Candidates and Senate Groups published on the AEC website.

Step 5: Lodge your nomination and deposit

Where to nominate

If you are nominating for the Senate for a state or territory, your nomination and deposit must be lodged at the office of the Australian Electoral Officer (AEO) for that state or territory.

If you are nominating for the House of Representatives for a federal division your nomination and deposit must be lodged at the office of the Divisional Returning Officer (DRO) for that division.

If you are included in a bulk House of Representatives nomination (where a registered political party nominates all its House of Representatives candidates for a particular state or territory at one time), the bulk nominations must be lodged at the office of the AEO for that state or territory.

You may post or fax your nomination form, however:

- the nomination must be physically received by the office of the relevant AEO or DRO before the relevant deadline
- by faxing the form, you must agree the time of receipt is the time when the form enters the AEC's fax machine memory
- the AEC is not responsible for any deadlines missed or losses incurred
- your deposit must be received by the relevant deadline.

When to nominate

Please note: Forms cannot be lodged with the appropriate officer until after the election date has been announced and the writs for the election have been issued.

You can nominate as a candidate during AEC business hours any time after the writ is issued up to 12 noon on the day nominations close.

House of Representatives bulk nominations must be lodged with the relevant AEO not less than 48 hours before the close of nominations.

For a nomination to be valid, both the nomination form and the nomination deposit must be in the hands of the AEO or DRO by the relevant deadline.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all nomination requirements are met and that the AEC has received your nomination by the deadline.

Late nominations cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

Withdrawal of nomination

You can withdraw your consent to a nomination up until the hour of nomination by lodging a withdrawal notice, but not after nominations have closed.

Legal advice

The AEC can help by supplying you with general information about the nomination process. As a prospective candidate, you must satisfy yourself about your legal position. You can refer to the provisions of either the *Constitution* or the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*; however you should also consider obtaining your own legal advice.

Please note the AEC cannot provide you with legal advice.

Where to get more information

Further information is available in the [Candidates Handbook](#) and from AEC offices, or by phoning **13 23 26**. Specific information on filling out a nomination form is available at the AEC website where [sample nomination forms](#) are provided.

The AEC conducts candidate briefing sessions nationally for interested persons. Your DRO or AEO can provide you with information on when and where these sessions will be conducted.

All prospective candidates are encouraged to attend these sessions. Further information can be obtained by contacting the AEC on **13 23 26**.

As requirements may change between elections, intending candidates should ensure that they have the latest information available before submitting their nomination. Updated versions of the relevant forms and this guide will be placed on the [AEC website](#) as required or upon announcement of an election.