



Candidate information webinar

2024 NSW Aboriginal Land Council elections

Tuesday 13 February

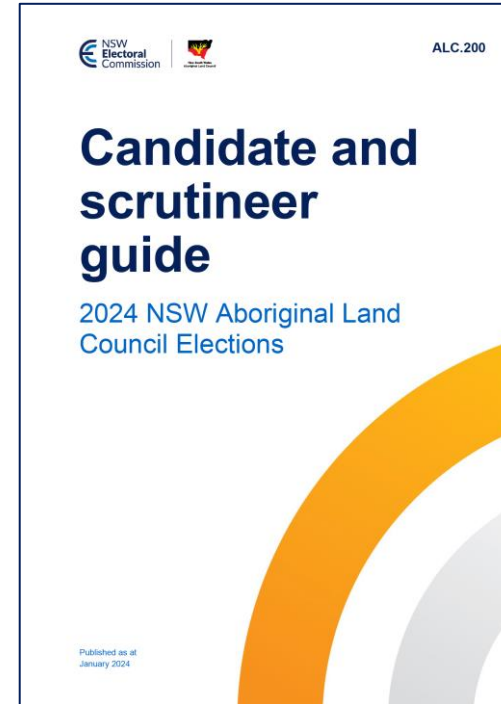
Welcome

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Nominations and Electoral Material Team Lead

Overview

- Introduction
- Timeline of key election dates
- Voting
- Election day
- Scrutineers
- Counting and results



The 2024 NSW Aboriginal Land Council elections in numbers



9 regions



800 postal vote applications



Approx **900** to **4000** electors in each region



Approx. **450** temporary staff engaged



9 Councillors to be elected



27 candidates

Election day

2024 NSW Aboriginal Land Council elections

Saturday, 24 February 2024



Election key dates

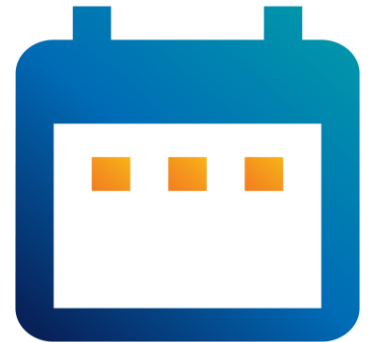
The election timetable can be found on our website elections.nsw.gov.au/nswalc24 under the heading **Key dates**

- **6 December 2023** Close of roll
- **2 January** Lodgement of nominations commenced
- **8 January** Postal vote applications opened
- **30 January** 12noon – Nominations closed
- **31 January** 2:00pm – Announcement of candidates and ballot paper draw conducted



Election key dates (continued)

- **19 February** 6pm: Postal vote applications close
- **24 February** **Election day**
- **8 March** 6pm Receipt of postal votes closes
- **11 March** Distribution of preferences conducted for each region
- **12 March** Declaration of the poll



Voting

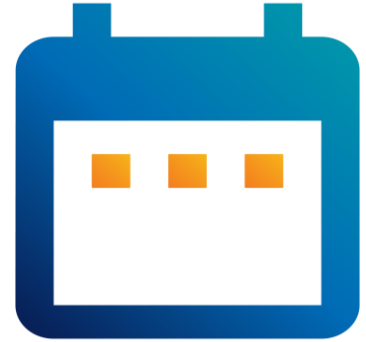
Ways to vote

The following voting options are available to electors:

- Attendance
 - Election day
- Postal voting



Postal voting key dates



The election timetable can be found on the NSW Electoral Commission website elections.nsw.gov.au/nswalc24

- **8 January** Postal applications opened
- **6 February** Mailing of postal voting pack commenced
- **19 February** 6pm: Postal applications close
- **24 February** Election day
Electors must complete their postal vote by 6pm
- **8 March** 6pm: Return of completed postal vote certificates close

How to apply for a postal pack

Eligible electors can apply to postal vote:

- online at elections.nsw.gov.au/nswalc24
- by completing a paper application

Applications close at **6pm, 19 February 2024**



Election day

Election day

Saturday 24 February 2024

- Polling places open at 8am and close at 6pm
- Polling places issue ballot papers for own region only
- Electors are not able to vote outside their enrolled region.



Campaigning by candidates and supported



- Handing out how-to-vote cards and leaflets outside a polling place must not obstruct access to the polling place.
- Campaigning and handing out how-to-vote material inside a polling place is not permitted.

Election night

- Officials complete an initial count of the first preference votes at the polling places on election night
- These results are communicated to the Regional Electoral Officer and will be published on our website from 6:30pm
- Polling places will pack their materials for return to the Regional Electoral Officer
- Disputed votes and postal votes will not be counted on election night



Activities after election night

- Return of polling place materials to the Regional Electoral Officer's office continues from Monday
- Officials will:
 - receive and check the materials
 - begin scrutiny of postal votes and disputed votes
 - begin check counts
- Details will be published on our website



Scrutineers

Scrutineers' role

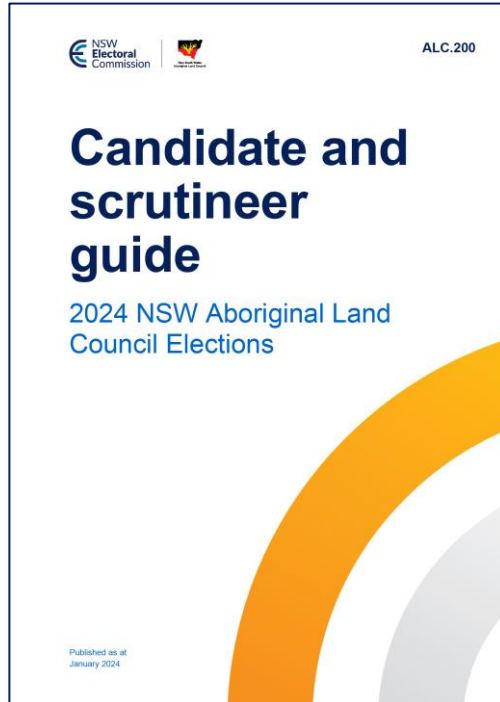
Represent the interests of candidates and oversee the procedures being followed by the NSW Electoral Commission.

Their role is to satisfy the candidates that the election process is carried out fairly, impartially and with integrity.

A scrutineer's presence provides an additional level of assurance to political participants and the public regarding the integrity of the election process.



Scrutineer appointment



Scrutineers must be appointed in writing using the **Appointment of scrutineer form ALC.213**.

Appointed scrutineers while conducting their activities will be required to:

- wear a vest
- wear a name badge

Observation opportunities

Scrutineers can:

- inspect ballot boxes before the commencement of voting and counting
- witness the polling place operations
- observe the opening and extraction of ballot papers from postal votes and disputed votes
- observe all ballot paper counting
- object to the formality of a ballot paper or the determination of preferences on a ballot paper



Scrutineers cannot:

Scrutineers may not (amongst other things):

- record/photograph election processes
- handle/touch ballot papers or disputed vote and postal vote envelopes or any other election material
- be alone in any room where there are ballot papers
- bring food or drink near ballot papers.



Scrutineers cannot (continued):

- interfere with, or attempt to influence, any elector within a polling place
- interfere with, or attempt to influence, any election official within a polling place or a ballot counting place
- obstruct the access to a polling place



Scrutineer resources

The following resources are available:


- **Candidate and scrutineer guide ALC.200**
- Polling place manager – Candidate worker briefing
- the NSW Electoral Commission candidate helpdesk telephone **1300 022 011**

elections.nsw.gov.au



Counting & Results

Count timetable

- 
- **24 February** 6pm Election day initial counts commence at polling places
 - **26 February** Initial counts continue / check counts commence
 - **8 March** 6pm Postal return deadline
(no results can be declared before this date)
 - **8 March** Scrutiny of declaration and postal envelopes completes
 - **11 March** Distribution of preferences conducted for each region
 - **12 March** Declaration of the poll

Counts

Initial count

This is the first count of all first preference votes, conducted at the polling places on election night and at the Regional Electoral Officer's office in the weeks following election day for the postal and disputed votes.

This count is indicative only.

Check count

A 'check' or 'second' count of all ballot papers is conducted after election day.

The results of the check count are considered to be the final count figures to be used in the distribution of preferences.



Election night counts

Initial Counts will be conducted on election night from 6pm to approximately 10pm at each polling place.

Election night results will be published on the NSWEC website from approx. 6:30pm onwards.

Note: postal votes and disputed votes will **not** be counted on election night and there will be no counting on the Sunday after election day.



Check Count

- All ballot papers will undergo a check count of the first preference vote at the Regional Electoral Officer's office.
- The Check Count will be completed over two weeks following election day, note postal votes can be received for 13 days (until 8-Mar).
- The Check Count is the official count for the purpose of the distribution of preferences.



Postal and disputed votes

The scrutiny of all postal vote certificate envelopes and disputed votes will be conducted at the Regional Electoral Officer's office. This includes:

- scrutiny of envelopes – this is to determine whether the vote is to be admitted to the count
- extraction of ballot papers from the accepted envelopes

These votes will also be conducted at the Regional Electoral Officer's office.

Inquiries about the whether a person who cast a disputed vote is entitled to vote may be made with the Registrar of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act during the scrutiny.



Regional Electoral Officer's office

The address is **Level 23, 175 Liverpool Street, Sydney** (this address is available on elections.nsw.gov.au/nswalc24).

Although it is not necessary, we would be grateful if scrutineers advise us in advance when they will attend the Regional Electoral Officer's office. Please call 1300 022 011 or email candidates@elections.nsw.gov.au

All visitors to our office must provide their names and contact details and follow any directions about safety while present in our workplace.



Distribution of Preferences

- Cannot be conducted prior to the postal vote return deadline
- Scheduled to commence from **10am, Monday 11 March**
- Will be conducted at the Regional Electoral Officer's office
- Candidates will be advised by email when the results are available
- Final results will be published on the NSW Electoral Commission website
- Scrutineers are welcome to attend

Note: Candidates cannot attend the DoP as it is a manual count of the ballot papers



Recount requests



Any request for a recount must:

- be in writing, and signed by the candidate; and
- set out the reasons for the request; and
- be lodged with the Returning Officer, in person or by email, within 24 hours of the results being published on the NSWEC website
- copy of the written request for a recount must be lodged with the Regional Electoral Officer, in person or by email, at the same time as the original is lodged with the returning officer.

The Returning Officer will consider the request, including the reasons provided, and will determine whether and, if so how, any recount is to be conducted.

The declaration of results will be delayed until the recount is completed.

A candidate is not required to cover the cost of the recount.

Declaration of results

- The Regional Electoral Officer will sign the Declaration of Results as soon as practicable after the recount deadline.
- Scheduled to be declared on **Tuesday 11 March**.



Candidate helpdesk

Candidate enquiries should be directed to:

- the NSW Electoral Commission candidate helpdesk telephone **1300 022 011**, or
- the 'Contact Us' page of our website elections.nsw.gov.au/Contact-us, or
- visit the NSW Electoral Commission website: elections.nsw.gov.au



Questions and Answers



Thank you

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elections.nsw.gov.au