



**WA State Election**  
**Make your vote count**  
**for health promotion**

**Australian Health Promotion Association (WA Branch)**



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## MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

AHPA® (WA Branch) is pleased to present this guide to the 2017 Western Australian State Election to support its members and the wider community to explore the role politics plays in our lives and its opportunities to create a healthy society. Health promotion is about giving people power over conditions which can influence health. It goes beyond a focus on the individual, recognising the impact which physical, socio-economic and cultural aspects of the environment can have on the health of the community.

There are many limitations to focusing only on behavioural approaches to health promotion. It is not enough to just encourage individuals to change their attitudes and lifestyles, when, in fact, the environment in which they live and work gives them little choice or support to make such changes. We must address those aspects of the environment which promote ill health, rather than simply deal with illness after it appears. Understanding the structural mechanisms through which we can promote health, such as the development of healthy public policy and supportive environments, is critical.

Health promotion advocates for healthy public policy across all sectors of government. This includes addressing the physical environment (e.g. air, water and land quality), as well as the social determinants of health (e.g. transport, housing, social inclusion, education and employment). As can be seen in Figure 1 the factors that influence health are varied and occur across all sectors.

Health promotion demands that individuals not be treated in isolation from the larger social units, political contexts and ecological settings in which they live, work and play. The decisions made by our political leaders to support different policy actions can greatly influence public health and achieve widespread, sustained outcomes for the betterment of our health... or its detriment. The more we understand politics, the more we can actively participate in the democratic process to improve health for all.

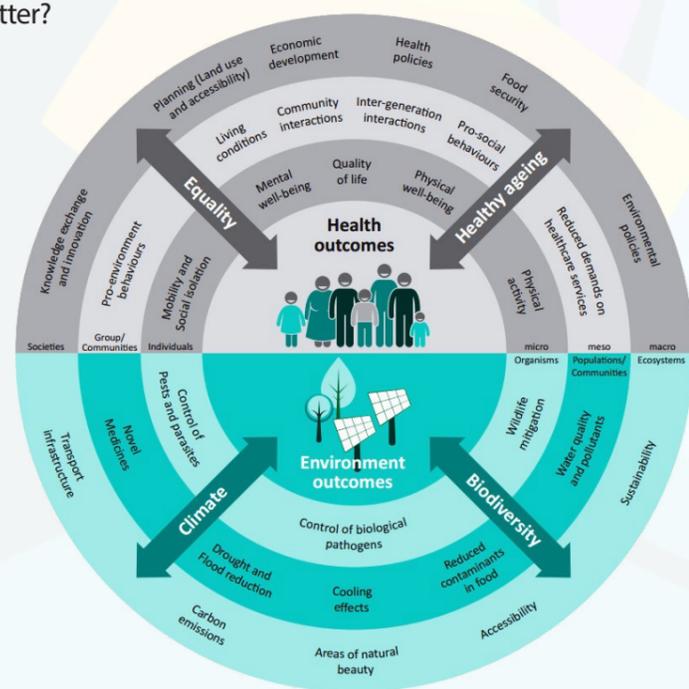


Figure 1. A socio-ecological model of human and environmental health (Source: European Centre for Environment & Human Health, n.d.)

**About the WA State Election 2017 Health Promotion Scorecard**

This scorecard assesses selected political parties against a range of health promotion priorities adapted from election manifestos from the following organisations: Cancer Council WA, Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA, Public Health Association of Australia (WA Branch) and WA Alcohol and Youth Action Coalition.

Parties were included if they had an existing elected representative in the Western Australian parliament or were currently polling above 5%. ~ The sources of information used to compile this scorecard are available here: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/9t9sjyvr55m5sww/AHPAWA\\_StateElectionScorecardReferences.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/9t9sjyvr55m5sww/AHPAWA_StateElectionScorecardReferences.pdf?dl=0). ~ Please note this table was correct at the time of publication, however, AHPA (WA Branch) acknowledges political policies may be amended closer to the election date.

-  **1 Commit to maintaining and where possible increasing the health promotion and prevention workforce.**
-  **2 Maintain funding for strong, evidence-based public education and health promotion programs, including specific campaigns for at-risk groups.**
-  **3 Provide funding options to support local governments to develop and implement Public Health Plans.**
-  **4 Implement mandatory kilojoule labelling in quick service restaurants.**
-  **5 Support reducing exposure to alcohol promotion by removing advertising from public transport and other sites, including at major sporting grounds.**
-  **6 Implement policy to transition WA to renewable energy to contribute to broader international effort for effective action on climate change.**
-  **7 Increase restrictions on tobacco sales including setting a target to cap and then reduce the number of WA tobacco licence holders over the next 4 years, and increasing the annual tobacco sellers licence fee.**

**Key**

-  Evidence of support
-  Partial or mixed evidence of support
-  Evidence of opposition
-  No information available

# WA STATE ELECTION 2017 HEALTH PROMOTION SCORECARD

# ELECTORAL Q&A

## What areas of law are the responsibility of the State government?

In addition to WA Health which comprises publicly run metropolitan and regional hospitals and health service networks, the State government is responsible for the legislation, financing and management of the following (all of which can impact on health in some way): WA lands (pastoral lands, mines, parks, forests, woodlands, islands, wetlands, waterways); transport (roads, public transport, airports and ports); law enforcement (police, justice system and corrective services); child protection; state housing; education; Aboriginal affairs; culture and the arts; environmental regulation (environmental health, conservation and wildlife); fire and emergency services; agriculture and fisheries; heritage; tourism; racing, gaming and liquor; sport and recreation; water generation and distribution; and energy generation and distribution.

## What is the difference between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council?

The WA Parliament is made up of two 'houses' in what is known as a bicameral system. It is made up of the Legislative Assembly (or lower house) and the Legislative Council (or upper house). They are functionally similar to the House of Representatives and the Senate at the Federal level.

### Legislative Assembly



Images courtesy of the Parliament of Western Australia

### Legislative Council



These two houses provide different forms of representation. In the **Legislative Assembly** only one person is elected to represent a geographically small electorate (what is known as a single-member electorate – there's 59 all up across the state) and they become your local member of parliament to advocate for their local community.

In the **Legislative Council** on the other hand, the whole state is divided into 6 large regions and 6 people are elected to represent each region (known as multi-member electorates). This means there's 36 people in the Legislative Council ideally taking a bigger picture view to the enactment of legislation. The regions consist of three metropolitan and three regional/rural electorates:

- East Metropolitan
- North Metropolitan
- South Metropolitan
- Agricultural
- Mining and Pastoral
- South West

The **role and function** of the Legislative Assembly is the provision of finance for government operations, to scrutinise the government's performance (the primary function of the opposition), legislation (including the introduction of new laws or the amendment or repeal of existing laws), to provide a forum for matters of public concern and to represent the people of WA.

Before legislation can become law, it has to be supported by both houses. The Legislative Council is often called a 'house of review' for its role in monitoring and reviewing government legislation, administration and expenditure. It plays a role similar to the Senate within the Federal Parliament.

## What is the role of a local member of parliament?

The 59 members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) or 'local members' are elected for a term of four years and are those members you will most likely be familiar with as they engage with constituents in a smaller electorate than those in the Legislative Council. All elected members of parliament take part in debates and pass, amend or defeat laws.

Members also serve on parliamentary committees to closely examine issues as well as addressing the concerns, issues, questions and ideas of their constituents. Most members represent a political party and contribute to the views and policies of that party. These are the people you may like to contact about issues that are important to you as your vote is important to them (along with ministers or spokespeople with specific responsibility).

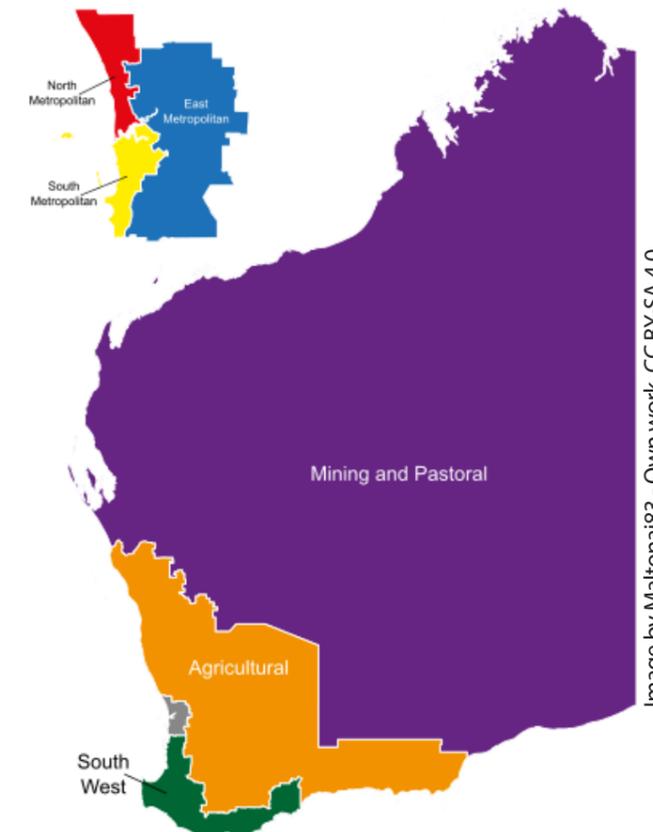


Image by Maitonaj83 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=56199818>

### What is a political party?

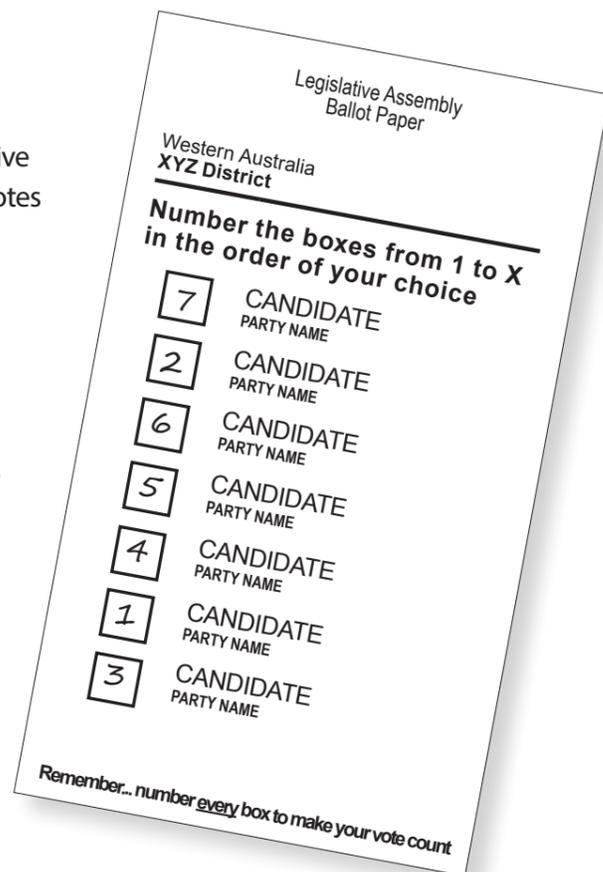
A political party is an organisation of people with similar political philosophies, interests and ideological views. WA has two dominant political parties, the Liberal party and the Labor party as well as minor parties including The Nationals, The Greens and One Nation. A registered political party must have at least one member in parliament or 500 members on the electoral role, membership may involve the agreeance of that party but would generally not require any formal qualification. Parties pre-select leadership positions as well as candidates for each electorate and may assign policy areas to enable spokespeople on particular issues. Following an election the party with greatest number of members in the lower house forms 'government' and the party holding the second greatest number of members is known as the opposition.

### How is government formed after an election?

During an election, one candidate is elected for each of the 59 Legislative Assembly districts and six candidates are elected in each of the six Legislative Council regions. The Premier, who is the leader of the party or coalition of parties **holding a majority in the Legislative Assembly** leads the government and appoints ministers from the governing party's membership in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council who jointly become the ministry (cabinet) or executive government. While most commonly the party that forms government has a majority in the lower house (Legislative Assembly) sometimes they may get 50% or less of the seats and require an agreement with another party or an independent to form government. This is known as a minority government.

### How does preferential voting work?

Preferential voting is a system where candidates must receive an **absolute majority**, more than 50% of the total formal votes cast to be elected. To vote using this system voters must number all of the candidates on the ballot paper in order of their preference. If an absolute majority is not gained following a count of first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded with their second preferences re-distributed to the remaining candidates for a second count. This process continues until one candidate is elected by gaining an absolute majority. This form of voting is used in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly and the Federal House of Representatives (the lower houses).

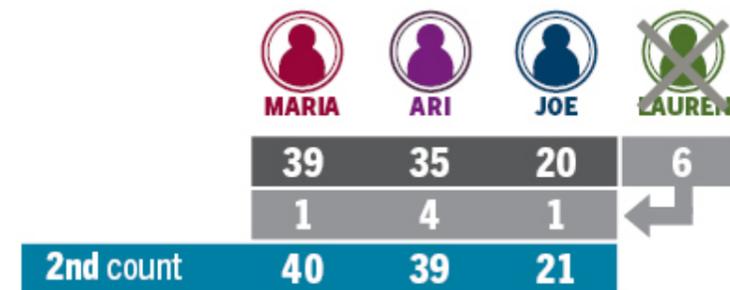


## PREFERENTIAL VOTING

To be elected, a candidate must have an absolute majority of votes (more than 50% of the total votes). In the example below using 100 votes, the absolute majority is 51 or more.



No one has 51 or more votes, so Lauren's votes are transferred (distributed) according to second preferences.



No one has 51 or more votes, so Joe's votes are transferred (distributed) according to the next preferences.

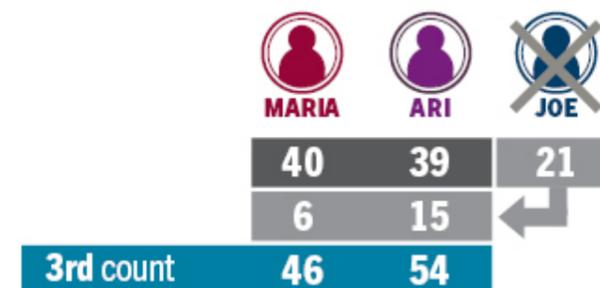


Image courtesy of Parliamentary Education Office, Commonwealth Parliament of Australia

# WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH PREFERENCE DEALS?

## Is my vote wasted if I vote for an independent or minor party?

The voting system is designed to achieve a fair election. Voting for a minor party in a preferential system for the lower house (Legislative Assembly) means that your **votes are re-distributed according to your preferences** if your first choice is not elected. This would occur if your first preference candidate received the least amount of votes in an electorate that did not gain an absolute majority in the first or subsequent counts. In this instance your votes would be re-distributed according to your second preference. This means that you can vote for any party or independent knowing if your first choice is not elected that your vote will be distributed at full value to your next preference whilst also sending the message that you liked the policies of your first preference best. When voting in the upper house (Legislative Council), your first preference minor party or independent vote may have a greater chance for election as the proportional voting system only requires candidates to reach a proportion of votes within a multi-member electorate.

## What is a proportional representation voting system?

Proportional Representation is a voting system for **multi-member electorates**, or big electorates where more than one person is elected to represent the people who live there. This method of voting used for the Legislative Council (and the Senate Federally) to elect 6 members for each electorate that gain a proportion or quota of votes calculated according to the number of electors. Because the voting is proportional it means that **the proportion of people elected from different parties tends to more accurately reflect the actual vote for those parties**. Essentially, if a party or group receives 40% of the formal votes, they will gain approximately 40% of the seats.

This also increases the chances for minor parties and independents to be elected, and makes it difficult for a major party to gain control of that house. Hence the government (who usually hold the majority in the lower house) generally must negotiate with other parties to get legislation passed through the upper house. This can cause frustration for governments when their agenda is blocked although it also prevents the upper house just rubber stamping government legislation and requires others to be persuaded of the legislation's value.

The Proportional Representation method also uses preferences where you can rank candidates according to your preference. But how these preferences are distributed depends on whether you vote above or below the line on the Legislative Council ballot paper.

The ballot paper for the Legislative Council is split so you can either vote above the line or below the line (see the image below). If you **vote above the line** then you just put a 1 in the box for the party or independent group that you want to vote for. If they don't get in then your vote will transfer to another party according to what is called a **Group Voting Ticket** which is a list of preferences formulated by each party. These Group Voting Tickets can be contentious and are the product of negotiations by the parties prior to the election and can impact substantially on who ends up being elected.

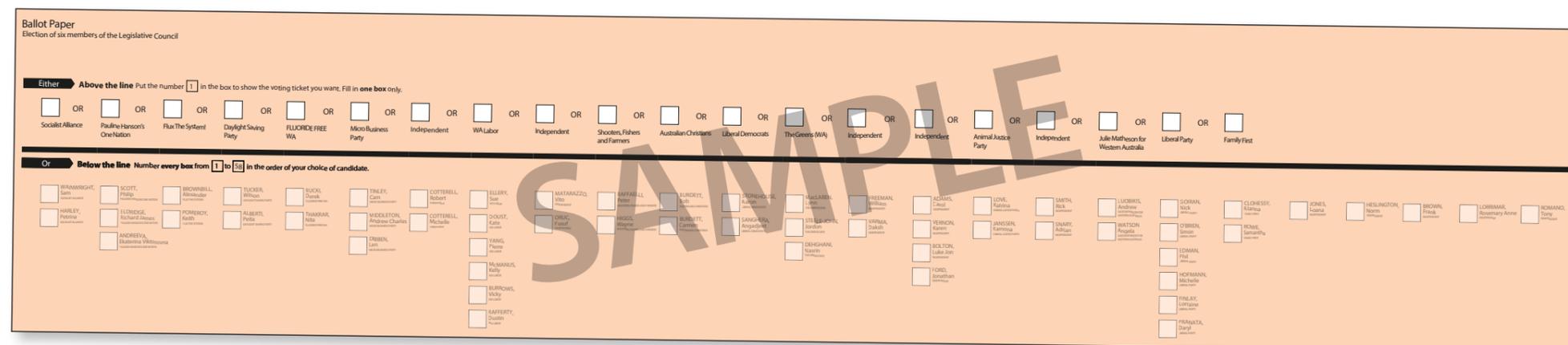
Alternatively you can **vote below the line**, numbering every box in your preferred order, so you can control the flow of your preferences. This can take some time as there may be lots of boxes and if you make a mistake it can render your vote invalid (known as an 'informal vote').

Political parties lodge Group Voting Tickets for the Legislative Council which dictates how their preferences will be distributed if a 1 is put in their box above the line on the coloured Legislative Council ballot paper. Sometimes the preferences are distributed to like-minded parties and at other times they might be distributed to very different parties that a voter might not want their vote to go to. The Group Voting Tickets are worth checking to make sure that your vote doesn't end up with a party that you disagree with. They can be viewed in full here: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/elections/wa-election-2017/guide/gtv/> (Also see summary on next page).

If you don't like the way a party has distributed their preferences you can vote below the line on the Legislative Council ballot paper and direct your preferences in the order that YOU choose.

If you are happy with how the political party has decided their preferences then you can just put a 1 above the line in that political party's box.

**Didn't Group Voting Tickets get abolished last year?** Federally this is true - due to the Senate voting reforms passed in 2016, voters are now able to number their own preferences above the line on the Senate ballot. But that doesn't apply to state voting! If you want to assign your own preferences you have to vote below the line.

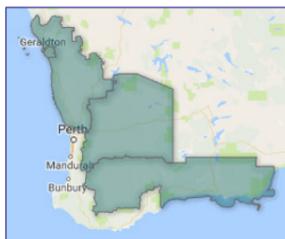


# WHERE ARE THE PARTIES SENDING YOUR PREFERENCES?

This summary of the registered **Group Voting Tickets for the Legislative Council** is from William Bowe (Editor of The Poll Bludger) and was published along with some commentary here:

<https://blogs.crikey.com.au/pollbludger/2017/02/13/wa-election-candidates-preference-deals/>

If you vote above the line with a 1 for the parties in bold and they have left over preferences this is the order which your vote will be transferred to other parties. Worth a close look!



## Agricultural

*Assumes the Nationals will win at least one seat.*

**Labor:** Greens, Shooters, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation.

**Family First:** Nationals, Labor, Liberal, Greens, Shooters, One Nation.

**Australian Christians:** Shooters, One Nation, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Shooters:** One Nation #1, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation #2, One Nation, Labor, Greens.

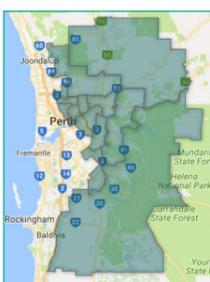
**Nationals:** Shooters, Liberal, Greens, Labor, One Nation.

**Greens:** Labor, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation.

**Liberal:** Shooters, One Nation, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**One Nation:** Shooters, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Liberal Democrats:** Shooters, Nationals, Labor, Liberal, One Nation, Greens.



## East Metropolitan

**Daylight Saving:** Greens, Labor, One Nation, Liberal.

**Liberal:** One Nation, Greens, Labor.

**Liberal Democrats:** Liberal, One Nation, Greens, Labor.

**Family First:** Liberal, Labor, Greens, One Nation.

**Greens:** Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

**One Nation:** Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Labor:** Greens, Liberal, One Nation.

**Shooters:** One Nation, Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Australian Christians:** One Nation, Liberal, Labor, Greens.



## Mining and Pastoral

*Assumes the Nationals and the Liberals each win at least one seat.*

**Shooters:** One Nation #1, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation #2, Labor, Greens.

**Australian Christians:** Shooters, One Nation, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Labor:** Greens, Shooters, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation.

**One Nation:** Shooters, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

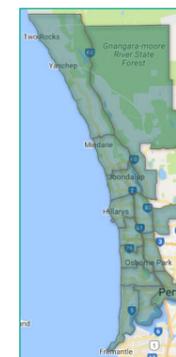
**Greens:** Labor, Nationals, Liberal, Shooters, One Nation.

**Liberal:** One Nation #1, Shooters, One Nation #2, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Nationals:** Shooters, Greens, Liberals, Labor, One Nation.

**Liberal Democrats:** Shooters, Nationals, Liberal, Labor, One Nation, Greens.

**Family First:** Nationals, Labor, Liberal, Greens, Shooters, One Nation.



## North Metropolitan

**Labor:** Greens, Liberal, One Nation.

**One Nation:** Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Daylight Saving:** Greens, Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

**Family First:** Liberal, Greens, Labor, One Nation.

**Greens:** Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

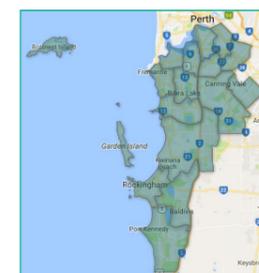
**Liberal:** One Nation, Greens, Labor.

**Animal Justice:** Greens, Labor, One Nation, Liberal.

**Liberal Democrats:** Liberal, Labor, One Nation, Greens.

**Australian Christians:** One Nation, Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Shooters:** One Nation, Liberal, Labor, Greens.



## South Metropolitan

**Socialist Alliance:** Greens, Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

**One Nation:** Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Daylight Saving:** Greens, Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

**Labor:** Greens, Liberal, One Nation.

**Shooters:** One Nation, Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Australian Christians:** Liberal, One Nation, Labor, Greens.

**Liberal Democrats:** Liberal, One Nation, Greens, Labor.

**Greens:** Labor, Liberal, One Nation.

**Animal Justice:** Greens, Labor, One Nation, Liberal.

**Liberal:** One Nation, Greens, Labor.

**Family First:** Liberal, Labor, Greens, One Nation.



## South West

*Assumes One Nation aren't in contention for a second seat, unlike Agricultural and Mining & Pastoral.*

**Shooters:** One Nation, Nationals, Liberal, Labor, Greens.

**Family First:** Nationals, Labor, Liberal, Greens, One Nation.

**Labor:** Greens, Shooters, Nationals, Liberal, One Nation.

**Greens:** Labor, Nationals, Liberal, Shooters, One Nation.

**Australian Christians:** Shooters, One Nation, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Liberal:** One Nation, Shooters, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**One Nation:** Shooters, Liberal, Nationals, Labor, Greens.

**Animal Justice:** Greens, Labor, One Nation, Nationals, Liberal, Shooters.

**Liberal Democrats:** Nationals, Shooters, Labor, Liberal, One Nation, Greens.

**Nationals:** Shooters, Greens, Liberal, Labor, One Nation.

## POLITICAL PARTY POLICY LINKS

### Animal Justice Party

<http://animaljusticeparty.org/policieslist/>

### Australian Christians

<http://australianchristians.com.au/values/>

### Daylight Saving Party

<http://daylightsavingswa.com.au/>

### Family First

<http://www.wa-familyfirst.org.au/>

### Fluoride Free WA

<http://fluoridefreewa.org/party/our-policies/>

### Flux the System!

<https://voteflux.org>

### Julie Matheson For Western Australia

<https://juliematheson.com.au/policy-guide-for-wa/>

### Liberal Party

<https://www.waliberal.org.au/policy/>

### Liberal Democrats

<https://ldp.org.au/policy/>

### Micro Business Party

<http://microbusinessparty.org.au/our-policies/>

### Pauline Hanson's One Nation

<http://www.onenation.com.au/policies>

### Shooters, Fishers and Farmers

<http://www.shootersfishersandfarmerswa.org.au/policies/>

### Socialist Alliance

<https://socialist-alliance.org/policy>

### The Greens (WA)

<http://greens.org.au/policies/wa>

### The Nationals

<http://www.nationalswa.com/policies>

### WA Labor

<https://walabor.org.au/200freshideas>

## POLITICAL COMPASS

### What is a political ideology?

Different political parties have different perceptions of the world and our place in it and they also have differences of opinion about how society should be. This set of values and assumptions that politicians and their parties hold determine how they will respond to different types of evidence, how they will weigh up priorities and inform how they will respond to different issues. This is because political parties have their own political ideologies that shape their policies and how they govern. Ideologies are complex. In Australian politics the dominant ideologies are liberalism, conservatism and social democracy, but there are many others.

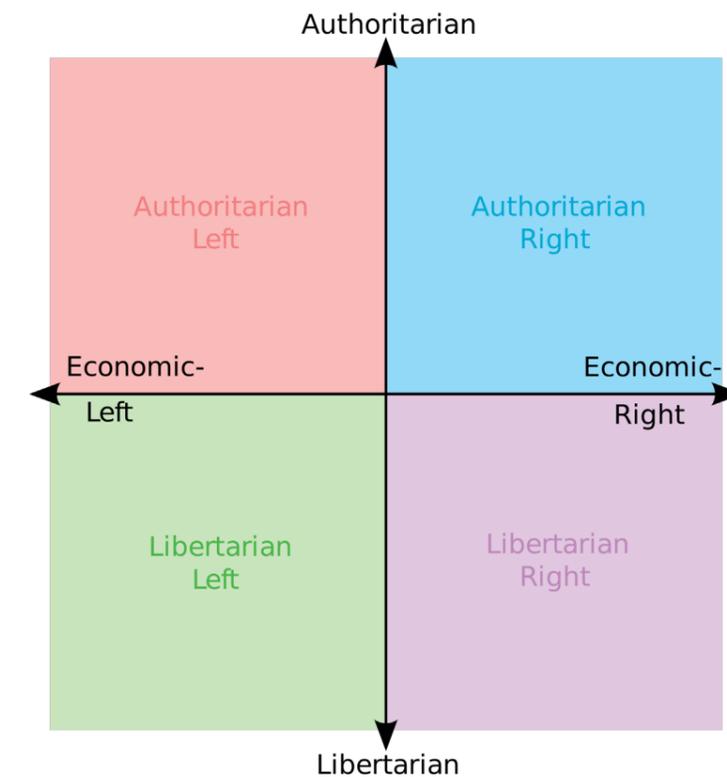
### Where do you stand?

There's a range of tools that analyse political ideologies but one of the most common is a political axis or compass. These plot ideologies along an economic axis and a social axis:

*"Our essential point is that Left and Right, although far from obsolete, are essentially a measure of economics. As political establishments adopt either enthusiastically or reluctantly the prevailing economic orthodoxy — the neo-liberal strain of capitalism — the Left-Right division between mainstream parties becomes increasingly blurred. Instead, party differences tend to be more about identity issues. In the narrowing debate, our social scale is more crucial than ever."*

You are encouraged to take the test and find out where you fit on the political compass:

<https://www.politicalcompass.org/>



## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ELECTION

### Public Health Election Manifestos

Cancer Council WA: <http://bit.ly/2mhylyG>

National Heart Foundation of Australia (Western Australian Division): <http://bit.ly/2lla1LS>

Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA: <http://bit.ly/2mzwhSh>

Public Health Association of Australia: <http://bit.ly/2lGE90b>

WA Alcohol and Youth Action Coalition: <http://bit.ly/2m2a0v3>

WA Peaks Forum: <http://bit.ly/2mzoFzc>

RenewWA: <http://bit.ly/2lGqw16>

### Political Commentary

Croakey: Public health promises as WA poised for polls

<https://croakey.org/public-health-promises-as-wa-poised-for-polls/>

ABC: Antony Green's Election Blog

<http://blogs.abc.net.au/antonygreen/>

Crikey: The Poll Bludger's Western Australian Election Guide

<http://www.pollbludger.net/wa2017.htm>

A guide on how to make your vote count in the Upper House this election

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-20/how-to-make-your-voice-count-in-the-upper-house-this-election/8282704>

ABC News: WA Election 2017

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/elections/wa-election-2017/>

### WA Electoral Commission (WAEC)

Election Website: <https://www.elections.wa.gov.au/>

Find your Electorate: [www.boundaries.wa.gov.au](http://www.boundaries.wa.gov.au)

How to vote: [www.elections.wa.gov.au/vote/voting-election](http://www.elections.wa.gov.au/vote/voting-election)

## ON TWITTER?



### Worth following:

@AHPA\_AU

@AlcoholAdReview

@CancerCouncilWA

@croakeyblog

@healthy\_climate

@\_PHAA\_WA

@PHAIWA

@SDOAlliance

@WePublicHealth

@ama\_media

@PeaksWa

@WACOSS

@YACWA

@ConversationEDU

@PollBludger

@WAElections

### Major Party Leaders + Health Spokespeople:

#### Liberal Party

Health: @JohnDayMLA

Leader: @ColinBarnett

Party: @LiberalsWA

#### WA Labor

Health: @RogerCookMLA

Leader: @MarkMcGowanMP

Party: @walabor

#### The Greens (WA)

Health: @AlisonXamon

Party: @TheGreensWA

#### The Nationals

Leader + Health: #BrendonGrylls (not on twitter)

Party: @TheNationalsWA

Search for and add these to your election tweets:

#thinkpublichealth, #wapol, #wavotes, #waelection

Many of the other parties are also on twitter – why not contact them and ask how they will #thinkpublichealth or #healthpromotion this election.

# **Australian Health Promotion Association (WA Branch)**

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