

**2026 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

# **CANDIDATE INFORMATION GUIDE**





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria. Land that has never been ceded.

We also acknowledge all other First Peoples living in Victoria. We pay our respects to the Elders and ancestors who came before us; who have taught us culture, kinship, connection and Lore. We say thank you to the trailblazers who made this journey possible and who we follow in solidarity today. From coastal mob, to river mob, from the highland to the desert, the cities and towns and all of the areas that the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria represents, and whose spirit has touched this Treaty process. We admire your strength, courage, and fight.

The Assembly also offers its gratitude to the many people who have shared their thoughts, hopes and expectations and thanks them for taking the time to contribute to advancing Treaty for Victoria.

Thank you for continuing to walk along this journey.



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# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

**If you've put your hand up to run as a candidate in the Assembly Elections, or are thinking about it, this guide is for you.**

It contains information about the election process and the support offered by the Assembly to candidates during the election campaign.

**You will find information about:**

- the work of the Assembly and Members,
- the election process,
- timelines for the election,
- how to nominate,
- tips about campaigning,
- Election Rules and the Code of Conduct,
- how to access campaign support and training,
- the process for resolving disputes,
- a handy checklist for candidates and
- the next steps in the process.

So have a read and if you have any questions or want support, please contact us.

## **First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**

For questions regarding the support available to candidates – including how to order your candidate posters or flyers about Treaty and why people should vote in the Assembly Elections, contact the Assembly:

**e: [candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org)**

**ph: 1800 TREATY (87 32 89)**

## **Independent Election Administrator**

For all other questions relating to the Election or standing as a candidate, contact the Returning Officer:

**Gavin Ryan**

**e: [returningofficer@treatyauthority.au](mailto:returningofficer@treatyauthority.au)**

**m: 0403 336 829**





# THE ASSEMBLY ELECTION

## What is the Assembly and what does it do?

Victoria has been on the path to Treaty since 2016. Almost a decade on, Treaty is now law in Victoria – the first time this has happened anywhere in Australia.

Since 2019, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria has been elected by Community to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Assembly advocates, consults and negotiates with the State on behalf of First Peoples, continuing the work that generations before us fought for.

## What is Gellung Warl?

Gellung Warl will start on 1 May 2026 as the new, permanent representative body for First Peoples in Victoria, established through Treaty.

- **Gellung Warl** means “*the tip of the spear*” in Gunaikurnai.
- Under Treaty, the Assembly will sit within Gellung Warl and play a key role in decision-making.
- Gellung Warl is grounded in culture, law and lore, and represents the collective interests of First Peoples across Victoria.
- It provides an equal footing for negotiations with the State and supports future Treaty-making.

### Gellung Warl includes three arms:

- **The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria**  
Continuing its role in representation, decision-making and Treaty-related work.
- **Nginama Ngainga Wara**  
(“*you will do*” in Wadi Wadi)  
An accountability mechanism to monitor the performance of State Government to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples.
- **Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna**  
(Meaning “*to sit, to listen, to hear, to remember*” (Nyerna), “*truth*” (Yoorrook), and “*to cure, to heal*” (Telkuna) in Wamba Wamba/Wemba Wemba.  
This is the Office of Truth-telling and Healing.

## How does it work?

Assembly Members will advocate, consult, and negotiate with the State on behalf of First Peoples as well as support Traditional Owner groups across Victoria to negotiate Treaties that reflect their own priorities, aspirations and cultural authority.

The Assembly will continue its work with the Treaty Authority, the Treaty Negotiation Framework, and the Self-Determination Fund.

Together, we can build a stronger future to improve the lives of our people.

## Who is part of the Assembly?

The Assembly is made up of elected Members – all proud Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria, representing all First Peoples in or from Victoria.

There are two types of Members – General Members, who are elected at a statewide election, and Reserved Members, who are chosen by their Traditional Owner groups.

Members are the voice for First Peoples in the Treaty process, they represent our collective hopes, needs and aspirations for Treaty.

## Why is there an election?

The term of the current Assembly Members is ending and there needs to be a statewide election for Community to choose the next representatives on the Assembly.

The election is to elect the next **General Members**.

There is also a separate process for Traditional Owner groups to appoint their next **Reserved Members**.

## How many General Members will be elected?

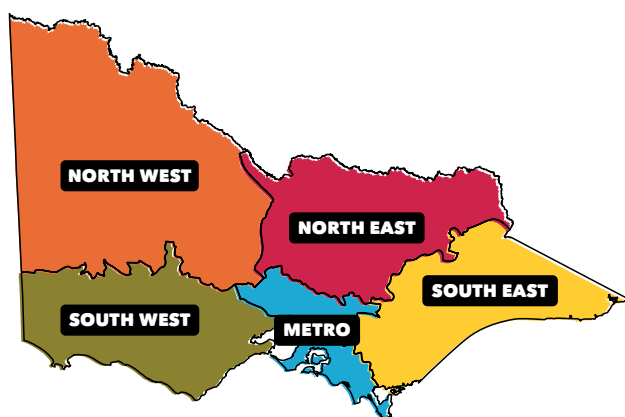
22 General Members will be elected from five voting regions across Victoria.

Region	Number of General Members to be elected in that Region
Metropolitan	10
South East	3
South West	3
North East	3
North West	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Find your region here:

[www.firstpeoplesvic.org/find-your-region](http://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/find-your-region)

The Assembly has a gender quota for elections. This means that at least 40% of vacancies in each region must be filled by non-male identifying candidates.



## What is the role of a General Member?

Members are the representatives for their Communities.

They play a critical role in linking the powers of the Gellung Warl to Community, making sure that the decisions taken by the Assembly reflect the priorities and aspirations of Community, and working with Community to harness those powers to improve outcomes for Community on the ground.

Members are expected to yarn with community in their region and make sure the Assembly discussions and decisions are informed by Community views, ideas and aspirations. Ultimately, Assembly Members must make the decisions and vote about how Gellung Warl will put Statewide Treaty to work.

They are required to attend and actively participate in Assembly meetings. These meetings are where the work of the Assembly is progressed and decisions are made.

### Duties of an Assembly Member include:

- representing First Peoples in future Statewide Treaty-making with Government
- engaging with State Governing through functions of making representations to Parliament, State Government and other entities
- meeting with MPs and State Government officials on matters that affect First Peoples to advocate for First Peoples' interests
- creating and upholding the rules, guidelines and standards for doing Treaty business
- taking part in State ceremonies, representing First Peoples in national and international forums.



## What might an Assembly Member do in a day?

- Engage with Community – for example call a Community member, facilitate a yarning circle, consult with Community and hold engagement events
- Set the vision and aspirations for the Assembly
- Work with ACCO, Traditional Owner groups and collectives to understand priorities and identify strategic opportunities through Treaty
- Meet with Government to influence and discuss new laws and policies affecting First Peoples
- Read papers, analyse and prepare for Assembly meetings
- Attend or chair Assembly meetings and contribute to strategic political leadership

## Ways of being and doing

Aboriginal Lore and Cultural Authority will be central to the Assembly's ways of working and will guide Assembly members' relationships to one another, to government, to land, to Community and to the Cultural flow. It underpins how Gellung Warl builds the collective strength needed to make this Statewide Treaty transformative.

The current Assembly has designed the Yurpa Philosophy and Principles which are about relationships with one another. The principles are grounded in and assert the Cultural Authority of the members as Traditional Owners of Country. They have guided the current Assembly's discussions, decision-making, practises, and processes. The interdependent principles are:

- Decolonising systems
- Connection to Country and Place
- Cultural Authority

- Ancestors and Elders
- Upholding Indigenous Rights
- Lore, Language and Ceremony
- Community and Cultural Flow
- Creator Spirits, Moieties and Kinship systems
- Shared Cultural Protocols and Obligations

The new Assembly within Gellung Warl may consider adopting the Yurpa Philosophy and Principles as part of its ways of being and doing.

## Different roles and duties

After 1 May 2026, the Assembly must make internal rules which will govern the internal affairs and operation of Gellung Warl, subject to requirements in the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic). This means that the Assembly will make decisions about Member's roles and responsibilities in Gellung Warl.

It is expected that there will be Chairpersons of the Assembly as well as chairpersons/conveners of committees, sub-committees and other leadership positions.

Assembly Members will be able to receive information about these positions and how to nominate for them once the elections are completed and the Gellung Warl is established on 1 May 2026.

## Support

Assembly Members will receive operational support to carry out their work. This includes assistance with engagement activities and public communications, policy and legal advice, briefings and general organisational support (ie. travel, accommodation).

## Key information

<b>Time commitment</b>	The Assembly member role is expected to be full time, but members will decide together on the specific time commitment when they start. This may include deciding whether members can hold other paid or unpaid roles on a part time or occasional basis, including to meet community or cultural expectations.
<b>Term</b>	It is intended that Assembly Members hold their position until the next Assembly elections, which are held approximately every 4 years.
<b>Remuneration</b>	Members are paid a stipend – a type of allowance – for their time. The Assembly is required to publish the proposed remuneration of members of the First Peoples' Assembly within Gellung Warl and will do so in early 2026. The stipend Assembly members receive will depend on their duties, responsibilities and the nature of their position.

For more information on time commitment, term and remuneration see **Assembly member roles and responsibilities – detailed information** available at [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org).

All Assembly Members receive a comprehensive induction on their role and the work of the Assembly.

## Who is eligible to nominate in the election?

You are eligible to stand in this election if you are:

1. An Eligible Elector (that is you are an eligible person enrolled on the Assembly electoral roll)
2. Over 18 years of age at the time you nominate
3. A Victorian Traditional Owner
4. Not disqualified from acting as the director of a company under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth)
5. Not:
  - a. in prison
  - b. the subject of an order under the *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997* (Vic); or
  - c. restricted by bail, parole or other legal mechanisms from travelling within Victoria.
6. Able to comply with the rights and responsibilities of a Member of the Assembly
7. Able to provide the Returning Officer with any further information necessary to confirm your eligibility, and this will include proof of date of birth, a national police check and evidence of your place of residence which will have to be within Victoria or within 60 kilometres of the Victoria Border.

After Gellung Warl commences, Assembly Members will make internal rules covering a range of matters, including qualifications to be an Assembly member.

Under the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic) a person cannot serve as an Assembly Member if they:

- a) are a member of a Parliament of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory, including Victoria; or
- b) are employed as a ministerial, parliamentary, or electorate officer or a corresponding position by a member of a Parliament of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory, including Victoria



- c) are a Councillor within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) or a member of a corresponding body in another State or Territory;
- d) are a member of Council staff within the meaning of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) or a corresponding body in another State or Territory;
- e) are a member of the Treaty Authority or holds a paid position with the Treaty Authority;
- f) are the Chief Executive Officer of Gellung Warl;
- g) are a member of Nginma Ngainga Wara, Nyerna Yoorrook Telkuna member or a Gellung Warl staff member or holds a paid position with Gellung Warl;
- h) are a public sector employee within the meaning of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (Vic) or in a corresponding position under an Act of the Commonwealth or any State or a Territory;
- i) have property that is subject to control under the law relating to bankruptcy;
- j) is disqualified from managing corporations under Part 2D.6 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth);
- k) are currently held in a prison;
- l) are subject to an order under the *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997* (Vic); or
- m) have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment for an indictable offence and is subject to a parole order that includes a travel restriction condition.

These requirements are similar to other elected officials, with some aimed to minimise the risk of conflicts of interest arising if a member were to hold certain elected or paid positions

### Which region can I nominate for?

You can nominate in the region containing your Country as a Victorian Traditional Owner or the region where you live – it is your choice.



# ELECTION TIMETABLE

What's happening?	When is it happening?
Enrol to vote in this election	Any time until close of voting (12 April 2026)
Notice of Election issued	Monday 2 February 2026
Candidate information session – North-East Region	Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 6.30pm
Candidate information session – North-West Region	Tuesday 10 February 2026 at 7.30pm
Candidate information session – South-East Region	Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 6.30pm
Candidate information session – South-West Region	Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 7.30pm
Candidate information session – Metro-Region	Thursday 12 February 2026 at 6.30pm
The Council to publish candidate support information	Friday 13 February 2026
Candidate nominations open	Monday 16 February 2026 at 9.00am
Candidate campaign materials support opens	Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 9.00am
Candidate information session – alternate session for candidates from any region	Thursday 26 February 2026 at 7.00pm
Candidate nominations close	Monday 2 March 2026 at 5.00pm
Candidate statements due to be submitted and uploaded to website	Thursday 5 March 2026
Announcement and publication of candidates	Monday 9 March 2026 at 5.00pm
Ballot draw (online) for all regions	Tuesday 10 March 2026 from 11.00am
Meet the candidate events	10, 11, and 12 March 2026



What's happening?	When is it happening?
Voting opening day	Saturday 21 March 2026 at 8.00am (online votes open)
First day of in-person polling	Saturday 21 March 2026
Last day to request a postal vote	Saturday 28 March 2026
Candidate campaign materials support closes	Friday 3 April 2026 at 5.00pm
Last day of in-person polling	Saturday 11 April 2026
Voting Closing (all voting closes) and postal votes to be sent	Sunday 12 April 2026 at 6:00pm
Scrutineer Training Session 1 (online)	Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.00pm
Scrutineer Training Session 2 (online)	Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7.00pm
Postal votes must be received	Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 6.00pm
Votes counted	Wednesday 22 April 2026
Candidates informed of results by transitional Electoral Officer	By Thursday 23 April 2026 at 5.00pm
Results announced by the transitional Electoral Officer	As soon as practicable after the votes have been counted (must be before 30 April 2026)

Details on times and locations will be available at [TreatyElections.org](https://TreatyElections.org)

# HOW TO NOMINATE FOR THE ELECTION

**You can nominate to be a candidate in the election between nominations opening on Monday 16 February 2026 and closing at 5:00pm on Monday 2 March 2026.**

You can nominate in the election by:

1. Download and complete the PDF nomination form available at [TreatyElections.org](https://TreatyElections.org) and then giving it to the Returning Officer, or
2. Complete the digital nomination Form, also found at [TreatyElections.org](https://TreatyElections.org)

The nomination form will ask you to provide:

1. Personal and contact details
2. Information to confirm that you meet the eligibility criteria, including that you are a Victorian Traditional Owner
3. Confirmation of your place of residence, confirmation of which region you wish to stand for in the election
4. Consent to the Returning Officer conducting a National Police Records Check and an undertaking to provide the Returning Officer with all information required to undertake a National Police Records Check.
5. Consent about how the Returning Officer and the Assembly uses the personal information you provide in your nomination form
6. A candidate statement under 200 words (this is optional, but highly recommended as it will be used on Assembly materials such as the meet the candidate page on our website and media kits etc)
7. A high resolution, colour, photo of you clearly showing your face (optional but strongly recommended).

After your nomination has been received, you will be required to undertake a National Police Check to ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria to nominate. The transitional Electoral Officer will be in contact with you once they have received your nomination to advise you on how to complete that process and make sure you are reimbursed for the costs. To find out more about a National Police Check, click here: [www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/national-police-checks](https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/national-police-checks)

See the timeline on the previous pages for details of all election deadlines.



# ELECTION RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

**The Assembly Election Rules and the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic) are the key documents which govern this election process for the Assembly.**

These set out the rules about nominating, voting and determining the results of an election.

Schedule 3 of the Election Rules is the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct applies to all candidates and any campaigners like family or friends who are helping you.

It outlines the expected behaviour of candidates and campaigners throughout the election. It sets out that all behaviour must be grounded in respect – respect for fellow candidates, Community and Country.

The Election Rules and other relevant documents, can be found at [www.TreatyElections.org/documents](http://www.TreatyElections.org/documents)

Candidates' and campaigners' conduct must be fair and honest, free of any violent or abusive conduct or conduct that could threaten the integrity of the election.

Candidates and campaigners must respect those working in the election and comply with dispute resolution processes.

As a candidate, all your conduct must comply with the Election Rules and the Code of Conduct and the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic). This includes your campaign materials, public comments and what you post and share on social media.

Please familiarise yourself with these documents before you begin your campaign.

Because of the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Vic) the sections of the Election Rules including the Code of Conduct that are about funding for the production of campaign material do not apply to the transitional election. The Assembly has decided to make funding available on terms and conditions that align with those rules as appropriate and those terms and conditions are explained in this information booklet.

Candidates can access limited financial support from the Assembly for certain printing or social media promotion of up to \$750 per candidate. This financial support will only be given for material which complies with the applicable parts of the Code of Conduct and the process set out for financial support in the campaign support and training section below. For example, this means that the material must be fair, honest and not defamatory.

All election participants must follow the rules of the election at all times, otherwise you may face sanctions or disqualification.

**For any election questions, you can contact the Returning Officer or election staff who will give assistance and advice.**

# CAMPAIGNING

**Our communities have a long history of political activism and organising around a range of issues to bring about positive change for our people.**

When you campaign, highlight your strengths and let voters know what you stand for and why they should vote for you.

You can talk to Community about the opportunities that Treaties offer, your experience of working with your community and advocating for your people, and what you want Treaty to deliver for mob.

As many people won't be very familiar with the details of the journey to Treaty, you may have to explain why we are holding the Assembly Elections and let them know that this is mob's opportunity to choose the people who will represent them on the First Peoples' Assembly of Gellung Warl.

You can explain that Treaty is about putting Aboriginal people in the driver's seat when it comes to decisions that affect our communities, our culture and our Country.

The Assembly members elected by mob may negotiate further statewide Treaties that will improve the lives of our kids through truth telling, better education, more jobs, affordable housing, better health, justice and more.

All campaigning including campaign materials must comply with the Code of Conduct in the Assembly Election Rules as they apply to this election.

## How to campaign

As you know, it is essential to engage with our people, families, organisations and communities when running your campaign.

There are a number of ways to connect with Community in your region. You could hold information events, distribute campaign materials such as brochures and posters, use social media and door-knock.

The more you talk to Community in your region, and the more information you get out to communities, the more visibility you will have in the election and the stronger your campaign will be.

People must enrol if they want to vote in the Assembly Elections. This means it is extremely important that you encourage people to enrol and vote.

When we grow our electoral roll, we grow our collective strength. So explain to people that their participation matters – the more numbers we have registered and voting, the stronger the Assembly's hand will be in further Treaty negotiations with the Government.

Most of all, make sure you outline the opportunities that implementing Treaty will deliver for mob and the ideas you have and how you will listen to and represent your community.

There are things you can do right now to begin campaigning:

1. Speak to your friends, family, and local networks. Inform them about this historic election and explain why it is important for them to enrol.
2. Contact your local newspaper or other media outlets and tell them you are a nominee in the Assembly election. Seek out media coverage for yourself, and share what your priorities for Treaty are!
3. Use social media to promote yourself and why you are running. This could be a video or a post about why you decided to run and encouraging people to enrol and vote for you.



# CAMPAIGN SUPPORT AND TRAINING

To assist you to communicate with mob in your region, candidates can access a range of financial and non-financial support for campaign activities.

## FREE SUPPORT

### Candidate information sessions

You can access free training to help with your campaign. This training is an opportunity for you to learn about the Election Rules and some basic campaigning skills and the support options available.

The information sessions will be run online before the opening of nominations and again after nominations close.

See [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org) for information about the session in your region.

### Scrutineer (observer) training

Scrutineers are the people who are appointed by candidates to observe the counting of the votes.

You may appoint one scrutineer to be present at each in-person voting place in the region in which you are standing. You also have the option to appoint one scrutineer to be present for the return, processing, validation and counting of votes.

If you would like to appoint a scrutineer/s you must complete a Scrutineer Appointment Form which will be sent out to all candidates and will be made available at [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org)

Scrutineer training will be offered as optional training in the week after voting closes. Please refer to the official election timeline for information on the scrutineer training sessions.

Please contact the Returning Officer for further information.

### Templates for flyers, posters and social media

Candidates will have access to a variety of campaign templates. These are available to help create a visually engaging campaign, alert voters about the election and encourage them to vote for you.

There are templates for a flyer, a poster and a social media graphic.

You must populate these templates yourself.

Templates can be downloaded at [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org) or contact the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer for help. (The Candidate Support Officer can also arrange printing and delivery of the posters and flyers, the cost of which can be taken from your "candidate budget" – more on this below.)

There will be information and guidance on how to access and use the templates at the candidate information sessions.

Of course, you do not have to use the templates the Assembly provides. You can produce your own campaign materials, but remember, they must be in line with the Assembly Election Rules and Code of Conduct.

The Assembly logos, including the Treaty for Victoria logo can only be used as set out in these templates and if you are using these templates.

**Candidates can email campaign material to the Returning Officer to be approved to ensure it complies with the Election Rules. Candidates should reach out to the Returning Officer for approval before they ask the Assembly to print their campaign material.**



We recommend all campaign material includes the following authorisation line:

*'This message is authorised by [your full name] candidate of the [Insert region you are standing for election in] region, in the 2026 election of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.'*

It is your responsibility to ensure your campaign material complies with the Election Rules including the Code of Conduct.

As explained in further detail below, the Assembly is offering a "candidate budget" which can be used for limited print runs of campaign materials (to be delivered to your chosen address). The candidate budget can be used for printing regardless of whether you have used the Assembly's templates or created your own posters and flyers but printing must be arranged through the Assembly Candidate Support Officer.

If you choose to order printing directly with Indigi print, the Assembly will not reimburse you for your printing costs even if you have candidate budget available. Further details are below in the section about printing.

## Candidate booklet

Once the candidate nominations are closed, the Assembly will develop a candidate booklet that will publish your name, photograph and candidate statement.

The booklet will inform community members of the Candidates who are standing in their region and may assist them when deciding who to vote for.

The booklet will be placed at polling locations, on the [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org) website and be sent to all people who have requested a postal vote. If you have consented to your contact details being published, these will also be included in the candidate booklet.

It is strongly recommended you provide your details, photo and candidate statement otherwise your profile will be left blank.

## Election materials

You can request from the Assembly, materials that explain the election and encourage people to enrol.

There is no cost for the brochures, and the Assembly will cover the cost of postage to a street address in Victoria that you choose.

You can request the following materials:

- Brochures providing an overview about Treaty, the Assembly and the election to encourage people to enrol and vote.
- Up to 100 copies of our enrolment forms.
- Up to 100 reply paid envelopes to return completed enrolment forms.

**Contact the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer to place your orders.**

## Free Support Overview

The following table is an overview of free campaign support available to candidates.

Type of campaign support	Details	What you need to do	Last date to request
<b>Candidate information sessions</b>	Candidate information sessions will be held online by region.	Register for online session via <a href="https://TreatyElections.org">TreatyElections.org</a>	Tuesday 10 February 2026 - Thursday 12 February 2026
<b>Scrutineer (observer) training</b>	Scrutineers can be appointed by candidates to observe the counting of the votes. Scrutineer training is optional.	When you receive the form to register a scrutineer, please register your scrutineers to attend the scrutineer training.	Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7pm & Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7pm
<b>Templates for flyers, posters and social media</b>	<p>The Assembly has templates for posters, flyers and graphics for social media.</p> <p>The Assembly logos including the Treaty for Victoria logo can only be used as set out in these templates.</p>	<p>You can either submit your content to the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer for use in the set Assembly-provided candidate templates.</p> <p>Or you are free to create your own on your own or with external support.</p> <p>The templates can be accessed at <a href="https://TreatyElections.org">TreatyElections.org</a></p>	<p>Monday 9 March by 5.00pm</p> <p><i>If you miss this deadline, we can't guarantee you'll have your materials before voting begins, so get in touch with Assembly staff as early as possible.</i></p>
<b>Candidate booklet</b>	A Candidate Booklet will be available to voters at polling booths and online. The booklet will include the name, photographs and candidate statements from all candidates (if provided).	Inform the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer about how many copies you would like. This can be done when you provide a photo and candidate statement for the booklet.	Thursday 5 March 2026
<b>Election brochures and enrolment forms</b>	You can request brochures from the Assembly that encourage and help people to enrol and to cast their vote. Giving out these brochures can help increase the vote in your region.	To place your order please contact the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer.	The sooner you order them, the sooner you will have them!

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## Assembly Provided Candidate budget

The Assembly will provide you with a budget of \$750 to help cover printing and social media advertising – this is called your “candidate budget”.

The Assembly will only provide or reimburse up to \$750 of your expenditure.

You can decide to allocate all your \$750 candidate budget to either printing or social media advertising or you could split it across both – it’s up to you, but the total financial support from the Assembly is \$750 across both things per candidate.

The candidate budget is not available as cash or for reimbursement of expenses incurred by candidates other than social media advertising. The candidate budget is only available for printing of material arranged by the Assembly Candidate Support Officer and/or social media advertising. Candidates should reach out to the Returning Officer for approval before they ask the Assembly to print their campaign material. It is your responsibility to ensure your campaign material complies with the Election Rules including the Code of Conduct.

If you use your candidate budget for printing the Assembly will pay the printers directly. The cost of printing will be based on the costs in the table below and deducted from your candidate budget.

(If you add more copies to your print run – which the Assembly’s Candidate Support Officer can help you do – you will need to pay the additional costs directly to the printing company Indigi-print and this will not be re-imbursed.)

If you use the candidate budget for social media advertising costs associated with the election, you will need to make the payments yourself, but you can be reimbursed by the Assembly within your budget limit upon providing valid receipts and proof.

It’s important to keep track of what you choose to spend your Assembly-provided candidate budget of \$750 on and keep the Assembly informed by communicating with the Candidate Support Officer.

If you have any questions, our Candidate Support Officer is there to help and will happily talk you through a range of options, the printing costs and help arrange your materials.

## Printing

To help ensure all materials relating to the Elections look consistent and to make it easier for candidates, the Assembly has templates for materials like posters and can help arrange printing.

We recommend that you use the Assembly’s templates, but you can supply your own print-ready files to the Assembly’s Candidate Support Officer, so long as the materials align to the printer’s specifications listed below.

You must provide a street address as we cannot ship to PO Boxes.

### Printing prices

These are examples of the options available at Indigi-print. All amounts include GST and delivery.

<b>\$750 Package – Option 1</b>	<b>\$750 Package – Option 2</b>	<b>\$750 Package – Option 3</b>
1500 DL Flyers	1000 DL Flyers	500 DL Flyers
150 A3 Posters	100 A3 Posters	50 A3 Posters
3 A1 Corflutes	6 A1 Corflutes	9 A1 Corflutes

### Specifications for print-ready artwork

(These are relevant if you are preparing your own files for print)

- **DL Flyers:** 210 x 99mm
- **A3 Posters:** 420 x 297mm
- **A1 Corflutes:** 840 x 594mm

Files need to be PDF format and include bleed and trims.

You can contact Indigi-print directly via [www.indigi-print.com.au](http://www.indigi-print.com.au) if you are preparing your own files for print and need technical support. If you do this and choose to work directly with Indigi-print, you will be responsible for payment and not eligible for reimbursement. For the avoidance of doubt, the candidate budget can only be used for printing arranged through the Assembly.



## Timeframes for printing

You must allow at least 7 working days from when the Assembly receives the final documents to your order being received.

These timeframes are subject to production and delivery times, and print material being compliant with both the printer's specifications and the Election Rules.

### What you need to do:

1. Have a think about how you want to allocate your budget and what you want to order
2. Talk to the Returning Officer about approval for your campaign material
3. If you choose to allocate funding towards printing, liaise with the Candidate Support Officer to submit print ready final files
4. Confirm your order

## Social media advertising

Social media may assist in spreading the word about the upcoming election in your communities. You can use it to promote your campaign, your aspirations for Treaty, and why people should vote for you.

### How social media advertising will work

If you choose to allocate funding towards social media, you must provide the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer with a receipt of the election-related social media advertising you are seeking reimbursement for.

It is your responsibility to ensure your social media including any social media advertising complies with the Election Rules including the Code of Conduct.

Remember it's important to keep the Candidate Support Officer informed about how you plan to allocate your \$750 budget and ensure you are eligible for reimbursement. For example, if you've already ordered \$750 of printed materials, you won't receive reimbursement for social media advertising.

## When can I access this support?

The support will be available to you once you are confirmed as a candidate by the Returning Officer (in accordance with the Election Rules).

## How do I access this support?

Once your candidacy is confirmed, it's a good idea to touch base with the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer to discuss what you would like to do and the various options available to help.

All you have to do is:

1. Decide how you would like to allocate your candidate budget for your print and/or social media
2. Develop your print or social media material (with Assembly assistance or by using the templates yourself)
3. Get in contact with the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer to place your order for the materials you want printed and also let them know how much reimbursement you will seek for social media advertising (if any).

### The Assembly

Phone: 1800 TREATY (87 32 89)

### Candidate Support Officer

e: [candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org)

### Independent Election Administrator Returning Officer

Gavin Ryan

e: [returningofficer@treatyauthority.au](mailto:returningofficer@treatyauthority.au)

m: 0403 336 829

## Financial Support Overview

The following table is an overview of the financial support available to candidates. This financial support is provided by the Assembly according to its own good governance requirements set out here. The sections of the Election Rules including the Code of Conduct that are about funding for production of campaign material do not apply to the transitional election.

Type of campaign support	Details	What you need to do	Last date to request
<b>Printing and distribution</b>	You can choose for Assembly staff to have campaign materials printed and delivered to your chosen address	<p>Assembly staff can arrange the print run and deliver materials to your chosen address – the cost of printing will be taken from your candidate budget in accordance with the costs set out on on page 18.</p> <p>OR you are free to arrange your own printing – in this case you will be responsible for funding your own printing and you will not be able to access the candidate budget</p> <p>Contact the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer to let them know your plans for printing.</p>	<p>Monday 9 March by 5.00pm</p> <p><i>If you miss this deadline, we can't guarantee you'll have your materials before voting begins, so get in touch with Assembly staff as early as possible.</i></p>
<b>Social media advertising</b>	You can choose to allocate some or all of your candidate budget to advertising on social media, within the budget provided.	Inform the Assembly's Candidate Support Officer how much of your candidate budget of \$750 you want to spend on advertising and then submit relevant receipts and proof for reimbursement.	Friday 16 June by 5.00pm

# ELECTION COMPLAINTS

**A process for managing election complaints is available throughout the election. It can be used by candidates, campaigners, scrutineers and voters to make a complaint.**

A complaint could be about the conduct of a person, how the Election Rules have been applied, the validity of an election or any other issue reasonably connected to the election.

Complaints will be resolved in accordance with the Election Rules. Depending on the nature of the complaint, it may be determined by the Returning Officer or a Dispute Resolution Panel, which is a panel of respected Aboriginal community members convened by the Treaty Authority. Aboriginal Peacemakers may be appointed for the election process with the purpose of seeking to resolve disputes in a culturally-based way, including seeking informal resolutions or de-escalating complaints wherever possible. A person making a complaint may be given the option of using this service.

If you disagree with a decision on a complaint you are involved in, you may be able to appeal the decision to the Dispute Resolution Panel.

Complaints need to be made in writing to the Returning Officer using the contact details on the last page of this guide

It should include the reasons for the complaint and the persons involved. Complaints can be made at any time during the election, until seven days after the announcement of election results. You cannot make an election complaint after this time.



# NEXT STEPS

**1** Register to attend the candidate information session in your region. Details to be listed on [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org)

**2** Familiarise yourself with Part 18 of the *Statewide Treat Act 2025* (Vic), the Election Rules and Code of Conduct

**3** To nominate, complete the nomination form at [www.TreatyElections.org](http://www.TreatyElections.org) (which is submitted to the Returning Officer) after the Nomination Opening date and before the Nomination Closing date

**4** Encourage Aboriginal community members, friends, family and contacts to enrol and vote

**5** If required by the transitional Electoral Officer submit your final artwork/content to the Returning Officer for approval

**6** Place your print orders with the Assembly and provide a delivery address

**7** Expect more communications from us. After nominations close, you will be contacted with more information about the election logistics and process (where to enrol and vote in person etc)

**8** If you require more information or have any questions, please use the contact details below.



# CANDIDATE CHECKLIST

## You've decided to nominate to run in the Assembly's General Election.

Before you submit your nomination to the Returning Officer, please go through the following checklist to make sure you have included all the information you need.

The Returning Officer and election staff are able to assist you if you have any questions or need any help with the process.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a candidate information session (see details of when these are being held on the election website)                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide information to verify that you are a Victorian Traditional Owner (refer to the nomination form)                                                                                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read this Candidate Information Pack                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the declaration and consent on the nomination form                                                                                                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a photo (this is optional, refer to the nomination form for how to take the ideal candidate photo). This doesn't need to be sent to the Returning Officer until 5:00pm on Thursday 5 March | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Send your nomination form to the Returning Officer so it is received by them before 5:00pm on Monday 2 March</b>                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read the Election Rules within the Assembly Constitution, available on the election website                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete your National Police Check. The Returning Officer will be in contact with you after you submit your nomination form about how to complete the National Police Check.                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Complete all your personal details in the nomination form                                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Send the Returning Officer the National Police Check (when you receive this)                                                                                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide evidence to verify your name, date of birth and address (see the nomination form for acceptable evidence)                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide a candidate statement (this is optional, refer to the nomination form for tips on what to include in this statement). This doesn't need to be sent to the Returning Officer until 5:00pm on Thursday 5 March |

### Returning Officer

Gavin Ryan

Email: [returningofficer@treatyauthority.au](mailto:returningofficer@treatyauthority.au)

Phone: 0403 336 829

# CONTACT US

## **Independent Election Administrator Returning Officer**

Gavin Ryan

e: [returningofficer@treatyauthority.au](mailto:returningofficer@treatyauthority.au)

m: 0403 336 829

## **The Assembly**

ph: 1800 TREATY (87 32 89)

## **Candidate Support Officer**

e: [candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org](mailto:candidates@firstpeoplesvic.org)



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VICTORIA

