

Prohibition of canvassing 100 metres



**Northern Territory
Electoral Commission**
EVERY vote counts!

Legislative Assembly elections

Canvassing for votes is not permitted within 100 metres of the entrance to a building, shop front or area designated as an **election day voting centre** during the hours of voting. This includes personal canvassing by candidates or party workers, whether or not they are handing out any canvassing material.

The commission may designate an alternate prohibition zone for a voting centre e.g. entire school grounds. Candidates and registered political parties will be advised in writing of any alternate zones.

Note: A 10 metre prohibition zone applies to early and remote voting centres in Northern Territory Legislative Assembly elections.

What does canvassing include?

- placement, display or handing out of posters
- pamphlets or bunting that contains electoral matter
- handing how-to-vote cards
- soliciting the vote of a person
- inducing a person not to vote for a particular candidate
- inducing a person not to vote at the election
- using a loud speaker, public address system, amplifier or other thing to broadcast matter that is audible within 100 metres of the entrance of the voting centre

Designated campaign areas

The commission may assign an area to be a designated campaign area in a place where campaigning activity is prohibited. Each registered candidate will be allowed up to three campaigners in the division they are standing for. Each person must complete the relevant appointment form.

A person engaged to represent a candidate in the designated campaign area will be able to conduct the following:

- Canvass for votes
- Solicit the vote of a person
- Hand out how-to-vote cards

A designated campaign area must be accessible to voters and avoidable by voters who do not wish to engage with campaigners.

The commission will provide written notice to all candidates of the designated campaign area as soon as practicable after it is designated. If there is any doubt about an exclusion zone or designated area, campaigners should confer with the officer in charge of the voting centre.

Canvassing and signage

During election campaigns a number of complaints are received concerning the placement of signs in public areas. Check your council's policies and guidelines when determining where to place your campaign material to best effect and be mindful of safety, size and content.

[Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics](#) 

[Power and Water Corporation](#) (PDF, 91KB)

[Alice Springs Town Council](#) (PDF, 176KB)

[City of Darwin](#) 

[Katherine Town Council](#) 

[City of Palmerston](#) 

Can candidates appoint a scrutineer?

Candidates can appoint a scrutineer to represent them within the voting centre. This appointment must be made by using the approved form and handing it to the officer in charge of the voting centre. A person must not wear or display a badge, emblem, t-shirt, poster or other thing associated with a political party or candidate in a voting centre.

What if a voter needs assistance to vote?

A voter, who requires assistance to vote, can still nominate another person to assist them in a voting centre.