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1. Vote counting process

All counting of votes will involve two separate counts, which are the first preference count followed by the two candidate preferred count (TCP).

First preference count

The first preference count initially involves the check for formality of all ballot papers cast at the voting centre. Formal ballot papers are then distributed to the relevant candidate with informal ballot papers set aside. The formal ballot papers are to be split into two piles for each candidate – the first pile is for single figure 1 ballot papers only, whilst the second pile is for formal ballot papers with two or more numbers indicated on the ballot paper.

The ballot papers for each pile for each candidate are tallied up and recorded on the result slip as well as informal ballot papers. These results are then phoned through to the results centre.

Two Candidate Preferred Count (TCP)

The two candidate preferred count provides an indication of the flow of preferences to the last two candidates (the selected candidates) likely to be remaining in the count. These two candidates are selected by the NTEC and are confidential until 6:00 pm on election day.

Immediately following the completion of the first preference count, the two candidate preferred count commences. At this stage, the ballot papers for the selected candidates and informals are set aside as they are not part of the TCP count.

The remaining candidates' ballot papers are now sorted to one of the selected candidates, or exhausted. This sorting is completed one candidate at a time.

A ballot paper becomes exhausted when there is a duplication of numbers (e.g. two 2s) or gaps to the consecutive number sequence (e.g. 1, 3, 4) prior to the ballot paper preference reaching a selected candidate.

Please note the pile of ballot papers from the first preference count with the single figure 1 will be placed, en masse, into the exhausted pile as there is no second preference on any of those ballot papers.

Also, any preference going to a remaining candidate is ignored until such time as the consecutive number preference is allocated to a selected candidate.

Once all ballot papers from a remaining candidate have been distributed to either a selected candidate or the exhausted pile, the ballot papers are counted and recorded on the result slip. Those ballot papers are then returned to their original first preference bundles and sort card.

DARWIN

Level 3, TCG Centre, 80 Mitchell St
GPO Box 2419, Darwin NT 0801

ALICE SPRINGS

MyVote Central
Yeperenye Centre, Hartley St
PO Box 2304, Alice Springs NT 0871

PHONE: 1800 MYVOTE

WEBSITE: www.ntec.nt.gov.au

EMAIL: ntec@nt.gov.au



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Vote counting process (continued)

This process is repeated for all remaining candidates.

Check the TCP total figure agrees with the total first preference formal vote figure on that result slip. These results are then phoned through to the results centre.

These procedures will be explained to scrutineers at 5:45 pm on election day in the Alice Springs and Darwin scrutiny centres. Any questions regarding these procedures can be answered then.

2. Scrutineers - rights and responsibilities

One scrutineer per candidate is permitted to remain in the voting centre during voting hours. While the count is in progress, one scrutineer per candidate per count table may be present.

A scrutineer **MAY:**

- come and go during voting hours or the scrutiny (his/her place may be taken by another duly appointed scrutineer)
- observe all voting and counting procedures with the exception of an elector actually voting (unless the voter is assisted).

A scrutineer **MUST NOT:**

- interfere with or attempt to influence any voter
- wear anything promoting a candidate or political party within a voting centre
- deliberately show or leave how-to-vote material in the voting centre
- help with the clearing of voting screens or removal of material from the voting centre
- touch ballot papers
- interfere in any way with the count
- disclose knowledge concerning the vote of any person.

If a scrutineer wishes to object to any procedure or question staff in any way, s/he should see the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the voting centre. Details of any objections will be formally recorded.

If a scrutineer objects to the formality of a ballot paper, it will be set aside for the OIC of the voting/count centre to examine. The OIC will write 'admitted' or 'rejected' on the back of the ballot paper according to his/her decision. The ballot paper is then sorted appropriately.

All decisions on the formality of ballot papers are subject to review during the recheck of ballot papers conducted by the Commission. The recheck may also be attended by scrutineers on the basis of one scrutineer per counting table.

 [Scrutineer appointment form](#)

3. Postal voting reminder

The deadline to receive postal vote applications for forwarding addresses within Australia is 6:00 pm tomorrow, Thursday 25 August. Please ensure any hard copy postal vote applications are emailed immediately to kaye.coles@nt.gov.au or call 8999 7645 if you have any queries.

The deadline for the return of completed postal votes is **12:00 noon, Friday 9 September 2016.**



4. Remote voting amendments

Remote voting teams have been travelling throughout the Northern Territory since Wednesday 17 August. Throughout this process, remote voting amendment notices outlining any changes to the schedule, have been emailed to the relevant candidates and parties as they have occurred. These changes have also been updated on the remote schedule on the website as well as being posted on NTEC's Facebook and Twitter pages.

The following table outlines all amendments made to the mobile voting schedule to date.

NO.	DATE	INFORMATION
1	16/08/2016	Voting at the Katherine Hostel cancelled. All residents applied for postal votes. Voting in Manmoyi cancelled due to men's business.
2	18/08/2016	The start time for voting in Gunbalanya was moved from 9:00 am to 10:00 am due to a flight delay.
3	19/08/2016	Voting in Mulga Bore postponed due to a death in the community.
4	19/08/2016	The start time for voting in Warruwi was moved from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm due to vehicle issues.
5	22/08/2016	The start time for voting in Mamadawerre was moved from 10:00 am to 10:30 am due to a flight delay.
6	22/08/2016	Pickataramoor added to schedule, Friday 26 August 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.
7	23/08/2016	Voting at Kaltukatjara was postponed due to fog. Arrangements are being made to visit on Thursday 25 August.
8	23/08/2016	The start time for voting in Bulman was moved from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm due to a flight delay.
9	24/08/2016	Voting at Kaltukatjara confirmed. Thursday 25 August, 10:15 am to 1:45 pm.
10	24/08/2016	Voting in Mulga Bore cancelled due to a death in the community.
11	24/08/2016	The start time for voting in Wurankuwu, tomorrow Thursday 25 August has changed. Voting will commence at 4:00 pm (previously 2:30 pm).

5. Remote voting

The following table shows the number of remote votes taken by community on Tuesday 23 August 2016.

Community	Votes taken	Community	Votes taken
Alyuen	15	Lajamanu	137
Ampilatwatja	139	Ngangalala	28
Atneltyey	11	Papunya	150
Birany Birany	6	Pearl Retirement Resort	65
Bolkdjam	12	Pine Creek	69
Bulman	56	Pmara Jutunta	72
Buluhkaduru	12	Pungalindum	6
Camel Camp	26	Rurrangala	14
Daly Waters	9	Tara	20
Gapuwiyak	280	Wandawuy	38
Garrthalala	32	Wauchope	9
Gochan Jiny-Jirra	0	Weemol	29
Haasts Bluff	57	Wilora	35
Imangara	16	Woolianna	19
Ji-Balbal	6	Yathalamarra	28
Juninga Nursing Home	23	TOTAL	1,419



6. Early voting

The following table shows the number of early votes, by voting centre, issued Tuesday 23 August as well as the cumulative total.

Early voting centre	Tuesday 23 August	Total votes to date
Alice Springs	495	3,193
Casuarina	688	5,222
Coolalinga	371	2,719
Darwin	602	3,648
Howard Springs <i>Opens Thu 25 Aug</i>	0	0
Jabiru <i>Opens Thu 25 Aug</i>	0	0
Katherine	246	2,091
Nhulunbuy	18	260
Palmerston	556	4,276
Tennant Creek	71	825
Total votes	3,047	22,234

7. Jabiru and Howard Springs early voting centres

Early voting commences tomorrow in Jabiru and Howard Springs.

HOWARD SPRINGS	JABIRU
Whitewood Hall 325 Whitewood Rd Next to Primary School	West Arnhem Regional Council Office 13 Tasman Cres

All early voting centres are open from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm through to Thursday and 8:00 am until 6:00 pm, Friday 26 August.

8. Virtual tally room

There is no physical tally room for the 2016 Territory election. Results will be shown on the virtual tally room at ntec.nt.gov.au and progressively displayed after 6:00 pm on Saturday. A direct feed of results will be provided to the media.