

Ballot paper formality guide – NT elections

To assist in understanding the ballot paper formality rules required under the voting system, the following guidelines are provided.

Formal votes

To vote in Northern Territory elections, a voter is required to write the number '1' in the square next to the candidate who is their first choice, and the numbers '2', '3' and so on against all the other candidates until all the squares have been numbered, in order of the voter's preference.

A ballot paper is formal provided the order of preference for each candidate and the voter's intention is clear.

Changes to numbers, numbers written outside the squares, drawings and slogans do not make the ballot paper informal provided the ballot paper is otherwise marked correctly.

Under the Electoral Regulations, a cross (×) or a tick (✓) or the figure one (1) is taken to be the first preference of a voter.

Informal votes

A ballot paper is **informal** if:

- It is totally blank
- There is no number 1 or a cross (×) or a tick (✓)
- The number 1, a cross (×) or a tick (✓) appear against two or more names
- Two or more squares have been left blank
- A number has been repeated
- There is a break in the number sequence e.g. 1, 3, 4
- Writing on the ballot paper identifies the voter.

Directions on the ballot paper remind a voter to **number** all the squares in order of their choice.

INFORMAL

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
Electoral Act 2004






BALLOT PAPER

Election of one Member of the Legislative Assembly
for the Division of

SAMPLE

Number the boxes 1 to 5 in
the order of your choice.

Remember, number every box to make your vote count.

-  C CANDIDATE
Party A
-  A CANDIDATE
Party C
-  G CANDIDATE
Independent
-  B CANDIDATE
Party B
-  R CANDIDATE
Independent

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