

# Prohibition of canvassing 10 metres

Local government elections



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

Canvassing for votes is not permitted within 10 metres of the entrance to a building, shop front or area designated as a voting centre during the hours of voting. The prohibition zone applies to early voting centres, mobile voting locations and election day voting centres. This includes personal canvassing by candidates or party workers, whether or not they are handing out any canvassing material.

## 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 10 metres of the entrance of the voting centre

If there is any doubt about the exclusion zone, candidates 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.