



South Australia's First Nations Voice to Parliament Election

Saturday, 16 March 2024

savoiceelection.sa.gov.au



2024 SOUTH AUSTRALIAN

**First Nations
Voice Election**



What is South Australia's First Nations Voice to Parliament?

In 2023, the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament was established.

The SA First Nations Voice will be made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who are elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of South Australia to represent their communities and provide advice on laws, policies, and programs through direct communication with key decision-makers.

This will enable more informed and inclusive decision-making about the issues that matter most to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities.

The SA First Nations Voice to Parliament Election is the process for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in South Australia to elect these representatives.

What is the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament Election?

The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament Election is the process for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders of South Australia to elect their representatives to the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament.

Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders enrolled in South Australia can vote and nominate as a candidate in the election.

The election will be held on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

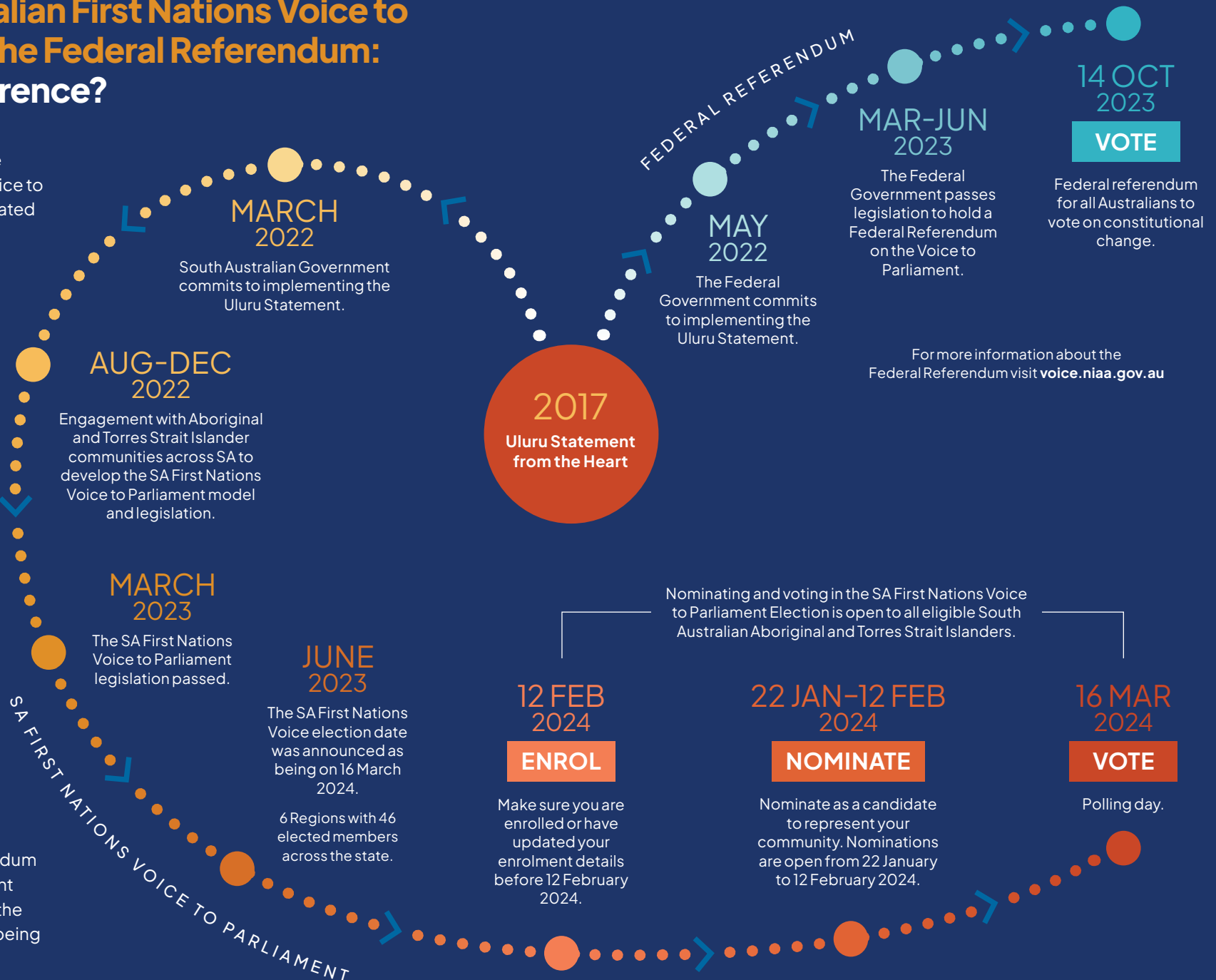
The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament and the Federal Referendum: What is the difference?

The Federal Referendum and the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament are 2 separate but related initiatives. Both are based on the recommendations of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which was the outcome of a national Indigenous constitutional convention held in 2017.

The 2 initiatives share a common goal of promoting greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and self-determination in decision-making and the development of laws, policies, and programs.

The key difference is the federal referendum sought to establish a voice to the Federal Parliament through making a change to the Australian Constitution. The South Australian Government has legislated a Voice to speak to the State Parliament.

The result of the Federal Referendum does not affect the establishment of the SA Voice to Parliament or the SA Voice to Parliament Election being held in March 2024.



The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament

The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament will be made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who are elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of South Australia to represent their communities and provide advice on laws, policies, and programs through direct communication with key decision-makers.

This will enable more informed and inclusive decision-making about the issues that matter most to South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their communities.

The SA Voice to Parliament Election will be held on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

For more information on the SA Voice to Parliament Election scan the QR code below or visit savoicerelection.sa.gov.au



The Federal Voice Referendum

The Federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament refers to the proposal for a constitutionally enshrined advisory body (Voice) to the Federal Parliament.

On 14 October, the majority of the Australian population voted not to enshrine a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution.

For more information on the Federal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice scan the QR code below or visit voice.niaa.gov.au



■ **The result of the Federal Referendum does not affect the establishment of the SA Voice to Parliament or the SA Voice to Parliament Election being held in March 2024.**

Voting in the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament Election

Voting in the Federal Voice Referendum

When is it?

The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament Election will be held on Saturday, 16 March 2024.

The Federal referendum was held on 14 October 2023.

Voting eligibility

Eligible South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will vote to choose who will represent their region on the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament.

All Australian citizens aged over 18 were able to vote in the Federal Referendum.

Only eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders enrolled in South Australia can vote and nominate as a candidate in the election.

How to vote

The ballot paper will have the names of candidates running for election.

Voters will number candidates in the order of their preference.

The ballot paper you completed had a question on the proposed alteration to the Australian Constitution, to which you wrote YES or NO in the box on your ballot paper.

Is voting compulsory?

Voting in the SA First Nations Voice to Parliament Election is not compulsory.

Voting in the referendum was compulsory for all Australians over 18.

How does The First Nations Voice to South Australian Parliament work?

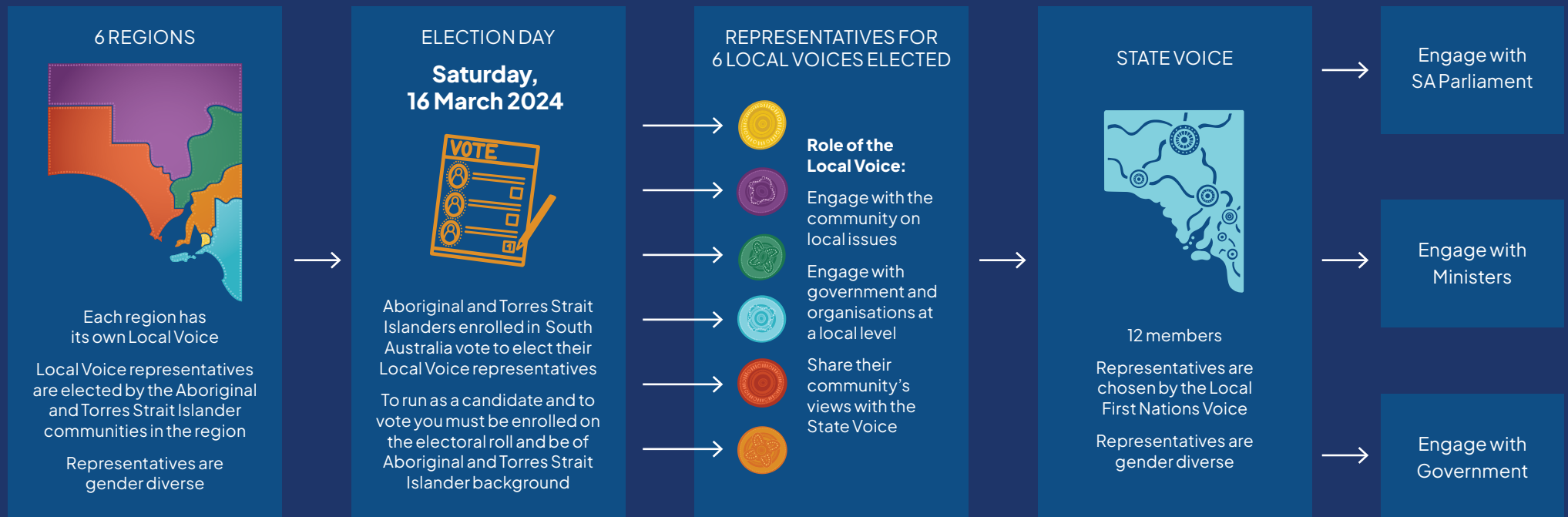
South Australia's First Nations Voice will have 2 levels:

1 a Local First Nations Voice 2 a State First Nations Voice

They will work together but will have different roles and responsibilities.
There are 6 regions across the state each with its own Local Voice.



For more information on the SA First Nations Voice and how it works, scan the QR code or visit www.agd.sa.gov.au/first-nations-voice



1 Local First Nations Voice

There are 6 regions across South Australia, with an elected body for each of the 6 regions.

Of the 6 regions:

- 5 will have 7 elected members.
- One (the Central Local First Nations Voice region) will have 11 elected members, as it has a higher population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The election for the Local First Nations Voice representatives will be held on 16 March 2024.

All elected members will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They will be elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who live in the region.

Roles and responsibilities

The Local First Nations Voice bodies will:

- talk to and listen to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about issues that matter to them
- engage with government or other organisations in the local area, including local councils
- share their community's views with the State First Nations Voice.

Each Local First Nations Voice will choose 2 joint presiding members. They will chair local meetings and be their region's representatives on the State First Nations Voice.

What are the regions?

Regional boundaries have been determined following engagement with community and advice from community leaders and experts.



Region 1
Central



Region 2
Far North



Region 3
Flinders and
Upper North



Region 4
Riverland and
South East



Region 5
West and
West Coast



Region 6
Yorke and
Mid-North

2 State First Nations Voice

The State First Nations Voice will comprise the 2 joint presiding members of each Local First Nations Voice.

The State First Nations Voice will choose 2 members of different

genders to become joint presiding members. These joint presiding members will lead the State First Nations Voice by engaging directly with Parliament on behalf of the State First Nations Voice.

Roles and responsibilities

The State First Nations Voice will:

- hear the views of each Local First Nations Voice
- form state-wide views and positions that represent the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia
- present those views to the South Australian Parliament, ministers, and government chief executives.



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The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament:

What you need to know

Enrolling

Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the South Australian electoral roll are eligible to nominate to be a candidate and to vote.

To vote, and to stand as a candidate, you must be enrolled on the electoral roll.

You must enrol or update your enrolment details before 12 February 2024.

To enrol, check your enrolment or to update your details, scan the QR code or head to savoiceelection.sa.gov.au



Nominating

Representatives will be elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enrolled within each Local First Nations Voice region.

Any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person can nominate to stand as a candidate for their Local First Nations Voice as long as they meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

Nominations open on 22 January and close at 5 pm on 12 February 2024.

If you would like further information on the nomination process, email ecsa.nominations@sa.gov.au.

Scan the QR code to find out more about nominating for your Local First Nations Voice or visit savoiceelection.sa.gov.au



Voting

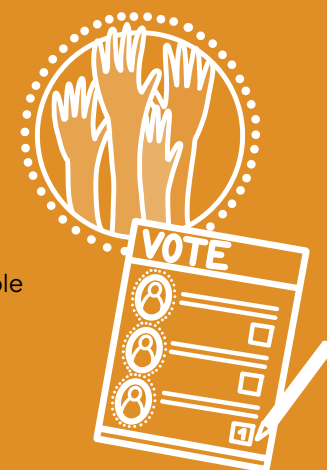
The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament Election will be held on **Saturday, 16 March 2024**.

Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders on the South Australian electoral roll can vote.

There will be polling booths across the state where eligible electors can vote in person. Locations will be publicised closer to polling day at savoiceelection.sa.gov.au.

Can't vote on Polling Day?

If you are unable to attend a polling booth on polling day, there are other options to make sure you can cast your vote.



1 Early voting: Monday, 4 March to Friday, 15 March 2024 – Early voting centres will be established during the 2 weeks before polling day across the state. Eligible electors who cannot attend a polling booth on election day may cast their vote at an early voting centre. Locations will be published at savoiceelection.sa.gov.au.

2 Postal voting – If you are unable to attend a polling booth or early voting centre, postal vote applications will be available from 29 January at selected locations across the state or can be downloaded from savoiceelection.sa.gov.au or by calling 1300 655 232.

Complete the application and return it to ECSA to receive your postal voting pack.

Postal voting packs containing your ballot papers will be sent out via post the week of Monday, 4 March 2024.

3 Mobile polling – Mobile polling will be conducted in regional and remote locations across South Australia between Monday, 4 March and Saturday, 16 March 2024.

Mobile polling locations and times will be advised closer to the election date at savoiceelection.sa.gov.au.

For more information about voting, scan the QR code or head to savoiceelection.sa.gov.au



The South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament: What you need to know

Election results

The counting of votes for the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament will begin Monday, 25 March 2024, to ensure that all postal votes arrive to be included in the count. Results may not be known for several days after the count commences.

What happens next?

After the election, successful candidates will be contacted by the South Australian First Nations Voice Secretariat. Each Local First Nations Voice will meet to elect 2 representatives as their joint presiding members.

These presiding members will represent their region on the State First Nations Voice.

The 2026 South Australian First Nations Voice Parliament Election will be held to coincide with the 2026 South Australian State Election, and the elected term will be 4 years from the 2026 election.

Key dates

Enrol to vote:

By Monday, 12 February 2024

Nominate:

Between Monday, 22 January and Monday, 12 February 2024

Postal vote applications open:

Monday, 29 January 2024

Postal votes arrive:

From Monday, 4 March 2024

Early voting:

Monday, 4 March to Friday, 15 March 2024

Election day:

Saturday, 16 March 2024

Election count begins:

Monday, 25 March 2024

Results declared:

From Monday, 25 March 2024

For more information on the South Australian First Nations Voice to Parliament and the 2024 election scan the QR code or head to savoicerelection.sa.gov.au





**ELECTORAL COMMISSION
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