

Explanation of ballot paper preference tables from the 2012 ACT election

Voters completing only the required number of preferences

This table shows ballot papers where voters have only marked the number of preferences equal to the number of vacancies in the electorate (5 in Brindabella and Ginninderra and 7 in Molonglo).

The “Party” column shows ballot papers that list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column. For parties that field as many candidates as there are vacancies, ballot papers in this category will only show preferences for the candidates in the party of the voter's first choice.

The “Non-party” column shows ballot papers that do **not** list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving to another column, but instead move on to another column before numbering all the candidates in the column of first choice.

Linear/non-linear votes

This table categorises all formal ballot papers cast in the election according to how voters have listed their preferences, broken down into the following.

Column 1 “Candidate at top of column – Party linear” shows ballot papers that list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column; the first preference is for the candidate at the top of the column, and each subsequent preference follows a sequential order from top to bottom (eg, 1,2,3,4,5 down the column).

Column 2 “Candidate at top of column – Party non-linear” shows ballot papers that list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column; the first preference is for the candidate at the top of the column, and each subsequent preference does **not** follow a sequential order from top to bottom (eg, 1,3,5,2,4 down the column).

Column 3 “Candidate at top of column – Non-party non-linear” shows ballot papers that **do not** list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column; the first preference is for the candidate at the top of the column, and subsequent preferences are spread across 2 or more columns.

Column 4 “Candidate not at top of column – Party non-linear” shows ballot papers that list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column; the first preference is for a candidate who is **not** at the top of the column, and each subsequent preference does **not** follow a sequential order from top to bottom (eg, 4,3,1,2,5 down the column).

Column 5 “Candidate not at top of column – Non-party non-linear” shows ballot papers that **do not** list all the candidates in the party/ungrouped column of first choice before moving on to another column; the first preference is **not** for the candidate at the top of the column, and subsequent preferences are spread across 2 or more columns.

Votes by position in column

This table shows ballot papers according to the first preference received by each named candidate, broken down by the Robson rotation position of the candidate on the relevant ballot paper.

For example, the Brindabella table shows that Ms Joy Burch received 1557 first preference votes on ballot papers that listed Ms Burch as the 3rd candidate in the ACT Labor column. This represents 17.24% of all the first preferences received by Ms Burch.