

Senate Voting - Polling Brief

The Australia Institute - June 2016

Between 23 May and 3 June 2016 The Australia Institute conducted a national opinion poll of 1437 people through Research Now, with nationally representative samples by gender, age and state or territory. The poll asked questions about voting intentions in the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as questions about the Senate voting system.

House of Representatives voting intention

If a federal election were held tomorrow, which of the following parties would you vote for in the House of Representatives (lower house)?

	Total	Male	Female
Coalition	38%	43%	32%
Labor	35%	34%	35%
Greens	11%	9%	14%
Independent/Other	16%	14%	19%

22% selected 'Don't Know / Not Sure'. They were then required to select the party to which they "have a leaning". Results above combine the two response sets.

Coalition combines "Liberal" and "Nationals".

Senate voting intention

And which party are you intending to vote for in the Senate (upper house)?

	Total	Male	Female
Liberal	34%	39%	29%
Labor	33%	30%	35%
Greens	12%	10%	13%
Nationals	2%	2%	2%
Palmer United Party	0%	0%	0%
Jacqui Lambie Network	1%	1%	2%
Glen Lazarus Team	0%	0%	0%
Nick Xenophon Team	4%	5%	3%
Pauline Hanson's One Nation	5%	4%	5%
Independent/Other	8%	7%	9%

17% selected 'Don't Know / Not Sure'. Response rates for the parties were re-weighted accordingly.

How do you intend to vote in the Senate?

When voting in the Senate (upper house), voters can choose to vote either 'Above the Line' or 'Below the Line'.

At the upcoming election, do you intend to vote 'Above the Line' or 'Below the Line' on the Senate ballot paper?

	Total	Male	Female	Coalition	Labor	Greens	Other	Don't know / Not sure
'Above the line'	48%	51%	45%	65%	52%	42%	35%	24%
'Below the line'	14%	17%	12%	9%	14%	23%	28%	6%
I won't vote	4%	4%	5%	2%	3%	3%	4%	13%
Don't Know / Not Sure	34%	29%	39%	23%	32%	32%	33%	58%

Crosstabs here are by Senate voting intention.

In the last election, 3.5% of votes were 'below the line'.¹

¹ <http://results.aec.gov.au/17496/Website/SenateUseOfGvtByState-17496.htm>

How many boxes do you have to number 'Above the Line'?

To the best of your knowledge, what is the **minimum** number of boxes people have to number when they vote **above the line**?

	Total	Male	Female	Coalition	Labor	Greens	Other	Don't know / Not sure
'1' in one box only	33%	32%	34%	39%	33%	34%	33%	21%
Every box	9%	9%	10%	7%	12%	13%	10%	7%
At least six boxes	29%	32%	25%	31%	30%	31%	29%	22%
At least twelve boxes	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	7%	5%
A different number of boxes (specify)	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Don't know / not sure	24%	22%	26%	18%	22%	18%	21%	43%

Only 29% of people correctly nominated the new Above the Line Senate voting system, requiring voters to number *at least six boxes*.

33% of people incorrectly nominated '1' in one box only, which was correct under the old system. A third of these voters said they would vote for 'Other'.

14% of people nominated either 'every box' or 'at least 12 boxes', which is more than is required as a minimum.

24% of people said they did not know.