

Foreword

This report gives the results and statistics for the State general election held on Saturday 6 September 2008 to elect the 38th Western Australian Parliament. It is intended to provide a comprehensive record of polling results for reference and research purposes.

As a result of legislative changes instituted under 'one vote, one value' legislation, the size of the Legislative Assembly, as measured by the number of 'seats', increased from 57 in 2005 to 59 in 2008. A total of 302 nominations were received for this election, compared with 375 in 2005. The election resulted in 21 new members being elected to the expanded Legislative Assembly, eight from the Australian Labor Party and thirteen from the Liberal Party.

The composition of the Legislative Assembly is:

Australian Labor Party	28 members
Liberal Party	24 members
THE NATIONALS	4 members
Independents	3 members

As the above indicates, the Australian Labor Party has the largest contingent of members; however, a power sharing arrangement was entered into between the Liberal Party, THE NATIONALS, and a number of Independents to form a Liberal/National government.

While 78% of successful Legislative Assembly candidates were elected with margins of over 3%, in 13 districts the margins were less than 3%. Results for the candidates in the closely contested districts of Riverton, Albany and Forrestfield were decided by margins of 64, 89 and 98 votes respectively.

Of the 59 candidates elected only 15 (25.4%) obtained an absolute majority on first preferences. This was a decrease from 2005 where 25 (44%) obtained an absolute majority on first preferences.

In the Legislative Council which expanded from 34 to 36 members all parties, with the exception of the Australian Labor Party, gained further electoral support. THE NATIONALS and the Greens (WA) were the biggest beneficiaries of electoral support gaining 4 and 2 additional seats respectively. The Australian Labor Party lost 5 seats and the Liberal Party gained one in the expanded parliament. A total of fifteen new members were elected to the Legislative Council.

The composition of the Legislative Council is:

Australian Labor Party	11 members
Liberal Party	16 members
THE NATIONALS	5 members
The Greens (WA)	4 members

This report contains information on candidates and elected members, results by polling place and an analysis of types of votes as well as comparisons with previous general elections. It also includes general information such as; key dates and deadlines, elector and enrolment information and district and region profiles.

This report is a companion volume to the 2008 State General Election: Election Report, which describes the conduct of the election.



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ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

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