

Regulation 36 – Procedure for Technology Assisted Voting

Introduction

The Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV) has appointed the independent election service provider, Australian Election Company, to conduct the 2021 election of two (2) architects to be nominated for Board membership using technology assisted (online internet) voting.

If the positions are contested and an election is necessary, ARBV will provide Australian Election Company with a certified database containing details of all registered architects eligible to vote in the election.

Voting Process

A unique, randomly generated password will be assigned to each record in the database. This password, in conjunction with an architect's registration number, will be used to authenticate a voter before allowing access to the online system.

The password, together with a link to the voting web site, a step-by-step description of how to cast a vote and a link to a candidate profile document will be sent to every registered architect by email (just prior to the ballot opening) on Thursday 1 April, 2021.

In summary, the steps involved in casting a vote will be as follows:-

1. A voter will be required to log in using their ARBV registration number and unique password to verify their identity.
2. A screen listing all candidates will be displayed and the voter may indicate their preference for up to two (2) candidates by clicking in the box adjacent to their name(s).
3. A confirmation screen will then be displayed listing only the selected preferred candidate(s) and the voter will be able to either confirm their selection or return to amend their selection.

Voting Secrecy and Security

Australian Election Company's online voting service has been designed to absolutely protect the secrecy of the choices made by voters.

At the instant a vote is confirmed, the voter's record is flagged as having a vote recorded and the vote detail itself is completely and irretrievably disassociated from the voter's record. It is the electronic equivalent of the traditional ballot box where once a ballot paper has been deposited in the box, it cannot be retrieved or identified.

Australian Election Company voting system is hosted in a secure Tier 3 data centre. All data transfers to and from the system are made using encrypted TLS1.2 encryption technology prevents in-transit data capture and protects both personal information about the voter and the vote itself. The data arrives safely at its confirmed destination and is not visible to anyone else.

All hardware in the Data Centre is replicated with full redundancy. The web servers and application servers are load-balanced for optimum performance. If any piece of equipment fails, others will service the load until the failed device is returned to service. Regular data backups are taken.

Power feed to the Centre is provided to the Centre from two separate networks managed by a single supplier. Replicated UPS systems are in place and in the event of a total mains power failure, backup can be provided from two diesel generators, either of which is capable of supplying the Centre's power requirements.