BALLOT PAPER TEMPLATE (BPT) COMPATIBILITY

Guidelines for setting up the ballot paper.

The BPT is a flexible, polypropylene device that is attached to the ballot paper by use of a low-tac adhesive strip. The BPT enables a blind or visually impaired person to mark a ballot paper independently, in private and with confidence. To assist the user in selecting their preferred candidate, the device deploys embossed numbers and the braille equivalent so that the voter can find their preferred candidate and make their mark in the correct position.

Prior to the printing of the ballot paper the printer will be issued with the actual BPT, used in the election, to enable them to check that what they are printing matches the BPT.

It is important that the horizontal rules and apertures of the BPT align with the horizontal rules and voting box areas of the ballot paper.

All polling stations will have BPTs available and all ballot papers must accurately align with the BPTs.

The following diagram gives dimensions to help prepare artwork so that it aligns correctly with the BPT. There is a gap of 100mm at the top of the ballot paper for voting instructions followed by horizontal dividing rules at 23mm intervals.

There will be a 5mm hole punched in each ballot paper centred at 10mm from the top edge and right-hand edge of the ballot paper. This will align with the 5mm hole on the BPT. When both holes are aligned this gives the blind voter confidence the BPT and ballot paper are correctly in position and they are marking the correct side and area of the ballot paper.

With regard to the 5mm hole. If you use a reel-fed printing process you may be able to punch the hole in-line. If, on low quantities, you are using a sheet-fed printing process, you may print a black dot on the ballot paper to aid accurate drilling post-print.

Given the timeframe between close of nominations and delivery of ballot papers, you may find the accompanying InDesign file helpful.

Ballot paper critical dimensions, following removal of the ballot paper stub.