

Changes to the ACT Legislative Assembly

December 2014

On 5 December 2014, ACT Chief Minister the Hon Katy Gallagher MLA announced her resignation as Chief Minister of the ACT with effect from 10 December 2014 and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 22 December 2014.

Ms Gallagher has indicated her intention to stand for the casual vacancy in the Federal Parliament to be created by the resignation of ACT Senator the Hon Kate Lundy.

Chief Minister of the ACT

A new leader of the Australian Labor Party in the ACT Legislative Assembly will need to be elected.

Given the ACT is a minority government, it is likely, though not guaranteed, that that person will become the next ACT Chief Minister.

Legislative Assembly Vacancy

As a consequence of Ms Gallagher's resignation, there will be a casual vacancy in the ACT Legislative Assembly for a representative for the seat of Molongolo from 22 December 2014.

Unlike other jurisdictions, a countback will be used as the first method of filling the vacancy. Candidates who participated in the general election who contested the seat of Molongolo at the ACT 2012 election may be elected at countback.

Countback is a counting system, not a voting system. The only ballot papers used are those that elected the retiring candidate, Ms Gallagher, at the 2012 ACT election. All candidates participating at countback have zero votes at the beginning of scrutiny and any votes they received in the original election are not counted. As such, the result will depend on where people who voted for Ms Gallagher directed their preferences.

If there are no eligible candidates, the countback will fail and a by-election will be held to fill the vacancy.

A list of candidates for the seat of Molongolo at the 2012 election is available [here](#).



Senate Vacancy

On 30 November 2014, Senator the Hon Kate Lundy announced her intention to resign from the Federal Parliament. Senator Lundy will resign her seat on 31 March 2015. Her replacement will commence his/her term on 1 April 2015.

ACT Labor will open nominations on Monday 8 December for the Senate casual vacancy.

ACT Labor members will have until 18 December to nominate. As mentioned above, Ms Gallagher has announced her intention to nominate.

If more than one candidate nominates, the ACT Labor Party will conduct a ballot for the position.

If no other candidates nominate by 18 December, Ms Gallagher will be declared as the party's nomination.

Once the ACT Labor Party determines its nominee, the nomination will go through a formal process in the ACT Legislative Assembly before it finally goes to the Australian Senate.