

Thursday, 12 October 2023

Referendum on ‘The Voice’ set to be defeated with a majority of Australians (and a majority of States) set to vote against the proposal

The final Roy Morgan Poll on ‘The Voice’ shows 54% of Australians set to vote ‘No’ to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice with only 46% voting ‘Yes’. This Roy Morgan Poll was conducted over the last eleven days from Monday October 2 – Thursday October 12.

Respondents around Australia were asked: “*This month’s referendum proposes a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. At the referendum to be held on October 14, will you vote yes, no, or are you undecided?*”

Respondents who were ‘Undecided’ were then asked, “*Well, which way are you leaning in the referendum? Yes or No.*” This additional question was first asked of undecided respondents on Monday October 2.

Of all respondents a majority of 51% said they would vote ‘No’, or were leaning towards voting ‘No’, 44% said they would vote ‘Yes’, or were leaning towards voting ‘Yes’ and a further 5% were still ‘Undecided’ only days before the referendum is held.

How Roy Morgan decided to allocate electors who were still ‘Undecided’ on ‘The Voice’

Firstly, it is worth noting that even if all those who are still undecided vote ‘Yes’, the ‘Yes’ vote would still be too low (at 49%) to carry the referendum.

In order to understand the ‘undecided’ voters, Roy Morgan undertook further research by re-interviewing 147 respondents who were initially interviewed from [Monday September 25 – Sunday October 1, 2023](#), and at that time were ‘undecided’.

Of these 147 respondents, 43, had now made up their mind and decided which way they would vote and 36 now indicated they were leaning towards one side or the other. Of these 79 undecided respondents two-thirds indicated they were now leaning towards voting ‘No’ compared to one-third who indicated they were leaning towards voting ‘Yes’.

If the remaining 5% of ‘Undecided’ respondents from interviewing over the last eleven days (October 2-12, 2023) are allocated two-thirds to ‘No’ and one-third to ‘Yes’ the final Yes/No split of responses is 54% set to vote ‘No’ compared to 46% set to vote ‘Yes’.

The results of the re-interviewing support past experience with surveys conducted before previous referenda which have shown that ‘Undecided’ voters are far more likely to end up as a ‘No’ rather than a ‘Yes’ vote.

This special Roy Morgan survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,419 Australian electors via telephone (mobile and landline) aged 18+ from Monday October 2 - Thursday October 12, 2023.

‘No’ vote leads in five States while ‘Yes’ vote leads only in Victoria

The road to a successful referendum requires not only a majority of people nationally but also a majority of people in a majority of states (at least four out of six).

Roy Morgan surveying on ‘The Voice’ over the last eleven days shows support for ‘The Voice’ is highest in Victoria with the State set to be the only one to vote ‘Yes’.

At the last Australian referendum on a Republic in 1999 Victoria was the State with the highest support for an Australian Republic with 49.8% of Victorians voting 'Yes' compared to 50.2% voting 'No'.

The next closest State to voting 'Yes' for 'The Voice' is New South Wales. However, those set to vote 'No' are attracting a higher share of the vote, but not yet a majority.

In the four other States a majority of respondents say they will vote 'No' or are leaning towards voting 'No'. The largest majority set to vote 'No' is in Queensland.

In the 1999 referendum on a Republic the largest majority voting against the Republic was in Queensland with 62.6% voting 'No' and only 37.4% voting 'Yes'.

The 'gender gap' continues with a majority of men opposed and women narrowly in favour

The 'gender gap' in voting sentiment has continued with a clear majority of men set to vote 'No' to 'The Voice' while there are more women who say they will vote 'Yes' rather than 'No'.

People who have already voted far more likely to have voted 'No'

Roy Morgan asked respondents on this survey if they had already voted.

For those who have already voted over three-fifths (63%) said they voted 'No' compared to only 37% who said they voted 'Yes'.

For those Australians who have not yet voted (the vast majority of Australians) the result was far closer with the result split evenly down the middle.

The latest figures from the [Australian Electoral Commission released on Thursday October 12](#) indicate that approximately 4 million Australians have already voted out of a total of 17,676,347 people on the Australian electoral roll – equivalent to 23% of electors, nearly one-in-four.

Australians surveyed were each asked the following question(s):

- *"This month's referendum proposes a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. At the referendum to be held on October 14, will you vote yes, no, or are you undecided?"* Yes: 40% (up 3% from the week of September 25 – October 1); No: 46% (unchanged) and Undecided: 14% (down 3%).
- Respondents who were 'Undecided' were then asked, *"Well, which way are you leaning in the referendum? Yes or No."* This is the first time this question has been asked of undecided respondents.
- 'Yes', or leaning towards voting 'Yes', 44% (including 4% who were 'undecided' but are leaning towards 'Yes') cf. 'No', or leaning towards 'No', 51% (including 5% who were 'undecided' but are leaning towards 'No') cf. 'Undecided' 5% (down 9% after 'Undecided' voters are prompted which way the are leaning).
- Respondents were then asked *"Have you already voted in the referendum?"* Yes or No.
- Previous question asked in December 2022, April 2023 and May 2023 was: *"If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?"*

This special Roy Morgan survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,419 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday October 2 – Thursday October 12, 2023.

See previous releases for detailed tables on the results of our previous surveys on 'The Voice to Parliament' conducted in December 2022, April 2023, May 2023 & September 2023.

The Voice Referendum (October 2-12, 2023) – Australian electors 18+

Respondents were asked: “*This month’s referendum proposes a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. At the referendum to be held on October 14, will you vote yes, no, or are you undecided?*”

Respondents who were ‘Undecided’ were then asked, “*Well, which way are you leaning in the referendum? Yes or No.*” This is the first time this question has been asked of undecided respondents.

By Gender & Age

	Dec 2022*	April 2023*	May 2023*	Sep 2023	Oct 2023**	Gender		Age			
						Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	46	39	44	38	49	55	46	38	38
No	30	39	36	44	51	57	45	37	50	56	59
Undecided	17	15	18	17	5	5	6	8	4	6	3
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*The surveys conducted in December 2022, April 2023 and May 2023 were via special Roy Morgan SMS Snap Polls.

**This Roy Morgan Poll was conducted via telephone and was the first time ‘Undecided’ respondents were asked whether they were leaning towards voting ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

By States & City/Country

	Oct 2023	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	44	50	32	46	54	30	44	39	47
No	51	44	63	49	42	64	54	51	52
Undecided	5	6	5	5	4	6	2	10	1
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

By Party Vote

	Oct 2023	Party Vote					Other Parties
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	Independents#		
	%	%	%	%	%		%
Yes	44	72	10	83	38		30
No	51	18	81	10	42		61
Undecided	5	10	9	7	20		9
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100		100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

Note: An early 'read' of results from this poll (released on Tuesday October 10, 2023 and [available here](#)) showed 50% of Australians set to vote 'No', or leaning towards voting 'No', 45% of Australians set to vote 'Yes' or leaning towards voting 'Yes', and a further 5% 'undecided'. Subsequent interviewing this week has slightly strengthened the position of the 'No' case.

October 2023: This special Roy Morgan telephone (mobile and landline) survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,419 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday October 2 - Thursday October 12, 2023.

About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is Australia's largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state, as well as in the U.S. and U.K. A full-service research organisation, Roy Morgan has over 80 years' experience collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.0	±2.7	±1.9	±1.3
1,500	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1

The Voice Referendum (September 2023) – Australians 18+

“Next month Australia votes in a referendum to propose a law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration? Yes, No or are you undecided?”

By Gender & Age

	Dec 2022*	April 2023*	May 2023*	Sep 2023	Gender		Age			
					Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	46	39	36	42	47	41	36	33
No	30	39	36	44	52	37	28	43	49	57
Undecided	17	15	18	17	12	21	25	16	15	10
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution. *The surveys conducted in December 2022, April 2023 and May 2023 were via special Roy Morgan SMS Snap Polls.

By States & City/Country

	Sep 2023	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS#
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	41	37	40	46	31	30	36	56
No	44	40	51	42	42	49	46	48	43
Undecided	17	19	12	18	12	20	24	16	1
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

By Party Vote

	Sep 2023	Party Vote						
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	One Nation#	Independents	Other Parties#	Can't Say
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	39	67	12	83	2	42	22	29
No	44	18	76	5	94	42	62	34
Undecided	17	15	12	12	4	16	16	37
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Sample sizes with fewer than 100 respondents should be treated with caution.

September 2023: This special Roy Morgan online survey was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,511 Australian electors aged 18+ from Monday September 18 - Sunday September 24, 2023.

The Voice Referendum (May 2023) – Australians 18+

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	Dec 2022	April 2023	May 2023	Gender		Age			
				Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	46	40	51	63	48	40	32
No	30	39	36	42	31	26	33	38	51
Undecided	17	15	18	18	18	11	19	22	17
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

	May 2023	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	49	40	48	47	39	41	47	42
No	36	34	41	38	32	46	35	32	26
Undecided	18	17	19	14	21	15	24	21	32
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

	May 2023	Party Vote						
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	One Nation	Independents	Other Parties	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	
Yes	46	67	10	90	2	49	30	
No	36	12	73	3	86	26	50	
Undecided	18	21	17	7	12	25	20	
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

May 2023: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,833 Australian electors aged 18+ from Friday May 26 - Monday May 29, 2023.

The Voice Referendum (April 2023) – Australians 18+

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	Dec <u>2022</u>	April <u>2023</u>	Gender		Age			
			Men	Women	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	46	43	50	51	52	41	37
No	30	39	46	31	35	32	42	48
Undecided	17	15	11	19	14	16	17	15
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

	April <u>2023</u>	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	46	48	43	46	52	41	46	39	38
No	39	36	44	38	31	46	41	50	33
Undecided	15	16	13	16	17	13	13	11	29
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

	April <u>2023</u>	Party Vote						
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	One Nation	Independents	Other Parties	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	75	6	89	7	40	21	
No	31	14	74	5	89	32	50	
Undecided	16	11	20	6	4	28	29	
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

April 2023: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,181 Australians aged 18+ from Friday April 14 – Tuesday April 18, 2023.

The Voice Referendum (December 2022)

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Gender & Age

	Australians 18+	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	17-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	49	57	60	57	52	40
No	30	35	26	22	28	31	47
Undecided	17	16	17	18	15	17	13
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By States & City/Country

	Australians 18+	Areas		States					
		Capital Cities	Country Regions	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	54	51	52	55	44	63	54	68
No	30	28	35	29	28	38	26	33	24
Undecided	17	18	14	19	17	18	11	13	8
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

“If a referendum were held today that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament would you vote Yes, No or are you undecided?” By Party Vote

	Electors	Party Vote					
		ALP	L-NP	Greens	One Nation	Independents	Other Parties
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	76	15	89	18	54	59
No	31	9	64	2	71	21	25
Undecided	16	15	21	9	11	25	16
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

December 2022: This special Roy Morgan Snap SMS Poll was conducted with an Australia-wide cross-section of 1,499 Australians aged 17+ from Friday December 9 – Monday December 12, 2022.