

AGEC 2025 Election Scorecard – Policy Review

Revised as at 24/04/25



GENDER EQUALITY ELECTION SCORECARD 2025

	 LIBERAL <small>for Regional Australia</small>	 Labor	 THE GREENS	 PAULINE HANSON'S one NATION	
STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY					
SAFETY & RESPECT FOR WOMEN					
ECONOMIC SECURITY					
WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION					
EDUCATION & CULTURAL CHANGE					
HEALTH AND WELLBEING					

KEY



POLICY POSITION ALIGNS
WITH AGEC'S KEY PRIORITIES



POLICY POSITION DOES NOT ALIGN
WITH AGEC'S KEY PRIORITIES







NO POLICY OR COMMITMENT



POLICY POSITION EXISTS, BUT KEY
ELEMENTS MISSING

Where the parties stand on the issues

	KEY <ul style="list-style-type: none">  POLICY POSITION ALIGNS WITH AGECE'S KEY PRIORITIES  POLICY POSITION DOES NOT ALIGN WITH AGECE'S KEY PRIORITIES  NO POLICY OR COMMITMENT  POLICY POSITION EXISTS, BUT KEY ELEMENTS MISSING

GENDER EQUALITY ACT

AGEC advocates for a Federal Gender Equality Act to consolidate and strengthen legislative protections.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	No policy or commitment.	
COALITION	No policy or commitment.	
GREENS	Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed at www.agece.org.au/2025-federal-election/	
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed at www.agece.org.au/2025-federal-election/ We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.	

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GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY

AGEC advocates for the continuation of the National Gender Equality Strategy – Working for Women with clear targets and funding, addressing the systemic causes of gender inequality.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	Labor established the National Gender Equality Strategy.	Green
COALITION	No policy or commitment.	Red
GREENS	Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed www.agece.org.au/2025-federal-election/	Green
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.	Green

WOMEN'S STATEMENT IN FEDERAL BUDGET

AGEC advocates for the continuation of the Women's Statement in the Federal Budget and the application of the principles of gender responsive budgeting.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	Labor introduced gender responsive budgeting and delivered several Women's Budget Statements.	Green
COALITION	No policy or commitment.	Red
GREENS	The Greens includes the following commitment. <i>The federal budget to include a mandatory, detailed Women's Impact Statement and an independent analysis of the gender responsiveness of the budget measures.</i> Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge.	Green
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	David Pocock has committed his support for gender-responsive budgeting. Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.	Green

SAFETY & RESPECT FOR WOMEN

Safety & Respect at work : AGECC advocates for:

- Upholding and enforcing all existing Federal anti-discrimination, safety and equal opportunity laws, guidelines, frameworks, and codes of practice, and protecting the integrity of Australian law from overseas entities or foreign governments.
- Maintaining Federal Government agencies and departments responsible for oversight of equal opportunity laws and gender equality data gathering, including the Office for Women, WGEA and the Australian Human Rights Commission.
- Developing and implementing nationally consistent workplace safety regulations to prevent work-related gendered violence, bullying and sexual and gender-based harassment. The Federal Government could implement such safety regulations to address harmful behaviour hazards in Federal workplaces.

Safety and Respect at home and in the community : AGECC advocates for:

- Expanding legal protections against gender-based violence, including coercive control laws and sentencing principles.
- Maintaining the existing National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 and prioritising action on those items consistent with the primary prevention framework and advice provided by the Women and Women’s Safety Ministerial Council.
- Funding safe housing, financial support, and frontline services for women and children escaping violence.
- Amending telecommunications laws to ensure protections against gendered online abuse.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	<p>Labour has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented all 55 recommendations of the Respect@Work Report, including the new positive duty to protect workers from sexual harassment, including changes to the <i>Sex Discrimination Act 1984</i> (Cth). • Legislated 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave into the <i>Fair Work Act 2009</i> (Cth). • Expanded the Workplace Gender Equality Agency reporting to include the APS. • Signed a \$700 million National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses. • Funded 33 new women’s shelters and proposed to invest \$100,000 million in transitional housing for women and children fleeing violence (bringing emergency accommodation places to around 1,500), as well as building 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties (with 4,000 for women and children who have experienced family violence). 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to auditing and strengthening Federal systems to reduce opportunities for abuse, including with respect to child support, tax, and social security. <p>Labor has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to developing and implementing nationally consistent safety regulatory controls to prevent work-related gendered violence, bullying, sexual and gender-based harassment, which disproportionately impact women. Committed to fully fund housing for persons escaping family and domestic violence. In 2023 – 2024, 48,900 persons needed short-term accommodation due to family and domestic violence, with only 33,600 receiving support (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2025). 	
COALITION	<p>The Coalition has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to supporting the extension of emergency payments for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Committed to make it an offence to use mobile phones and computers to cause an intimate partner or family member to fear for their safety (e.g., via tracking, spying, or engaging in coercive behaviour). <p>The Coalition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has not committed to the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. Has not committed to express housing allocations for women and children fleeing family and domestic violence. Did not expressly commit to introducing a positive duty to protect workers from sexual harassment, considering that it would need to assess whether this amendment would create further complexity, uncertainty or duplication for businesses that already needed to comply with safety laws (A Roadmap for Respect: Preventing and Addressing Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces, 2021). 	
GREENS	<p>The Greens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to fully fund the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children with \$12 billion over 12 years. Increase funding for recovery services and raise the Escaping Violence Payment to better support survivors. 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a mandatory code of conduct for dating apps to make them safer. Expand Staying Home Leaving Violence Program so survivors can remain in their homes. Roll out a national Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme to help people who may be at risk of domestic violence find out if their current or former partner has a history of violent criminal offences. Invest in respectful relationship education and include consent training in initial teacher education. Commission regular student safety surveys to track sexual violence and ensure accountability in universities. Conduct an independent review of the higher education regulator, TEQSA, to improve campus safety. Pilot restorative justice programs to better support survivors. Improve access to victims' compensation schemes and research the systemic patterns of violence against women. <p>Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed at www.agec.org.au/2025-federal-election/</p>	
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	<p>Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed at www.agec.org.au/2025-federal-election/. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.</p>	

ECONOMIC SECURITY

AGEC advocates for:

- Implementing the *Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Setting Gender Equality Targets) Bill 2024*.
- Expanding the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* (Cth) to require pay gap reporting for employers with 50-99 employees, including State and Local Governments.
- Legislating for superannuation payments on all earned income and supplement the superannuation contributions of caregivers, sole traders, long-term casual employees, and those who take time out for family or caring responsibilities.
- Committing to rebalancing remuneration and benefits across all industries to gain traction in closing the gender pay gap.
- Committing to requiring financial institutions and retirement funds to have systems in place to prevent economic coercion and control.

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	<p>Labour has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the <i>Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Setting Gender Equality Targets) Bill 2024</i>. • Supported wage rises for low paid workers (who are more likely to be women) and funded wage rises for aged care workers and early childhood educators. • Supported flexible work from home and promises to protect flexible work • Promised to work with the Fair Work Commission to address its findings of gender undervaluation • Promised to look to stop perpetrators claiming their victims' superannuation after death and consult on changes to tax and social security law so that perpetrators are accountable for debts they accrue through financial abuse <p>Labour has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to increasing pay gap reporting for employers with 50 – 99 employees. • Legislated superannuation payments on all income earned. • Legislated to require financial institutions and retirement funds to have mechanisms in place to prevent economic coercion and control. 	
COALITION	<p>The Coalition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposed the <i>Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Setting Gender Equality Targets) Bill 2024</i> (Angie Bell MP, 2024). • Considered that “many women don’t want to be CEOs of companies or take leadership roles” and proposed that “you cannot possibly compare women who are working in the childcare sector, as an example, to men who work in the construction industry” (Colin Boyce MP, 2024). <p>The Coalition has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to increasing pay gap reporting for employers with 50 – 99 employees. • Committed to legislating superannuation payments on all income earned. 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to requiring financial institutions and retirement funds to have mechanisms in place to prevent economic coercion and control. 	
GREENS	<p>Promises include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost super for carers by \$500 annually for primary carers earning under \$37,000 while caring for young children or children with disabilities. Pay super on carers' payments, working with Carers Australia to establish super payments for those receiving carers' payments. Double the low-income super tax offset to increase the cap to \$1,000 and the threshold to \$45,000. Extend gender pay gap reporting, requiring businesses and public sector employers with 50 or more employees to report gender pay data, ensuring transparency and accountability. Help address systemic gender pay inequality and protect against real wage cuts by selectively supporting union proposals for wage increases. Increase Paid Parental Leave to 52 weeks, increasing the "use it or lose it" component for secondary carers, providing superannuation payments and expanding eligibility. <p>Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge.</p>	
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.	

WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

AGECE advocates for:

- Legislating default hybrid working arrangements in sectors where it is possible, allowing women the flexibility needed to balance workforce participation with family and caregiving responsibilities.
- Providing universal free childcare, ensuring that every child has access to free, accessible, and high-quality childcare.
- Directing the Australian Productivity Commission to research the most effective implementation of targets and quotas for companies, ensuring equitable gender representation throughout the employee lifecycle. This includes addressing male-dominant industries where women have historically been underrepresented, and female-dominant industries, fostering a more inclusive workforce at all levels.

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- Investing in more effective pathways for women to upskill, reskill and shift career into jobs of the future – such as digital automation, and technical roles in advanced manufacturing, transport & logistics, clean energy, and other critical infrastructure/utilities.
- Immediate introduction of 26 weeks paid parental leave and leave for carers.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	<p>Labor has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed the <i>Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Setting Gender Equality Targets) Bill 2024</i>. • Expanded paid parental leave from 18 weeks to 6 months in 2026. • Strengthened workplace flexibility through amendments in the <i>Secure Jobs, Better Pay</i> reforms. • Committed to protecting flexible work, including working from home. • Committed to deliver a 3 Day Guarantee for childcare, where every child is guaranteed access to at least 3 days of high-quality education and care. • Supported 600,000 Free TAFE places with women making up more than 50% of enrolments, including targets for women apprentices on major government construction and ICT projects throughout Australia through the Australian skills guarantee. <p>Labour has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to universal free childcare in this Federal Election. • Committed to 26 paid leave for carers. 	
COALITION	<p>The Coalition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has backed local solutions to provide better access to flexible childcare and education services for families living in rural, regional and remote communities. • Opposed the <i>Workplace Gender Equality Amendment (Setting Gender Equality Targets) Bill 2024</i> (Angie Bell MP, 2024). • Considered that “many women don’t want to be CEOs of companies or take leadership roles” and proposed that “you cannot possibly compare women who are working in the childcare sector, as an example, to men who work in the construction industry” (Colin Boyce MP, 2024). 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<p>The Coalition has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committed to increasing pay gap reporting for employers with 50 – 99 employees. • Committed to legislating superannuation payments on all income earned. • Committed to requiring financial institutions and retirement funds to have mechanisms in place to prevent economic coercion and control. 	
GREENS	<p>Green's Promises include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmative action initiatives which facilitate the equal representation and participation of women in public life, employment, and cultural and social opportunities, including women from diverse backgrounds. • A minimum of 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave as part of the National Employment Standards. • Equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities for promotion or advancement, and women to be free from systemic discrimination in the workplace. • All Australian workplaces to actively support women being promoted to senior and leadership positions, with public targets and transparent disclosure on progress towards reaching parity. • A comprehensive and gender-neutral paid parental leave scheme. • Specific initiatives in schools, vocational education and universities that promote careers in, and provide positive interactions for, women and girls in traditionally male-dominated careers. • Family-friendly workplaces and public spaces. • Community-based, free, publicly-provided and operated, accessible, quality early childhood education and care. • Incentives for on-site early childhood education and care facilities in workplaces • To end the gender wealth gap, and provide a universal, equitable income that effectively and adequately provides women with financial independence, including in retirement. <p>Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed on AGECE's website.</p>	
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	<p>Helen Haines MP – universal access to early education and care.</p>	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<p>Bob Katter - equal rates of government-funded parental assistance for not only working mothers, but stay-at-home mums as well.</p> <p>Monique Ryan - accessible and affordable universal early childhood education and care.</p> <p>Zoe Daniel - access to a minimum of three days of ECEC that is free or at a low set fee.</p> <p>Kylea Tink - equal rights for parents to access paid parental leave and universal access to early childhood education and care.</p> <p>Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed on AGECE's website. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.</p>	

EDUCATION & CULTURE CHANGE

AGECE advocates for:

- Revising the national curriculum to eliminate gender bias and mandating education on respectful relationships, consent, and workplace equality.
- Ensuring gender balance in STEM education and vocational training through funding, scholarship programs and national targets.
- Strengthening laws and regulations on media and advertising to eliminate gender bias and ensuring equal representation of women in leadership, sport, and entertainment.
- Funding a public education campaign to positively shift the perception of women as leaders with reference to those standing for public office.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	<p>Labor has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported 600,000 Free TAFE places with women making up more than 50% of enrolments, including targets for women apprentices on major government construction and ICT projects throughout Australia through the Australian skills guarantee. • Funding evidence-based consent and respectful relationships education in schools. • Funding the national <i>Consent Can't Wait</i> and <i>Stop it at the Start</i> campaigns. 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	Labor has not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to AGECE's Federal Election Pledge with respect to the national curriculum, media laws and public campaigns on women standing for public office. 	
COALITION	No policy or commitment.	
GREENS	Greens promises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to address the objectification of all genders, as well as sexism, gender and sexuality-based bullying and violence, and rape culture across the media and entertainment industries and online platforms. Measures to address sexism, gender- and sexuality-based bullying and violence, and rape culture online. Women to have equal access to appropriate, well-resourced education services - from early childhood education through to higher education - which recognise the specific barriers women face in accessing education. The principles of gender equity to be taught in schools. Specific initiatives in schools, vocational education and universities that promote careers in, and provide positive interactions for, women and girls in traditionally male-dominated careers. <p>Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed at www.agece.org.au/2025-federal-election/</p>	
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.	

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

AGEC advocates for:


- Addressing the structural inequality in women's health and research.
- Resolving access to primary health services for women's health nationally with a particular focus on regional and rural access including funding free sanitary products for everyone who menstruates and free abortions nation-wide.
- Maintaining and improving upon the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030, which addresses all aspects of reproductive and non-reproductive health, including a specific focus on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women.

PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
LABOR	<p>Labor has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established the National Women's Health Advisory Council to advise on delivering health outcomes for women. • Opened endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics in every state and territory (22 across the country and committed to increasing these to 33 if re-elected). • Expanded access to sexual and reproductive healthcare (including removing several restrictions to emergency contraception). • Increased listings of oral contraceptives and menopause therapies on the PBS. • Committed to establishing better access to long-term contraceptives. • Committed to trialling further access to treatment of UTIs and contraception from pharmacies. • Proposed to open 50 more Medicare Urgent Clinics to 4 in 5 Australians will live within 20 minutes of an urgent clinic. • Proposed to include 31 new and upgraded Medicare Mental Health Centres. <p>Labor has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided much detail of how it will focus on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and this is a key gap in its policy commitment. 	
COALITION	The Coalition has:	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed to invest in cancer treatments such as specialist cancer nurses to support Australians with Ovarian cancer. Committed to deliver new investments in best-practice women's health issues such as endometriosis, menopause, and per-menopause. Reviewing women-specific health items under the PBS to ensure women are provided with the best support. Continue support for timely access to medicines through community pharmacies. Committed to double Medicare-subsidised mental health sessions from 10 to 20 on a permanent basis and will invest \$400 million to re-build the GP workforce. Provide practical solutions to improve health outcomes for Indigenous women and children. 	
GREENS	<p>The Greens have positioned themselves as the only major party proposing a major expansion of Medicare, with a policy to include fully subsidised dental and mental health services. It includes 1000 free local health care clinics. The cost over ten years is \$54b.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support people experiencing reproductive health issues by introducing 12 days of paid, gender-inclusive reproductive health leave per year Enhance access to IVF by removing the infertility requirement and doubling Medicare rebates, ensuring equitable access for LGBTIQ+ individuals and altruistic surrogacy. Provide free period products, ensuring pads and tampons are available in all public schools and other locations, such as hospitals, libraries, and transport hubs. <p>Make contraceptives free by funding all TGA-approved contraceptive options, procedure fees, and contraceptive counselling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve abortion access through free public abortion care. Support menopause treatment through subsidised hormone therapy, enhanced GP diagnostic tools, and national awareness campaigns. Establish and fund five culturally appropriate Birthing on Country maternity hubs for First Nations families to reduce maternal and infant mortality. <p>Many Greens have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge.</p>	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
INDEPENDENTS OR MINOR PARTY	<p>Dr Monique Ryan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better primary healthcare for all Australians, including mental health care. • Universal basic dental care through Medicare. • A National Women’s Health Strategy for all aspects of reproductive and non-reproductive health. • Reform of the private health sector. <p>Allegra Spender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the mental health crisis – through increased investment in mental health services and workforce, better integration of state and federal services, and smarter ways of supporting consumers between primary and specialist healthcare providers. • Improving affordability of primary care – with a greater focus on preventative measures and better matching of services (like GP visits) to the needs of patients. <p>Helen Haines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a dedicated \$2 billion Building Rural Hospitals Fund, providing competitive and needs-based investment for new buildings, equipment and planning. • \$23 million to train more rural doctors, and \$10 million to train more nurses and allied health workers. • Expand prac payments to include medical students and allied health students. <p>Kylea Tink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coordinated response to identify and address underlying systemic issues driving unprecedented mental health distress. • An immediate ‘Interim Review’ of our experiences during COVID-19 to enable better planning and greater preparedness; including the release of final recommendations on the Medicare Item number review. • Revitalise and increase our health and aged care workforce. • Establish a National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and the roll-out of an appropriately resourced National Preventive Health Strategy. 	

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PARTY	POSITION	TRAFFIC LIGHT
	<p>Dr Sophie Scamps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheaper and easier access healthcare via GPs and hospitals • Boost mental health services so everyone, especially young people, can access help when needed • Reduce health costs through greater federal investment in public hospitals • Improve the health of young Australians by banning junk food advertising targeted at children and young people • Prioritising long-term public health planning and training • Creating a national climate, health and wellbeing strategy to ensure health system is prepared and can respond to the impacts of climate change <p>Zali Steggall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reliable and affordable healthcare: continue to protect access to essential services and support for those most in need. • Effective healthcare: An effective and efficient NDIS, aged-care and healthcare sector • Equity in the provision of healthcare: Ensure equitable access to quality healthcare, education and mental health services. <p>Many Independent and Minor Party candidates have taken the AGECE Federal Election Candidate Pledge. They are listed on AGECE's website. We have given a green ranking to every candidate who has pledged.</p>	

References

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