

Engagement kit – silent electors

2024 local government elections



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My local park
My local vote

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTIONS
16 March 2024



Electoral
Commission
QUEENSLAND

ecq.qld.gov.au

Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland, Brisbane.



Dear supporter

Queenslanders will head to the polls on 16 March 2024 to **vote local** – and have a say about the things that matter to them in their local communities.

Around 3.7 million Queenslanders will be eligible to vote in the elections and will choose the mayors and councillors who will represent them for the next four years.

While voting is compulsory, it's also a right and responsibility in our democracy. We want to help ensure voting is quick and easy for everyone but also safe for people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing family and domestic violence.

To support this, we would like to alert you to the 'silent elector' option which is available for Queenslanders who may be at risk. Your assistance in discreetly promoting this option to your clients and networks will help more people to participate in the election safely.

When an elector is 'silent', it means their address is not included on the electoral roll. While this helps to keep people safe from perpetrators, the broad promotion of publicly available address information on the electoral roll may inadvertently assist perpetrators to locate victims, whose address is visible on the electoral roll.

This is why discreet promotion of this option is important.

Can you help us?

We'd appreciate your support in discreetly sharing the [resources](#) in this kit with your networks.

In this kit, you'll find:

- direct email communication sample
- a sample newsletter article for internal distribution
- [silent elector factsheet](#)
- posters for your lunchroom/staff notice board/shelters
- links to videos to share
- frequently asked questions and resources.

Over the next two months you'll also see our **vote local** advertising campaign which will run across a broad range of traditional and digital channels.

Please like and follow our social media accounts to stay up-to-date with the latest information about the 2024 local government elections.

Sharing our messages with your networks is another great way you can assist us and help ensure people have the information they need to vote without compromising their safety.

If you have any enquiries, please email us at communication@ecq.qld.gov.au.

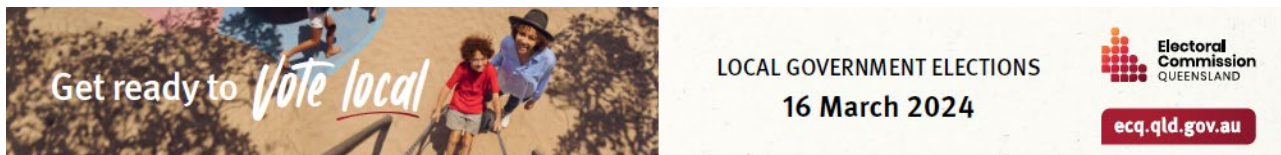
Thank you for your support,

ECQ Communication
Electoral Commission of Queensland



Client communications – email

[Click [here](#) for an email header]



Dear XX

The 2024 local government elections are coming up on 16 March and it will be compulsory for all eligible Queenslanders to vote. Now's the time to consider whether applying to become a silent elector might help you to vote safely in the elections.

You can apply for this option if you believe that having your address shown on the publicly available electoral roll could put you or your family at risk. Silent enrolment means your address will not be shown on future editions of the electoral roll. It's also important that others living in your household who are eligible to vote also register as a silent elector to minimise risk of a perpetrator learning your address through mutual household residents.

If you'd like to explore this option, head to the AEC website at aec.qld.gov.au or refer to the attached factsheet which will help you through this process.



Internal communications – sample article

Get ready to *vote local* on 16 March 2024

When Queenslanders **vote local** at the 2024 council elections, they'll be voting for the decision-makers who will shape their local communities.

Voting in a local government election is about more than just local pools and wheelie bins. It's about choosing the mayors and councillors that you want to represent you, in your local community.

Now's the time to make sure you're ready to vote on 16 March 2024 and ensure your voice will be heard.

While voting is compulsory, your safety is also important.

Enrolled to vote

Now is the time to make sure your enrolment details are up-to-date. If you're not on the electoral roll, you can't have your say. Visit aec.gov.au to enrol to vote or update your details.

If you have teenagers in your life who will turn 18 before or on 16 March (election day) you can also help them get ready to vote. All eligible 16 and 17-year-olds can provisionally enrol now, which means that when they turn 18, they're automatically enrolled to vote.

Protect your safety and become a silent elector

You can apply to be registered as a silent elector if you believe that having your address listed on the electoral roll could put you or your family at risk. Silent enrolment means your address will not be readily available on the electoral roll. It's also important that others living in your household who are eligible to vote also register as a silent elector to minimise risk.



My local pool
My local vote

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Voting services for silent electors

fact sheet

2024 local government elections

Queenslanders will vote in the local government elections on Saturday 16 March 2024.

If you may be at risk, it's important to plan ahead now for how you will have your say. In this fact sheet you'll find information about how you can vote quickly, easily and safely.

Are you at risk?

You can apply to be registered as a **silent elector** if you believe that having your address shown on the publicly available electoral roll could put you or your family at risk.

What is a silent elector?

Silent enrolment means your address will not be shown on future editions of the publicly available electoral roll.

It's also important that others living in your household who are eligible to vote also register as a silent elector to minimise risk of a perpetrator discovering your address.

How do I register?

Complete a registration form to become a silent elector. Visit the AEC website at aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/Special_Category/silent-electors.htm. **You must register as a silent voter by Monday 5 February 2024** and tick the option to receive your ballot papers in the mail.

How do I vote?



Postal voting

As a silent elector, you'll automatically receive your voting materials in the mail.

Remember to read the instructions carefully before you begin. You can complete your vote as soon as you receive it.

All postal votes must be received by the ECQ by 5pm Tuesday 26 March 2024 to be included in the count.

Visit the ECQ website to watch a short video about postal voting and how it works.

ecq.qld.gov.au/how-to-vote/how-to-cast-your-vote/postal-voting.



Telephone voting

Telephone voting is available for eligible electors, including silent electors.

To protect the integrity, secrecy and security of your vote there are a number of steps to follow, so remember to allow sufficient time for this process.

- 1. Register:** call 1300 912 782 from 9am on Monday 4 March to noon on Saturday 16 March 2024.
- 2. Vote:** from 9am on Monday 4 March to 6pm on polling day, Saturday 16 March 2024.



Voting in person

You can vote in person if you are a silent elector, but you will need to complete a declaration vote at the booth, as your details will not appear on the electoral roll. Ask for the booth supervisor when you arrive, identify yourself as a silent elector and they will assist you.

If you are planning to vote in person, you must vote in your local government area either at an early voting centre or polling place on election day.

Visit the ECQ website ecq.qld.gov.au to find your nearest location and early voting hours.

For more information about support with voting call us on 1300 888 665 or visit the ECQ website.

ecq.qld.gov.au



RESOURCES FOR YOUR INTERNAL STAFF USE

Posters

[Download](#) a copy for your work lunchroom or staff notice board, lunch room or shelter. A4 and A3 sizes are available.



Videos

You can [download videos](#) and embed them in you staff emails. We have 3 videos:

1. Ways to vote
2. Applying for a postal vote
3. Counting the vote

Frequently asked questions

Is voting compulsory?

Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years or older. If you do not vote, you may receive a fine. On 16 March 2024, it will be compulsory for all enrolled Queenslanders to vote for the mayor and councillors they want to represent them for the next four years.

Are you enrolled to vote?

Visit aec.gov.au to enrol to vote or to check your details are up-to-date.

Have you changed address?

If you've changed address since the last election, you'll need to update your details on the electoral roll to ensure you are voting in the correct council area. Update your details at aec.gov.au.

What is local government?

Local government is also known as your local council.

Why do I need to vote in council elections?

When you vote for the mayor and councillors who will represent you in your community, you're having a say about the decision-makers who will shape the local community where you live.

Council services include cultural and sporting facilities, town planning, local roads, waste management, land and coast care programs, pet registration and more.

Why is voting important?

Governments make decisions about services, laws and protections that impact on every part of our lives. By voting, you are part of this decision-making and making a choice about how your community is run.

If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose your representatives for you. The best way to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community, is to vote.



How to vote in the council elections

- **Vote on election day, 16 March 2024** – bring your maroon Voter Information Card with you for quicker voting. You can vote from 8am to 6pm on election day in your community.
- **Vote before election day** – you can vote before election day – check the [ECQ website](#) for early voting times in your community.
- **Vote by post** – if you will be away on election day you can apply on the [ECQ website](#) for a postal vote. Applications open on Monday 29 January 2024 and close at 7pm on Monday 4 March 2024. You can complete your vote straight away but remember to read the instructions carefully first. Return your postal vote as soon as you can. The ECQ must receive it by 5pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024. Visit the ECQ website to watch a [video about postal voting](#).
- **Voting by telephone** – telephone voting is available for people who cannot attend a polling booth because they are a silent elector, away, or need assistance to vote. Check the website to see if you are eligible before registering. [Registration](#) for eligible people is from 9am on Monday 4 March until noon on Saturday 16 March 2024. You can vote from 4 March to 6pm on election day, 16 March 2024.

What is a Voter Information Card?

A Voter Information Card may be sent to your enrolled address before an election in Queensland, depending on when your silent elector registration was approved.

If you do receive a card, it will be personalised to you and includes your council area and a barcode that election staff can scan at a polling place to help you get in and out quicker. An electronic version is also sent to you if you have added your email address to the electoral roll.

How do I know which council area I am enrolled in?

Your council area is on your Voter Information Card or you can find out at the [ECQ website](#). You must vote in your local council area.

Is there help for people who do not speak English or have limited English?

Every polling place in Queensland will have voting information in 25 languages. Ask a staff member for the [Multilingual Guide](#) when you arrive to vote. If the language you need is not available in the Guide, a telephone translation and interpreting service is available through Language Loop. Election staff can assist you with these contact details.

Is there help for people with accessibility needs?

Check the [My Polling Booth webpage](#) for the accessibility access at polling booths in your local area. If you have mobility issues you can also vote from your car. Call the phone number of the booth supervisor, which can be found on a sign out the front of the voting centre, and an election official will help.

I need help to fill out my ballot paper.

If you need help when voting, another person can assist you in the polling booth. This person may act as an interpreter, read, and explain the ballot paper instructions, complete the ballot paper according to your instructions and place the ballot paper in the ballot box.



I heard something about the election that doesn't sound right.

The ECQ is Queensland's team of electoral experts, so if you hear or see something you're not sure about, visiting our [Election Facts webpage](#) will help ensure you have the facts about elections.



If you're sharing information, always check that it is a trustworthy source.

