Election results and XML feed
2024 State general election
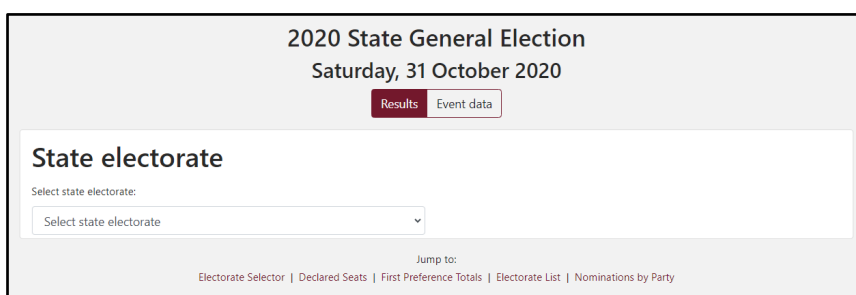
Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

Where to find election results on the ECQ website

Election results are published on the ECQ website progressively throughout the vote counting process, commencing after the close of polls at 6pm on election day, Saturday, 26 October 2024.

In Queensland, all votes are counted by hand by election officials, so please be patient while waiting for results to start flowing through.

The link to the results website will be published on the ECQ website home page and 2024 State general election web page during election day on 26 October. The display and format of results will be consistent with the publication of the 2020 State general election results.

Vote counting process – State general election

On election night

Counting the votes in an election is a process that takes time. Every vote in Queensland elections is counted by hand by election officials – and getting the results right is the ECQ's priority.

View the Counting the Votes animation on the ECQ website to learn more about how the vote counting process works.

The count commences at 6pm across Queensland with what is referred to as the **preliminary count**. Please note that no declarations are made on election night, because all votes must be counted more than once.

On election night, preliminary counts for first preference and indicative (two candidate preferred) counts will be conducted on the following vote types:

- early (pre-poll) votes
- election day votes
- returned postal votes
- mobile polling votes.

When election night counting has concluded, a banner advising 'Final for the night' will be published on the results page.

After election night

The **official count** begins on the day immediately after election day. It will continue until all remaining votes are received and counted. This includes postal votes as they are returned, absent votes as they are exchanged between Returning Officers and in-person declaration votes as they are scrutinised. Results will be updated progressively on the ECQ website.

The final stage of counting for a State general election (which uses the full preferential voting method) is the **distribution of preferences**.

The distribution of preferences will commence once all ballot papers are on hand, which means the ECQ must wait until after the cut-off for the return of postal votes to start a preference count. Preferences are distributed until there are only two candidates remaining in the count and one has a majority.

Declarations

A declaration is made as soon as the outcome of the individual contest is certain. In some circumstances, a distribution of preferences may be required to determine the outcome of an election.

It is important to note that counting may not be completed until after the deadline for return of postal votes, which is 10 days after election day.
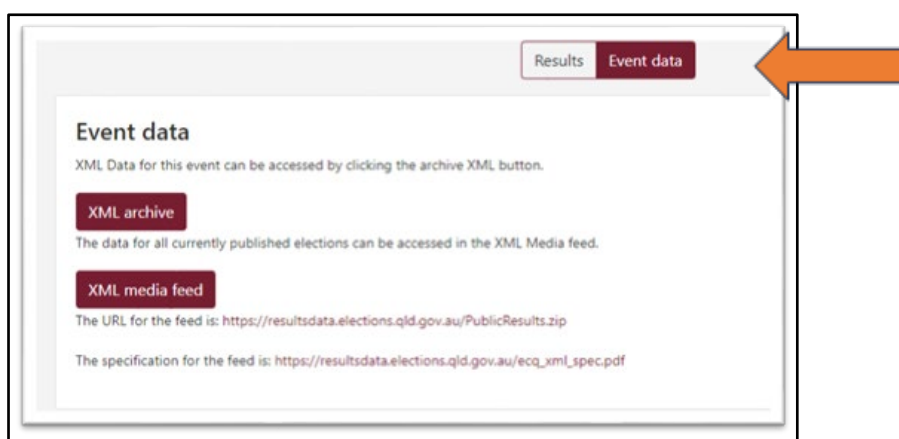
Once individual declarations are made, a notification will be published on the results website.

XML feed

Election results will be available directly from the ECQ results website which displays current information for each electoral district.

In addition, raw results data is published through an XML data feed available to certain users such as media outlets reporting on election results. This XML data feed is not suited for general public use, but is designed for use by customed software that can extract, search, filter and represent the raw results data to suit niche requirements.

The XML feed is publicly available through the 'Event data' tab on the election results website.

This page includes:

- **XML archive** – the final XML data file for selected past election events.
- **XML media feed** – the most recent version of the XML file for active (undeclared) elections.

- **XML user specification document** – the user specification details the format and contents of the feed (this document is currently under review and will be updated prior to the commencement of the election in October 2024).
- **XML schema** – this schema is relevant for programmers to integrate with their specialist software.

The XML feed will display results for all active elections while the count is ongoing and prior to the declaration of results. On election night, the data feed will be refreshed approximately every five minutes while results are entered by Returning Officers across Queensland.

How to access the secure XML portal

To access the secure XML portal that provides access to additional results data and files through a SFTP directory, the system accessing the files needs to be identified and whitelisted.

To request that your system be whitelisted to access the secure XML portal, **you will need to email the public IPv4 address from the system accessing the files to media@ecq.qld.gov.au** (you can confirm your IPv4 address details here: https://whatismyipaddress.com/).

Once you have submitted your request and your IP address has been whitelisted, a confirmation email will be sent to you with further instructions about how to connect to the SFTP directory.

The SFTP directory contains the following files:

- The most recent copy of the XML results file (**\publicResults.zip**). The XML zip file is copied to the root directory location at scheduled intervals. During election night the update frequency will be every 5 minutes. A new XML file is only produced if at least one vote has been recorded by Returning Officers in the preceding 5 minutes. The new XML file will be recorded in the root directory and will overwrite the existing publicResults.zip file. Archived XML files are saved in the 'Media' folder (refer below).
- A sample file from the 2020 State general election (**\SG2020sample-publicResults-20201029085719.zip**). This file includes actual data and candidate information from the 2020 State election for testing purposes.
- A sample zero file (**\zerofile.zip**). This file currently includes data for the 2024 local government elections but will be updated for the State election within 48 hours of completion of the candidate ballot draw.
- The schema (XSD file) for the XML feed (**publicResults-[Ver#].xsd**). This file displays the structure of the XML feed.
- A folder named '**Media'** which contains a '**Results'** sub-folder. This contains an archive of earlier publicResults.zip files renamed to include their date and time of origin. The naming convention for these files is based on the date and time the file was updated (i.e. yyyymmddhhmmss format).
- The **XML user specification document**. This document provides and overview of the format and content of the XML data feed (currently under review).

In mid-October 2024, an additional folder named '**Rehearsal'** will be made available. This folder will contain a list of time/date stamped publicresults.zip files. These files will be based on the 2024 State election and will include electorate, booth and candidate details. Please note it will contain test data and is provided for pre-event rehearsal / testing purposes only. These files will only represent the preliminary (election night) count and will not include any declarations.

If you require assistance with accessing these files, please email media@ecq.qld.gov.au who will liaise with the relevant technical team within ECQ.