

FEDERAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Electoral expenditure incurred by federal MPs and Senators

The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

This fact sheet relates to federal elected representatives who intend to produce and/or distribute any materials which seek to influence voting in a state or local government election in Queensland.

Federal elected representatives who incur electoral expenditure for Queensland state or local government elections are considered third parties under Queensland electoral laws. This is the case even if the representatives use federal expenses, allowances or resources to incur the expenditure.

All federal representatives must comply with third party obligations under the *Electoral Act 1992* (the EA) or the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (the LGEA). This includes complying with third party registration requirements, electoral expenditure caps, disclosure of expenditure and donations, and bank account requirements.

Please refer to [Fact sheet 31 – Funding and disclosure overview for third parties](#) for more details about third parties. [Fact sheet 12 – Definition of electoral expenditure](#) provides information about what is considered electoral expenditure.

Elected representatives at the federal level who incur electoral expenditure in Queensland local government elections are considered third parties for the elections.

This is the case even if the representatives use federal expenses, allowances or other public resources to incur expenditure.

Do third parties need to be registered?

If a third party, including a federal representative, spends or intends to spend more than \$6,000 on electoral expenditure during the capped expenditure period, the third party must register with the ECQ for the election.

For the 2024 local government elections, the capped expenditure period starts on 14 August 2023 and ends at 6pm on 16 March 2024 (election day).

For the 2024 Queensland state general election, the capped expenditure period starts on 2 April 2024 and ends at 6pm on 26 October 2024 (election day).

[Fact sheet 32 – Third party registration process](#) contains more information about registering a third party.

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More information

If you need more information relating to Funding, Disclosure and Compliance, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND

Do third parties have caps on electoral expenditure?

There are limitations (caps) on the amount of electoral expenditure that can be incurred by third parties during the capped expenditure period for a state or local government election.

For **unregistered third parties**, the expenditure cap amount is \$6,000 for both state and local elections.

For **registered third parties** in a **local government election**, the expenditure cap amount is the same as the capped amount that would apply to an individual mayoral candidate for the local government area where expenditure is incurred. Please refer to the [expenditure caps notice](#) for the caps for each individual council area.

For **registered third parties** in a **state election**, the expenditure cap amount is \$90,748.65 per electoral district and a total of \$1,043,087.97 across Queensland.

Please refer to [Fact sheet 36 – Electoral expenditure caps for third parties](#) for more information and details about calculating your expenditure cap.

Do third parties have disclosure obligations?

Third parties have disclosure obligations when making or receiving gifts or incurring electoral expenditure for a local government election. These obligations differ depending on whether the third party is registered for a state or local election.

Please refer to these fact sheets found at ecq.qld.gov.au/factsheets for more information.

For further information

This fact sheet refers to part 6 of the LGEA and part 11 of the EA. Legislation is available in full at legislation.qld.gov.au. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under Queensland electoral laws.

Federal parliamentarians also have obligations under the *Parliamentary Business Resources Act 2017* framework. Further information about those obligations is available at maps.finance.gov.au.

RELATED FACT SHEETS

- Fact sheet 8 – Record keeping
- Fact sheet 9 – Disclosure of gifts made
- Fact sheet 12 – Definition of electoral expenditure
- Fact sheet 14 – Election summary returns
- Fact sheet 31 – Funding and disclosure overview for third parties
- Fact sheet 32 – Third party registration process
- Fact sheet 33 – Dedicated campaign bank accounts for third parties
- Fact sheet 34 – Real-time disclosure of electoral expenditure for third parties
- Fact sheet 35 – Real-time disclosure of gifts and loans by third parties
- Fact sheet 36 – Expenditure caps for third parties

Fact sheets can be found at ecq.qld.gov.au/factsheets.

More information

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