

Vote ON WHAT COUNTS TO YOU

Media

Information

Kit

For the 2024 State general election



Message from the Electoral Commissioner

Members of the media

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) recognises the important role the media plays in educating and updating Queensland voters.

We are committed to ensuring voters receive accurate information about the electoral process and voting.

This *Media Information Kit: 2024 State General Election* is aimed at helping you navigate the election by providing information on the voting process and media coverage protocols.

It will also help you understand how the ECQ implements strict guidelines to ensure fair and transparent elections are delivered across diverse electorates, so every voter can access a confidential and secure voting experience.

We'll also provide information about how we deliver fair and transparent elections, in accordance with our responsibilities under the *Electoral Act 1992*.

We encourage you to contact our Media team with any queries via media@ecq.qld.gov.au or call 0438 120 699.

We are looking forward to working with you during the election period.

Thank you

Pat Vidgen PSM

Electoral Commissioner of Queensland



About the Electoral Commission of Queensland

The ECQ is Queensland's trusted provider of fair and transparent elections.

In addition to conducting state, local government and industrial elections and referendums, the ECQ also reviews state and local electoral boundaries and regulates and promotes compliance with electoral funding and disclosure requirements.

Helping all Queenslanders participate in elections is a key focus for the ECQ. We aim to deliver the most accessible elections possible through carefully planned and considered voting services, voting locations and communication materials.

Our vision is to deliver open, accountable and accessible electoral services for all Queenslanders. We aim to achieve this through four key strategic objectives:

1. Trusted to deliver Queensland elections
2. Increase electoral awareness and participation
3. Maintain election readiness
4. Promote and enforce compliance with electoral laws.

You can learn more about the ECQ by visiting our website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au/about-us.

Media enquiries

The ECQ's media inbox is your primary point of contact for any enquiries during the elections.

Before you get in contact with us, we encourage you to visit our website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au to search for the information you are seeking. Our website is the central point for official information about the election and will always provide the latest and most up-to-date information, including early voting numbers, count updates and results.

If you do require a response from us on any questions you have, please email media@ecq.qld.gov.au so that we can respond to you as quickly as possible. Please remember to include a timeframe for the response.

You can also call us on 0438 120 699 for any urgent matters or to request permission to attend a polling place.

The ECQ's media inbox and phone are monitored **during standard business hours 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday** (including public holidays) and between 7am and 11pm on election day.

Attending a polling place

Media representatives can attend polling places during the election period with prior permission of the ECQ.

This includes requests to attend a polling place after 6pm on election day to film the start of the count/emptying of the ballot box.

Permission must be obtained in advance by contacting the ECQ media team via media@ecq.qld.gov.au or 0438 120 699.

When you arrive at the polling place, please introduce yourself to the Returning Officer or Supervisor and let them know you have obtained permission to attend, and they will confirm these arrangements.

The Returning Officer or Supervisor will confirm the arrangements and direct you to an area which does not impede voters or staff.

Attendance at polling places is dependent on adhering to the following key principles:

- Respect the wishes of staff or voters who decline to be photographed or filmed.
- Respect the secrecy of the ballot. This means not filming, photographing or recording information written on a ballot paper, a person's Voter Information Card or personal details that may be visible on a screen.
- Do not speak to a voter while they're completing their ballot paper or ask how they voted while still inside the polling place.
- Refrain from touching ballot papers or ballot boxes or 'recreating' scenes for better effect.
- While inside the polling place, do not impede or disrespect the rights of voters, scrutineers or staff during voting or counting.

Voter services

Following the March 2024 local government elections, the ECQ has introduced improvements to electoral services to improve the overall voting experience. This includes extended early voting hours, increased election staffing levels, and more information about accessible voting.

Early voting centres will be open from 8am to 6pm weekdays for this election for the two weeks leading up to election day.

We are increasing our election workforce to ensure the voting process is quicker and easier.

State general elections also allow for early voting and election day voting at any polling place in Queensland, providing additional convenience to voters who may be travelling during the election period.

The ECQ's [Service Plan for the 2024 State General Election](#) provides an overview of the services and new measures being implemented for this election. The Service Plan sets out how the ECQ will deliver the 2024 State election for all Queenslanders and provides details about key election milestones, voter services, and post-election activities. It also includes details of changes to this election based on the review of the local government elections. These include more staff, extended early voting hours, additional information for voters requiring assistance to vote among others.

The election dates below are determined by legislation. The writ will specify additional dates such as the close of candidate nominations.

- Issue of writ – Tuesday 1 October 2024
- Candidate nominations open – Wednesday 2 October 2024
- Early voting period – Monday 14 October to Friday 25 October 2024 from 8am-6pm (excluding the weekend)
- Postal vote applications close – Monday 14 October 2024 at 7pm
- Election day – Saturday 26 October 2024 from 8am-6pm
- Postal vote return deadline – Tuesday 5 November 2024

The full election timetable will be published once the writ is issued.

Election facts

The ECQ's [Election Facts webpage](#) includes a register to help Queensland voters to stop and consider if information is factual before they share it online..

A new short animation video has been added to this page to provide information to voters about misinformation and disinformation. ECQ also has a register of common misinformation and people can also let us know if they see misinformation and disinformation.

The animation video will be live when the media kit is released.

The media plays a critical role in supporting the delivery of transparent and factual information to the public and this webpage will be a useful resource for media representatives looking for the facts about common misinformation and disinformation claims.

Contact information for the general public

Office:	Level 20, 1 Eagle Street Brisbane Queensland 4000	
Postal address:	GPO Box 1393 Brisbane Queensland 4001	
General enquiries during the election period:	Phone	1300 881 665 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday
	Email	ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au
Outside Australia:	Phone	+61 7 3035 8103

Our website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au is the central point for official information about the election, providing the latest and most up-to-date information, including early voting numbers, counting and results.

Social media

The ECQ will publish regular updates and key messages on its social media channels during the elections. Facebook is our primary social media channel, and we will also provide key updates via Instagram. X (formerly Twitter) will be used to advise of issued media releases.

Hashtags for the State general election are: #SGE2024 #QLDStateElection #ElectionsQld

Accessing election results

Election results are posted on the ECQ website as they become available.

When polling closes on election day at 6pm, the **preliminary count** commences. Results are updated progressively on the ECQ website.

An **indicative count** will occur on election night. This is where preferences are allocated to the two candidates likely to receive the most first preference votes. After the **preliminary count** and **indicative count** are completed, there is no further counting on election night.

This is followed by the **official count** of votes, conducted at the 93 Returning Officers' offices commencing from Sunday 27 October.

The count will continue, including the counting of postal votes as they are returned to the ECQ, until the election result is clear.

In some cases, it may be necessary to wait for the deadline for return of postal votes on **Tuesday 5 November** before declarations can be made.

Visit our resources page at www.ecq.qld.gov.au to view our short 'Counting the Votes' animation to help you understand the counting process.

An **XML feed of election results** will also be available through the ECQ results web page after the vote count commences. This feed will display results for all current elections while the count is ongoing and prior to declaration of election results.

To request access to the XML feed, email the media team at media@ecq.qld.gov.au and visit www.ecq.qld.gov.au/media to read the XML feed guide.

Declaration of results

The ECQ will not declare any result until it is certain. This means until mathematically, only one candidate can win.

All election results will be published progressively on the ECQ website.

Results will continue to be updated on the website until all the votes are counted and declarations will be made when the result of the election is clear.

It may be necessary in some contests to await the deadline for the return of postal votes before a declaration can be made.

At the conclusion of the election, the ECQ will publish a report on the election on the ECQ website.

Financial disclosure obligations

Queensland has some of the most comprehensive funding and disclosure regulations in the country, including real-time disclosure obligations of gifts and loans for State general election candidates.

All participants in a State election are obligated to disclose gifts and loans in real-time throughout the campaign. This requirement helps maintain the integrity of the electoral process and transparency around the movement of money during an election.

Disclosures are publicly available and can be viewed via the ECQ's [Electronic Disclosure System](#) (EDS).

The EDS is searchable by name, party, donor, electorate, date, gift value and more.

Candidates and parties have real-time disclosure obligations – which means gifts or loans must be disclosed within seven business days or within 24 hours during the last seven business days before election day.

Following the election, every candidate, registered political party who endorsed a candidate, and registered third party must submit an election summary return to the ECQ outlining gifts, loans and electoral expenditure.

The due date for election summary returns is 10 February 2025. They will be available to view on the EDS.

The ECQ takes a proactive approach to engaging with candidates and parties to ensure they are aware of their legislative responsibilities. Briefings have been held with registered political parties. Both registered political parties and known announced candidates in Queensland are updated regularly about their financial disclosure requirements through email.

For tips on how to navigate the EDS, view this [fact sheet](#) on the ECQ website.

Nominating as a candidate

Candidates contesting a State election may be endorsed by a registered political party or nominated by six electors enrolled in the electorate being contested.

A person becomes a candidate by formally nominating and being certified by the ECQ. A person may be considered a candidate prior to their nomination if they:

- have been announced or publicly indicated their intention to be a candidate in the election
- have otherwise indicated their intention to be a candidate in the election (e.g. by accepting a donation for the purpose of the election), or
- are an elected member.

In Queensland, people can be nominated as an independent candidate or an endorsed candidate of a registered political party.

Candidates have obligations under the [Electoral Act 1992](#) before, during and after an election, whether they are elected or not.

More information about candidates and other State election participants such as political parties, third parties / donors and associated entities, visit the [ECQ website](#).

Boundaries

Queensland is currently divided into 93 electoral districts.

At a State general election, electors in each electorate vote for one candidate to represent them in Parliament.

In 2017, electoral boundaries were redrawn to accommodate Queensland's growing and shifting population.

This was done to ensure each electorate has roughly the same number of voters to uphold the principle of one vote, one value.

To view the electorate maps, go to the State electorate boundaries page on the [ECQ website](#).

Enrolment

Every eligible Queensland voter has the right and responsibility to vote in our democracy.

Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 or over and the ECQ proactively promotes enrolment to help ensure as many Queenslanders as possible can have their say in elections.

Queensland's electoral roll is maintained by the Australian Electoral Commission under a joint roll arrangement. Electors can check or update their enrolment details online at www.aec.gov.au.

Penalties apply for failing to vote unless you have a valid and sufficient reason as outlined in the *Electoral Act 1992*. For the State general election in October, the penalty for failing to vote is \$161.30 (as at 1 July 2024).

Declaration Votes

Declaration votes are votes where the elector 'declares' they are eligible to vote because they are:

- postal voting
- voting in person, their name can't be found on the electoral roll and they believe they are enrolled
- voting in person, they have enrolled prior to election day and their name is not found on the roll.

Election officials will need to assist voters with this process as they will be required to place their completed ballot papers into a declaration envelope.

When these envelopes are opened during the count, the ECQ will check the voter's details against the electoral roll as it stands on 26 October 2024 to see if their vote can be included.

Election advertising and signage

The *Electoral Act 1992* regulates signage near polling places for early voting and election day voting.

There is a limit on the size and number of election signs which can be displayed within 100 metres of a polling place. For more information on signage regulations, refer to [Election signage fact sheet](#) on the ECQ website.

During an election period, any piece of election matter, that is anything that is able or intends to influence an elector about voting at an election or affect the result of the election, **MUST** be authorised. A proper authorisation includes the name and address of the person authorising the material.

Any person can authorise election material on a candidate's, party's or third party's behalf.

The authoriser's address must be a street address, not a PO Box. For further details, refer to the [Authorisation of election matter fact sheet](#) on the ECQ website.

The ECQ can only regulate signage and election material during the election period.

For a State general election this commences when the writ is issued and ends at the close of polls on election day.

However, the election process continues until all electorates are declared (the outcome is mathematically certain) and the writ is returned to the Governor.

Postal voting

In Queensland, any voter may apply for a postal vote. **The quickest and most direct way to request for a postal vote is via the ECQ's website.** Requests must be received by the ECQ by 7pm on Monday, 14 October 2024 to ensure the ECQ receives your request in time.

Postal voting materials can only be sent after candidate nominations close and the ballot paper order draw completed.

It should be noted that delivery of mail is ultimately outside of the ECQ's control once it has been lodged with Australia Post.

Telephone voting

The ECQ will offer telephone voting to eligible voters during the State general election.

To register for this service, voters should first check that they are eligible by reading the [Voting by telephone fact sheet](#).

Voters are eligible to vote by telephone if they:

- need assistance voting due to an impairment or insufficient literacy level
- are registered as a special postal voter who is not in lawful custody
- are enrolled at an address that is more than 20km from a polling place
- are out-of-state or overseas (including defence force personnel).

Eligible voters can register for this service once early voting begins (Monday 14 October at 8am) until 12 noon on election day Saturday 26 October by calling 1300 881 665 if within Australia and +61 7 3035 8107 if overseas.

In-person voting services

The ECQ has planned expanded hours for in-person voting for the State general election.

Early voting will commence at 8am on Monday 14 October. More than 200 early voting centres will be open across Queensland. Early voting centres will be open from 8am–6pm on weekdays from 14 October to Friday 25 October 2024.

On election day, all polling places will be open from 8am to 6pm. The [Find My Polling Booth](#) function on the ECQ's website will help Queenslanders locate the most convenient polling place. All polling places will be listed with accessibility information.

For a State general election, people can vote at any polling place in Queensland. There is no requirement to vote within your home electorate.

Voting in aged care facilities (declared institutions)

The ECQ arranges for election officials to visit some aged care facilities (also known as 'declared institutions') before election day. Residents of these facilities are able to vote at a polling booth set up in a public area or via mobile polling if they are unable to leave their rooms.

Staff and visitors are not eligible for this service, and locations will be available on the ECQ website. Representatives of interested aged care facilities should contact the ECQ to register as a declared institution.

More information about how the ECQ helps all Queenslanders to participate in the elections is available on the [ECQ website](#).

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