

# MEDIA INFORMATION KIT

FOR THE 2020 STATE GENERAL ELECTION

Resource





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## Message from the Commissioner

Members of the media,

This Media Information Kit has been developed to help you navigate the election process by providing information on legislation, statistics and key election milestones, and support you in ensuring electors receive accurate information about the election process and voting.



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

Elections are complex, and the impact of COVID-19 has created an additional level of complexity. The ECQ is very proud to have safely delivered the 2020 local government elections under very challenging circumstances and in line with the Chief Health Officer's guidelines. Crucially, no recorded COVID-19 infections resulted from in-person voting at these elections.

The state election brings its own circumstances and challenges and to help meet these, the [Electoral and Other Legislation \(Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters\) Amendment Act 2020](#) was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 18 June 2020. This Act included amendments that provide the ECQ with greater flexibility to respond to any COVID-19 challenges during the election period. Early postal vote registration is an example of this flexibility, providing electors with certainty and allowing the ECQ to effectively plan for the additional resources required to meet increased demand.

The Attorney General also issued the [Statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-19 Queensland General Election](#) on 17 June 2020. This provides a basis for delivery and outlines the guiding principles of the election. The ECQ subsequently released a [Statement of Intent](#) that outlines plans for the election with expanded in-person and postal voting options, and telephone voting for eligible electors. Health measures will be implemented based on advice from Queensland's Chief Health Officer. The [Election Service Plan](#) outlines the activities undertaken to deliver the election.

The ECQ recognises the important role the media plays in educating and updating Queensland electors. I encourage you to contact [media@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ecq.qld.gov.au) or call 0438 120 699 during office hours if you have any queries. In addition, ECQ's website is regularly updated and is a 'single source of truth' for the public and journalists alike.

Thank you,

Pat Vidgen PSM  
**Electoral Commissioner of Queensland**

## About the Commission

The ECQ is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 1992* (Qld).

The 2020 state general election is administered by the ECQ under the [Electoral Act 1992](#). For each electoral event the ECQ aims to improve ease of access to voting for all electors. Read more at [About us](#).

### ECQ functions

- conducting state, local and industrial elections and referendums
- reviewing state and local electoral boundaries
- regulating and promoting compliance with electoral funding and disclosure requirements.

For further details go to [ecq.qld.gov.au/about-us](http://ecq.qld.gov.au/about-us)



## Media enquiries

All media enquiries should be directed to [media@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ecq.qld.gov.au) or **0438 120 699**.

The email address and phone number are monitored during standard business hours – 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday (including public holidays), and between 7am and the close of counting on election day. We give a commitment to providing a comprehensive response within deadline whenever possible.

Take time to familiarise yourself with the ECQ's website. It has a wealth of useful information relevant to candidates, political parties, third parties, funding and disclosure as well as voting options and systems. Throughout the election period, updates will be regularly posted under the [Media tab](#).

## Social media

The ECQ publishes regular media releases and key messages throughout the electoral period on the website under the [Media tab](#), and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Hashtags are #haveyoursay and #SGE2020.

## General contact information

The ECQ's office	Level 20, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000
The ECQ's postal address	GPO Box 1393, Brisbane Queensland 4001
General enquiries during the election period	Phone 1300 881 665 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Saturday, 24 October 8am to 6pm election day, Saturday 31 October
From outside Australia	Phone +61 7 3035 8103 Fax +61 7 3036 5776
Fax	(07) 3036 5776
General email	<a href="mailto:ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au">ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au</a>
Media email	<a href="mailto:media@ecq.qld.gov.au">media@ecq.qld.gov.au</a>
Media phone	0438 120 699
website	<a href="http://ecq.qld.gov.au">ecq.qld.gov.au</a>

## 2020 State general election fast facts

<b>Number of electorates</b>	93
<b>Electors</b>	Approximately 3.3 million
<b>Election day for the State general election is</b>	Every four years on the last Saturday in October – 31 October in 2020
<b>Voting system</b>	Full preferential voting
<b>Enrolling to vote/updating details</b>	<a href="http://aec.gov.au">aec.gov.au</a>
<b>Candidate nominations</b>	Open 7 October, the day after the issue of the writ, and closing date specified in the writ
<b>Postal vote applications</b>	Open on Monday 14 September at <a href="http://ecq.qld.gov.au">ecq.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Early voting centres</b>	Approximately 200 across Queensland
<b>Election day voting centres</b>	Approximately 1,300 across Queensland
<b>Election results</b>	Results are declared when the outcome is <b>mathematically certain</b>
<b>Election updates</b>	<a href="http://ecq.qld.gov.au">ecq.qld.gov.au</a>

## Fact Sheets

The ECQ has developed a suite of election fact sheets that will continue to be expanded leading up to the election, to explain key aspects of election operations. The fact sheets are available on the [2020 State General Election webpage](#) and include:

- [Your vote makes a difference](#)
- [Telephone voting](#)
- [Telephone voting for overseas electors](#)
- [Journey of your postal vote](#)
- [Voting options](#)
- [Full preferential voting](#)
- [Voter Information Card](#) (VIC)
- [Counting votes](#)
- [Types of votes](#)
- [Stop and Consider](#).

## Enrolment

Enrolment and voting in an election are compulsory for all eligible electors aged 18 and over.

Queensland's electoral roll is maintained by the Australian Electoral Commission under a joint roll arrangement. Electors can check or update their enrolment details on the Australian Electoral Commission website [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au). The ECQ's ads about enrolling to vote will be available on YouTube and the ECQ's website.

The date for the close of the electoral roll for the 2020 state general elections will be designated in the writ.

Electors can still enrol or update their address details until 6pm on Friday 30 October (the day before election day). This means casting a **declaration vote**. A declaration vote requires the elector to complete further details when casting their vote.

## Election timeline

The *Electoral Act 1992* establishes timeframes for the conduct of state general elections, as detailed in the timetable below. On 18 June, the state government passed additional legislation specific to the running of the election in 2020.

The [Electoral and Other Legislation \(Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters\) Amendment Act 2020](#) provides the ECQ with greater flexibility to respond to any COVID-19 challenges during the election period. Early postal vote registration is an example of this flexibility.

## Key milestones for the 2020 Queensland general election

Key election dates will be detailed when the Governor issues the writ that will call the election, in accordance with the *Electoral Act 1992* the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*. Those dates with an \* may be varied under the legislative framework for the 2020 State general election.

2020 state general election	Date
Postal vote applications open	14 September Dates for postal vote applications set by <a href="#">notice</a> issued by the Electoral Commissioner
<b>Issue of the writ</b>	6 October Under the <i>Constitution of Queensland 2001</i> , the Governor must dissolve the Legislative Assembly and issue a writ for a general election 26 days before the normal polling day
Candidate nominations open	7 October after the issue of the writ
*Electoral roll closes	Between five and seven days after the issue of the writ
*Candidate nominations close	Sunday 11 October at 12 noon
Ballot paper candidate order draw	Immediately following the close of nominations
Postal vote ballots progressively dispatched	Following the ballot draw and printing of ballot papers
Postal vote applications close	16 October Dates for postal vote applications set by <a href="#">notice</a> issued by the Electoral Commissioner
Early voting commences	19 October
Electronically <b>assisted voting (telephone voting)</b> commences	19 October
Cut-off for lodging how-to-vote cards with ECQ for approval	23 October at 5pm
Early voting closes	30 October at 6pm
<b>Election day</b>	<b>Saturday 31 October, with voting from 8am to 6pm</b> Under the <i>Constitution of Queensland 2001</i> , the normal polling day for an ordinary general election is the last Saturday in October every four years.
Preliminary (unofficial) counting of votes	Saturday 31 October after the close of polls at 6pm
<b>Official counting of votes begins</b>	Sunday 1 November
Last day for postal votes to be received	10 November
Election results declared	Progressively when the outcome is mathematically certain
<b>Return of the writ</b>	As listed on the writ – Wednesday 9 December
Final day for election results to be disputed	7 days after the return of the writ
Election summary returns due	Within 15 weeks after election day



## Election Service Plan

The ECQ has released an [Election Service Plan](#) for the 2020 state general election. This plan will detail the range of services for the elections, key election milestones and other information about the elections. This is available on the website at [ecq.qld.gov.au](http://ecq.qld.gov.au).

## New legislation

On 18 June, the Queensland Parliament passed the [Electoral and Other Legislation \(Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters\) Amendment Act 2020](#) introducing new requirements for candidates, registered political parties and third parties regarding electoral expenditure, registration and signage for this election, as well as providing the ECQ with flexibility in delivering the 2020 state general election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [Statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-19 Queensland General Election](#) outlines what that flexibility looks like in responding to a re-emergence of COVID-19 in the lead-up to the election.

## 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 mid-2017, the 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.

The redistribution officially took effect when the 2017 State general election was called. To view the electorate maps, go to the [Electoral boundaries](#) page on the [ECQ website](#).

## Accessing election results

Election results will be posted on the ECQ website as they become available beginning with the preliminary (unofficial) count following the close of polls at 6pm on Saturday 31 October.

The official count begins the following day or as soon as practicable after the close of polls, and results will continue to be updated on the website until all the votes are counted.

An XML feed of election results will be available through the ECQ results web page after counting of votes commences. This feed will display results for all current elections while the count is ongoing and prior to declaration of the election result. For more details about the XML results feed, email [media@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ecq.qld.gov.au).

A declaration is made when the outcome is *mathematically certain*.

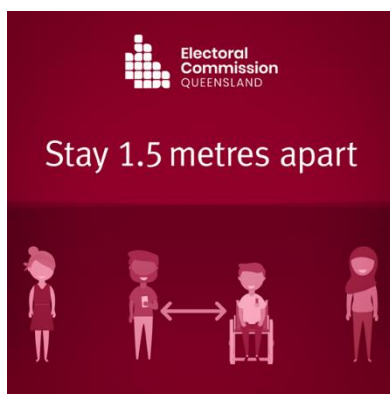


## COVID-safe elections

During the 2020 local government elections, the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic presented many unforeseen challenges and required changes to the usual election processes.

This had substantive implications for the delivery of that election, most particularly in the time taken to count votes and declare successful candidates due to health and social distancing requirements.

The ECQ successfully delivered COVID-safe local government elections in March, with no spike in infections arising from voting in person.



The ECQ will continue to take advice from the Chief Health Officer for the State general election and implement any measures deemed appropriate to ensure the safety of electors and staff.

**With elector concern around the spread of COVID-19 and lessons learnt from the 2020 local government elections, the ECQ is prepared for an unprecedented number of postal votes.**



It may take some weeks following election date to declare all the election results, particularly as the expected large number of postal votes may affect the outcome of elections.

**Declarations are made when the outcome is mathematically certain.**

Postal votes can be completed at any time once received and the ECQ is encouraging electors to vote as soon as they received their ballot papers and return it immediately.



They must be completed prior to 6pm on election day.

Postal votes must be received by the ECQ 10 days following election day, which is 10 November.

This means that counting and declarations may be delayed while awaiting the deadline for return of postal votes.

## Election advertising and signage

Signage is often a contentious issue in elections. On 18 June 2020, the Parliament passed amendments to the [Electoral Act 1992](#) (Qld) to introduce new restrictions on signage areas for pre-polling and election day voting (part 10, division 2A – Offences relating to signage at polling booths). This limits the size and number of election signs and the areas in which they can be displayed. The definition of an election sign as defined in the *Electoral Act 1992* is included below.

### 185B Meaning of *election sign*

(1) An ***election sign*** is a sign, including a continuous sign, that—

(a) contains anything that could—

(i) influence an elector in relation to voting at an election; or

(ii) otherwise affect the result of an election; or

(b) is the colour or colours that are ordinarily associated with a registered political party; or

*Example—* streamers in the colours that are ordinarily associated with a registered political party

(c) is prescribed by regulation to be an election sign.

(2) However, none of the following things that contain something, or are of a colour, mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b) is an ***election sign***—

(a) an official sign;

(b) an item of clothing being worn by a person;

(c) an umbrella or portable shade structure;

(d) a small thing, including, for example, a lapel pin, a badge, a hat, a pen or pencil, or a sticker;

(e) another thing prescribed by regulation.

(3) In this section—

***continuous sign*** means a sign comprised of a length of flexible material, including, for example—

(a) a continuous piece of flexible material; or

(b) 1 or more pieces of flexible material joined into a continuous piece; or

(c) bunting; or (d) streamers.

Under the Act, candidates and campaigns must adhere to the provisions relating to election material during an election period. Some provisions may also apply outside an election period.

Any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet, or notice that is able or intends to influence an elector about voting at an election, or affect the result of the election, MUST show the name and address of the person authorising the material. Another person can authorise election material on a candidate's behalf. The authoriser's address must be a street address, not a PO Box. For further details go to the [Candidate page](#) on ECQ's website.

**The ECQ is only able to 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.



Image credit: [dailymercury.com.au](http://dailymercury.com.au)



Image credit: [inkl.com](http://inkl.com)



Image credit: [mmuser.blogspot.com](http://mmuser.blogspot.com)

## Changes to legislation affecting electoral expenditure

As mentioned above, changes to the [Electoral Act 1992](#) were passed in June in relation to electoral expenditure incurred by candidates, registered political parties, associated entities and third parties; and implements caps on the amount that may be spent in State general election or by-election campaigns.

The expenditure cap period for the 2020 State general election is 1 August until 31 October 2020.

For future State general elections, the expenditure cap period will begin around the end of March and finish on election day. Cap amounts are CPI adjusted after each general election.

'Electoral expenditure' has a specific meaning for State general elections and by-elections and when expenditure is taken to be incurred is determined by when the goods or services are supplied or delivered or when first used for a campaign purpose.

This means that for the 2020 election, goods or services supplied prior to the commencement of the new laws (1 August) may count towards the expenditure cap, if they are used for the campaign during the capped period.

Donation caps do not apply to the 2020 State general election; however, these will commence in 2022.

### For the 2020 State general election, the expenditure cap is as follows.

An **independent** candidate can spend \$87,000 in total for their election campaign up to

A **party-endorsed** candidate can spend up to

\$58,000 in total for their election campaign

This is in addition to the amount their party may spend on their campaign.

A **registered political party** can spend up to

\$92,000 per electoral district

The total spend is the number of electoral districts where they have endorsed candidates x \$92,000.

An **associated entity**

Electoral expenditure incurred for an election by an associated entity of a registered political party is taken to have been incurred by the party, so expenditure is included under the party's total cap amount.

A **third party** can spend up to

\$87,000 per electoral district for a general election

Up to \$1 million for the election in total (State-wide).



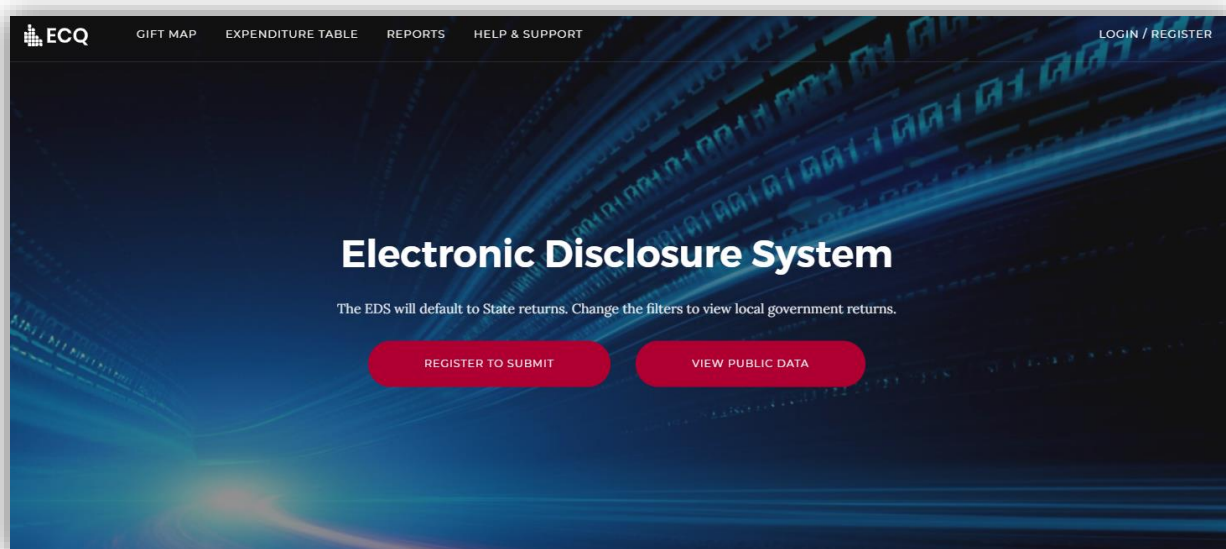
Electoral participants are required to disclose *all* their electoral expenditure in an election summary disclosure return, which is lodged with the ECQ after the election.

Under section 281J of the [Electoral Act 1992](#), non-compliance with the caps during a capped expenditure period for an election is an offence with substantial penalties. In addition to potential prosecution, the ECQ may recover double the value of the expenditure that exceeded the cap amount as a debt to the State.

## Electronic Disclosure System

Following the changes to the [Electoral Act 1992](#) passed by parliament in June, every candidate, registered political party, associated entities and third-party donor must submit a [disclosure return](#) to the ECQ following the election, that outlines gifts, loans and electoral expenditure. The regulations ensure there is transparency in political campaigning and helps to maintain the integrity of the election process.

The [Electronic Disclosure System \(EDS\)](#) is a real-time system for lodgement of disclosures by donors, candidates and political parties. These disclosures are publicly available as soon as they are lodged in the EDS, which is searchable by name, party, donor, electorate, date, gift value and much more.



The due date for these returns is 15 weeks after election day. Returns will be published on the [ECQ's website](#).

## Reporting obligations for broadcasters and publishers

Broadcasters and publishers also have reporting obligations pursuant to the *Electoral Act 1992*, including a requirement to lodge a summary of all electoral advertising they have published or broadcast during the capped expenditure period.

### Reporting period

The reporting period of publishers and broadcasters aligns with the election period. It commences the day after a writ for election is issued until 6pm on election day.

### Due date

The disclosure return must be lodged via the ECQ's [Electronic Disclosure System](#) or EDS, and is due within 8 weeks after the election. Further details about lodgement can be found on the [Election participants>State government election participants>Broadcasters/Publishers](#) page on the ECQ's website.

### Election participants

References to election participants mean any organisation or person playing a part in the election. They may be registered political parties, candidates, third party campaigners or other entities who engage in electoral activity.

### Election advertising

All advertising related to the election should be included in the disclosure return. It is not restricted to advertising that advocates a vote for, or against, a candidate or party.

Advertisements raising awareness of issues without directly advocating for, or against, a candidate or party, are election advertising.

### Prohibited donor scheme

On 12 October 2017, a law came into effect in Queensland prohibiting a property developer, or an industry organisation representing property developers, to provide a political donation or gift for the benefit of a political party, an elected member or councillor, a candidate in an election or another entity.

A political donation or gift can be:

- monetary or non-monetary
- a service provided at no or below cost.

It includes, but is not limited to:

- broadcasting an advertisement
- publishing a journal
- publishing an advertisement on the internet
- displaying an advertisement at a theatre or other place of entertainment
- the cost of producing an advertisement or material
- distribution of material.

Broadcasters and publishers should remain aware of what constitutes a political donation or gift from a prohibited donor and ensure they are not a conduit for unlawful political donations or gifts. For further information go to [Election participants>State government election participants>Broadcasters/Publishers](#) on the ECQ's website.



## Advertising blackout period

An advertising blackout is defined in the [Broadcasting Services Act 1992](#) (Cth).

Schedule 2 - Special Conditions, Part 1 - Interpretation states:

**“relevant period**, in relation to an election, means the period that commences at the end of the Wednesday before the polling day for the election and ends at the close of the poll on that polling day.”

Essentially, where a broadcaster has a licence to broadcast that relates to an area, and an election is occurring in that area, including a State general election, broadcasters must **not broadcast election advertising from the close of the Wednesday before election day.**

For Queensland’s 2020 State general election, this would be between the end of Wednesday 28 October and the close of poll on election day Saturday 31 October.



## State general election arrangements

The 2020 State general election is an attendance election with an election period running from the day of the issue of the writ to election day on Saturday 31 October.

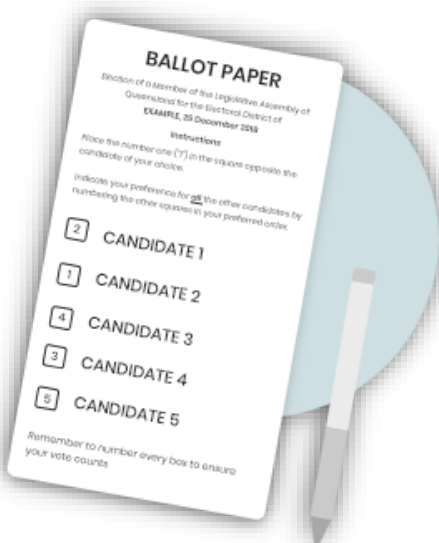
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a range of convenience voting options are being implemented:

- early voting days and times are extended including Saturday 24 October
- applications for postal votes will open on Monday 14 September
- telephone voting has been opened to additional specified electors meeting strict eligibility requirements.

All voting information will be on ECQ's website prior to the start of early voting on Monday 19 October. For further information on telephone voting go to the [telephone voting fact sheet](#).

### Voting in a State general election

Election day for the 2020 State general election is Saturday, 31 October with early voting from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October. A Queensland general election has **full preferential voting**. This means electors must number all boxes on the ballot paper in order of preference starting with 1. Further information on voting systems can be found at the [How to vote](#) tab on ECQ's website.



### Postal voting

Postal vote applications open on Monday 14 September and close on Friday 16 October. All electors can apply for a postal vote via ECQ's website or the call centre on 1300 881 665. If an elector applied for a postal vote for the local government elections and wants to postal vote for the State general election, they will need to apply again, unless they are registered as a special postal voter who usually receives a postal vote.

While electors can apply for a postal vote in advance of the election period, the ballot material can only be sent after:

- the close of candidate nominations (to be confirmed/determined by the writ)
- followed by the ballot paper order draw on the same day as the close of nominations, and
- the printing of ballot papers.

Postal vote ballot papers must be completed before 6pm on election day and received by the ECQ by Tuesday 10 November. The ECQ is encouraging electors to vote as soon as they receive their ballot papers and return their completed vote *immediately* to ensure it will arrive at the ECQ before the closing date and time.

## Early voting

Electors have the option of voting before election day at an early voting centre. Early voting will be available from Monday 19 October at the office of the Returning Officer or at designated early voting centres in each electorate. There will be approximately 200 early voting centres for the election, and details will be available on the ECQ's website at [ecq.qld.gov.au](http://ecq.qld.gov.au).

## Electoral visit voting and declared institution voting (hospitals, nursing homes and aged-care facilities)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no electoral visit voting or declared institution voting for the 2020 State general election. Special arrangements will be put in place to facilitate postal voting by residents of aged care facilities that would ordinarily be designated as declared institutions. This does not include all aged care facilities in Queensland. However, all electors can apply for a postal vote and may be eligible to register for telephone voting.

## Telephone voting

A dedicated telephone voting system is available for **eligible electors including those with a disability**. This is a resource-intensive service so it's important that only eligible electors apply.


For the 2020 State general election and in recognition of COVID-19 concerns, the ECQ is adding more eligible categories to the service. Further information will be available closer to the opening of telephone voting on 19 October. The [telephone voting fact sheet](#) will also be updated accordingly.

To register for telephone voting, electors should contact the ECQ on 1300 912 782 between Monday 19 October and noon on election day Saturday 31 October.

There are arrangements for **overseas electors** to telephone vote and the details are available in the [Telephone voting for overseas electors](#) fact sheet.

### Telephone voting for overseas electors

**fact sheet**



If you are enrolled to vote in Queensland and are overseas for the 2020 State general election, you are eligible to telephone vote.

You can check your enrolment at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au).

To register for a telephone vote call +61 7 3035 8107 and select 1. You will be asked to verify yourself on the electoral roll.

After registering, you must call +61 7 3035 8107 and select 2 to cast your vote. Registration and voting dates and times (AEST) are below.

**Registering for a telephone vote from overseas is available during the following times (AEST)**

Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October	8am to 5pm
Saturday 24 October	8am to 4pm
Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October	8am to 5pm
Saturday 31 October   election day	8am to 12pm

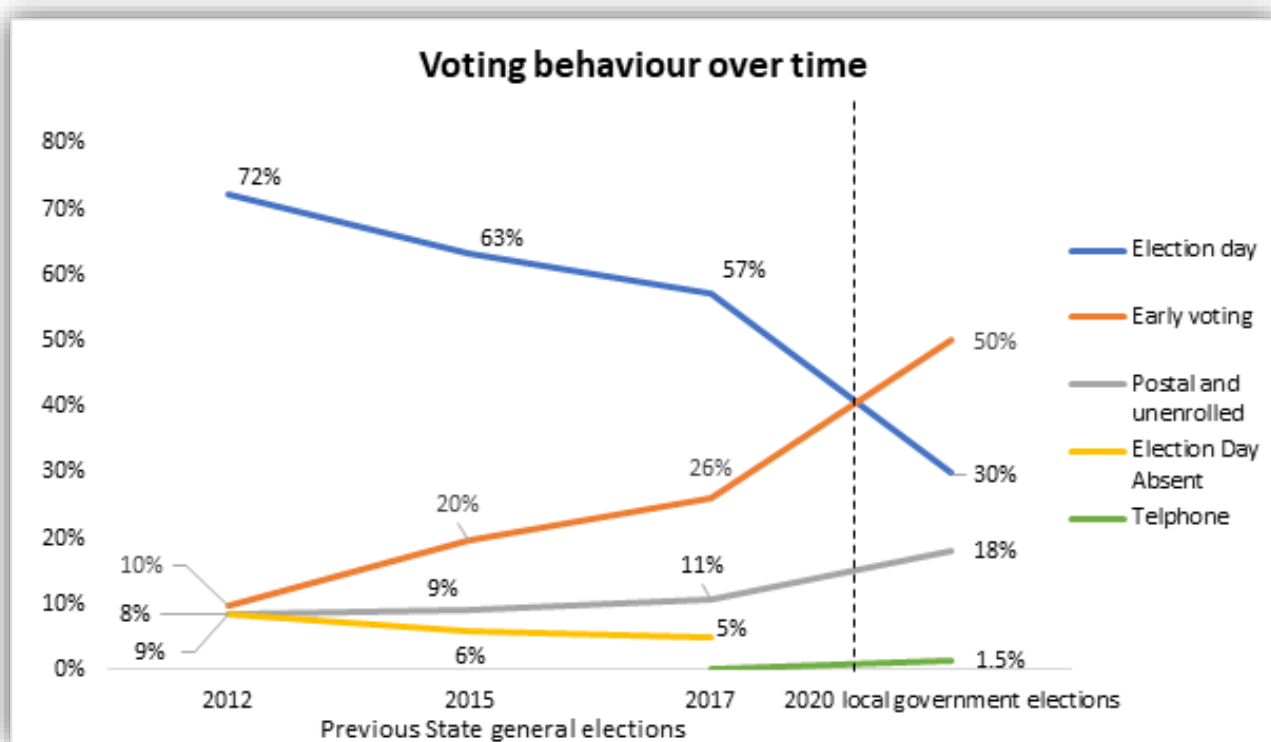
**After registering, cast your vote from overseas during the following times (AEST)**

Monday 19 and 26 October Wednesday 21 and 28 October Friday 23 and 30 October	9am to 6pm
Tuesday 20 and 27 October Thursday 22 and 29 October	9am to 9pm
Saturday 24 October	9am to 5pm
Saturday 31 October   election day	8am to 6pm

## Voting trends

Early voting is increasingly popular. While this was likely accelerated for the local government elections in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the trend has been clear for some time.

The increase in postal voting has also been accelerating, and the ECQ in planning for a significant proportion of voters to apply for a postal vote.



## Results

The process of counting votes following an election is undertaken with the primary objectives of ensuring:

- fair and accurate results
- the secrecy of the ballot.

Following the close of the poll at 6pm on Saturday 31 October, the ECQ will conduct a preliminary (unofficial) count on election night at each of the 1,300 polling places around the state.

On election night, the ECQ will count:

- all election day polling booth votes
- all available early voting centres votes (some material may still be in transit)
- all available postal votes (many votes will still be in transit and can be received up to 10 days after election day)

- electronically assisted votes (telephone votes) where large volumes of votes have been cast (to be determined during the early voting period based on the number of votes cast in particular districts), and
- all votes taken during early voting and on election day at Brisbane City Hall for all electorates.

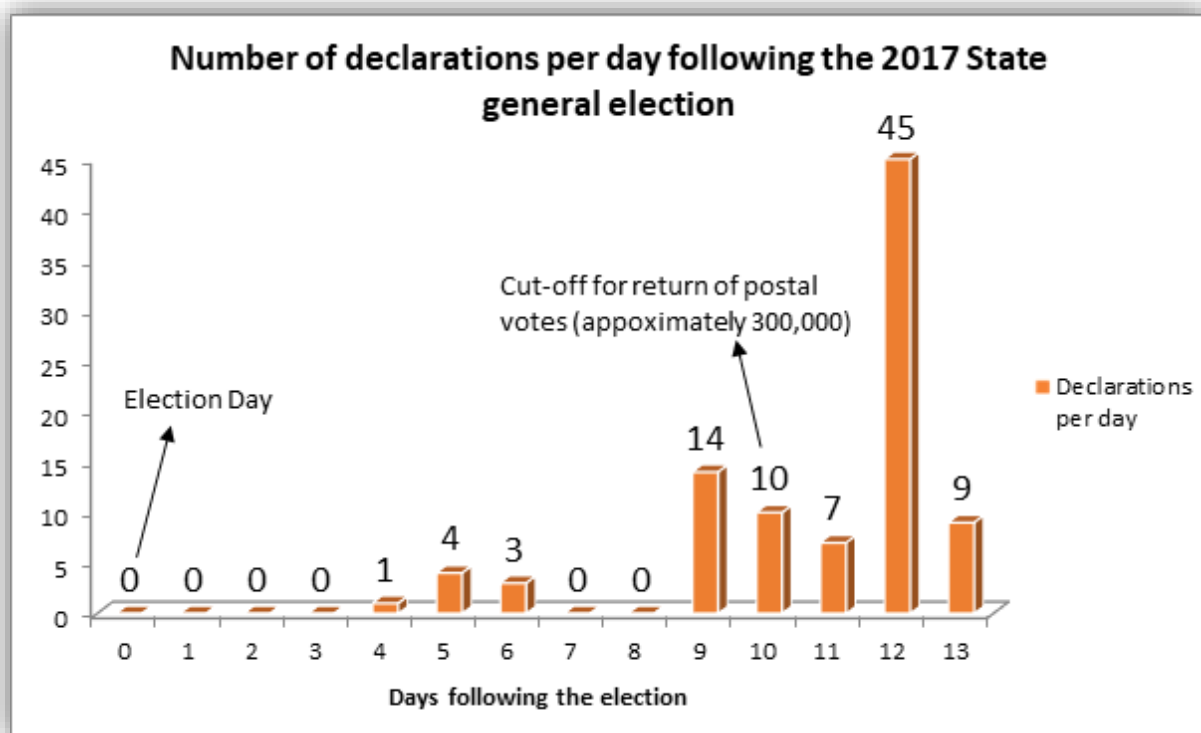
The indicative count (two party preferred count), where one is to occur, is also conducted on election night. This is an allocation of preferences to the two candidates most likely to receive the highest number of first preference votes.

This is followed on Sunday 1 November by the official count of votes, conducted at the 97 Returning Officers offices. The count will continue until the election result is clear.

In some cases, it may be necessary to wait for the deadline for return of postal votes on 10 November before declarations can be made. This is especially relevant given the large volume of postal votes expected for this election.

**Declarations are made when the outcome is mathematically certain.** All election results will be published progressively on the ECQ website.

For the 2017 State general election, the majority of declarations were made 12 days after election day, following the final receipt of postal votes:



Further information about delivery of the elections will be published on the ECQ website and across the commission's social media channels throughout the election period.

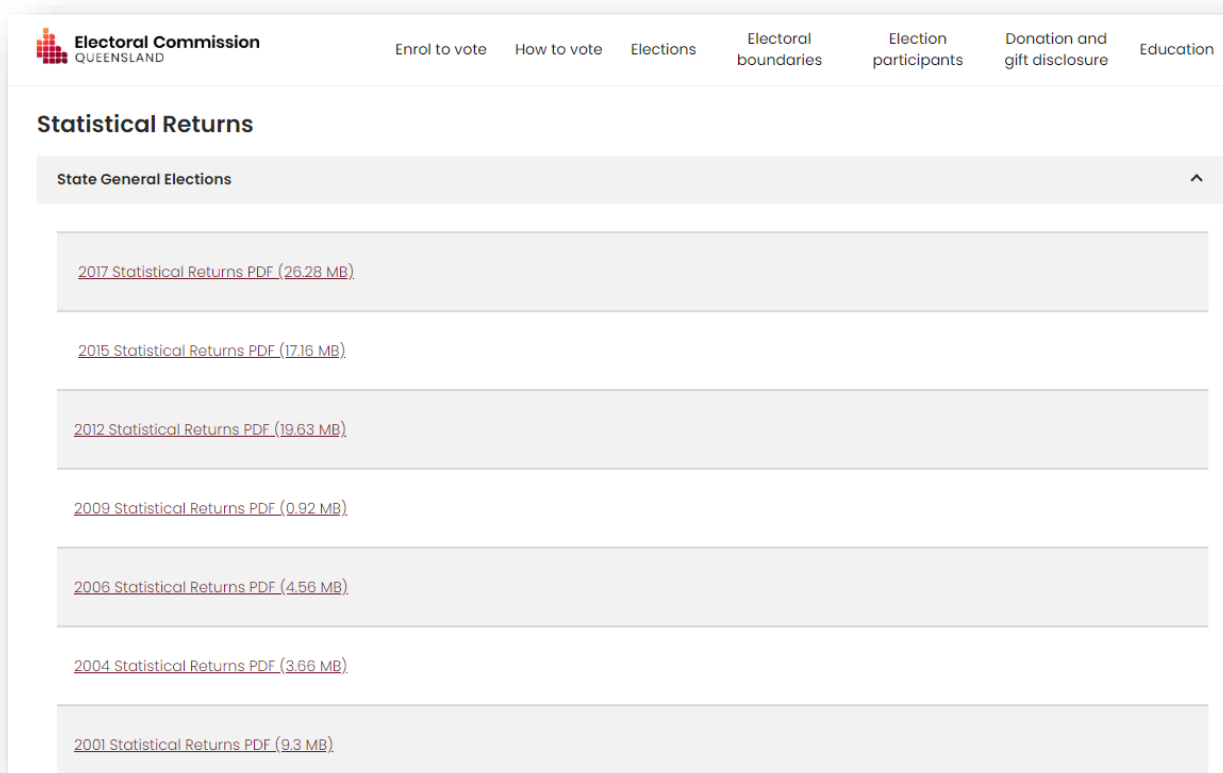
A report on the elections will be prepared and published by the ECQ following the event.

# Statistics

## 2017 State general election – 25 November

- 3,229,536 total electors
- 2,826,613 votes cast
- 2,703,941 formal votes
  - voting day 57.17%
  - pre-poll in person 25.17%
  - postal and unenrolled 10.72%
  - election day absent votes 4.9%
  - electoral visit votes 0.48%
  - election day declarations 0.31%
  - declared institutions votes 0.20%
- 122,672 informal votes
- 453 total candidates
- 10,907 election officials
- 1,987 polling places
  - 167 pre-polling centres
  - 1,256 election day polling booths
  - 561 declared institutions
  - 3 remote area mobile polling teams
- 87.62% voter participation
- 4.34% voter informality

All [election information and results](#) for State, local, by-elections, referendums and polls can be found on the ECQ website under [Election results and statistics](#).



The screenshot shows the Electoral Commission Queensland website. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Enrol to vote', 'How to vote', 'Elections', 'Electoral boundaries', 'Election participants', 'Donation and gift disclosure', and 'Education'. The main content area is titled 'Statistical Returns' and features a sub-section 'State General Elections'. Below this, a list of PDF links for statistical returns is provided for the years 2017, 2015, 2012, 2009, 2006, 2004, and 2001, each with its file size in MB.

Year	File Size (MB)
2017	26.28
2015	17.16
2012	19.63
2009	0.92
2006	4.56
2004	3.66
2001	9.3

## Frequently asked questions

### Are there restrictions on filming/photography on election day?

Requests to film or take photos inside a polling booth must be made through [media@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@ecq.qld.gov.au). Access will be granted at the agreement of the Returning Officer. If permission is granted, media must ensure:

- health requirements are respected
- polling officials are notified on arrival
- electors are not approached without clearance from the polling officials
- voting is not impeded in any way
- no person's image is taken without permission
- the recording of a vote is NOT viewed – the secrecy of the ballot is paramount.

You can film at a polling booth only through the authorisation of the local Returning Officer and you must leave if directed to do so.

**Please note**, some venues require prior permission for filming separate to permission by the ECQ. One example is Brisbane City Hall. It is the media's responsibility to seek any required permissions.

### Who is eligible to enrol?

Any person who:

- is 18 years of age or older, and
- is an Australian citizen or a British subject who was enrolled on 25 January 1984 or, for Queensland elections, eligible to be on the State electoral roll on 31 December 1991, and
- has lived at their address for at least one (1) month.

A person may provisionally enrol at the age of 16, and vote from 18 years of age.

### Is enrolment compulsory?

If a person is eligible to be enrolled, enrolment is compulsory. In Queensland, a joint roll is maintained by the Australian Electoral Commission. This means a person only need complete the one Queensland enrolment form to be on the electoral roll for federal, State and local government elections. It is the responsibility of the elector to ensure their enrolment details are kept current. This can be done at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au).

### Who can vote in an election?

Any person who is enrolled prior to election day can vote in an election. If someone is not found on the electoral roll for the area in which they believe they are enrolled, they can complete a 'declaration vote' – they declare they are eligible to vote in the election for that electorate.

It is possible to enrol and vote at a polling booth up to the day *before* election day.

## How to enrol

To enrol, a person must complete an enrolment form which is available on the Australian Electoral Commission website at [aec.gov.au](http://aec.gov.au). If an elector is physically unable to sign the enrolment form, the person can make their mark on the form and have a person witness it who is listed on the electoral roll.

## Where is the information on voting booths and early voting locations?

Information on early voting and polling booth locations for elections can be found on the ECQ's website, [ecq.qld.gov.au](http://ecq.qld.gov.au) or by phoning the ECQ on 1300 881 665.

## How are the results determined?

After the close of voting at 6pm on election day the ECQ will open ballot boxes and the preliminary unofficial count. Results are progressively published on the ECQ's website. For further details on the counting process, please see the fact sheet on ECQ's website.

The ECQ will not declare the result of any poll while there remains a mathematical possibility that more than one candidate could win. A report on the elections will be prepared and published by the ECQ following the event.

## When are election results announced?

Results for elections are released progressively on the ECQ's website after the close of voting at 6pm on Saturday, 31 October 2020. The ECQ will not declare the result of any poll while there remains a mathematical possibility that more than one candidate could be successful.

## Who can nominate to be a candidate?

Nominations open after the writ is issued for a State general election. To qualify as a candidate, a person must:

- be at least 18 years old
- an Australian citizen
- enrolled on the Queensland electoral roll
- NOT a disqualified person.

For further details go to the [Candidates](#) page on the ECQ website.

## What about people who will be away from home at election time?

Electors can vote at any polling booth within Queensland. Election day and early voting information and locations will be available on ECQ's website prior to the start of early voting on 19 October.

## How can people find out what electorate they are in?

An elector can confirm their enrolment details for their current federal, State and local government electoral area online via the ECQ's website at [ecq.qld.gov.au](https://ecq.qld.gov.au). Interactive and PDF maps of all electorates are also available on the website.

## What happens if a person fails to vote?

Voting is compulsory and the ECQ has a statutory obligation to follow-up cases of apparent failure to vote. Persons who have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting, will be excused.

The ECQ writes to electors who appear not to have voted inviting them to contact the ECQ if they feel they have a reasonable explanation for not voting. Electors who accept they do not have a valid reason may finalise the matter through payment of a fine. The fine is one penalty unit (\$133.45 as of 1 July 2019).

## How can I access the election results?

Election results will be posted on the ECQ website as they become available beginning with the preliminary (unofficial) count following the close of polls at 6pm on Saturday 31 October.

The official count begins the following day or as soon as practicable after the close of polls, and results will continue to be updated on the website until all the votes are counted.

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

**Declarations only take place when the outcome is mathematically certain.** With the 2020 State general election, there is likely to be hundreds of thousands of postal votes and this may mean the count is ongoing until after the close of receipt of postal votes on 10 November.

