LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS FACT SHEET

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CANDIDATES, GROUPS OF CANDIDATES AND REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

Provision of electoral roll data to candidates

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) can release information about electors to specific electoral participants before and after an election.

Who can access electoral roll information?

Candidates are entitled to receive a copy of the voters roll for the local government area or the division/ward where they are running for election. This is released to them after the close of candidate nominations.

After an election, a councillor can request elector information for that election about the local government area or division/ward for which they were elected. A councillor in a divided council can only request information for their division/ward.

Registered political parties can request electoral data about each local government area after the election.

What information is released?

Before the election, candidates receive electoral roll information containing the names and addresses of electors in their local government area or division/ward. The addresses of silent electors are not released.

After the election, elected councillors and registered political parties may request, in relation to the election:

- an elector's name and address as at the close of roll for the election
- information about whether the elector voted in person, by post, or in another way
- if the elector voted in person at a polling booth within the local government area, where they are enrolled or the location of the polling booth where they voted.

Information about silent electors is not released.

How can the electoral roll information be used?

For information released before an election, the recipient must not use, disclose, or allow another person to access the information unless it is for:

- any purpose related to an election
- the purposes of checking the accuracy of the information
- the performance of a councillor's functions in relation to electors enrolled on the electoral roll
- the performance of their duties by an official or employee of a political party in relation to the electors enrolled on the voters roll.

Under section 21(3) of the LGEA, misuse of voters roll information carries a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units (valued at \$3,226 as at 1 July 2024) or 6 months imprisonment.

Version: July 2024



