

REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

Funding and disclosure overview

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.

This fact sheet relates to registered political parties that endorse candidates for local government elections, and their agents and associated entities.

What is a registered political party?

A registered political party is a political party that is registered under the *Electoral Act 1992*. The registration of political parties makes their roles in relation to elections transparent to the public. If a political party wishes to nominate candidates for an election, the political party must be registered with the ECQ: www.ecq.qld.gov.au/donations-and-expenditure-disclosure/registers.

Registered political parties must adhere to regulations and reporting obligations in relation to gifts, loans and expenditure incurred on election campaigns.

What is an associated entity of a registered political party?

Associated entities of registered political parties:

- are controlled by the party or its endorsed candidates
- operate wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of the party or its endorsed candidates
- operate for the dominant purpose of promoting the party or its endorsed candidates.

Associated entities of registered political parties need to be aware of electoral expenditure caps that apply to their party, because the funds they spend may affect their party's caps.

This fact sheet provides information **only** for registered political parties. For information about associated entities, see [Fact sheet 37 – Funding and disclosure overview for associated entities](#).

Should registered political parties appoint an agent?

The agent who is appointed under the *Electoral Act 1992* will also be the agent for the purposes of the LGEA. This agent is responsible for ensuring an election participant's compliance obligations under the LGEA are met.

See [Fact Sheet 38 – Funding and disclosure overview for agents](#) for further information about who can be an agent and their responsibilities.

Do registered political parties need a dedicated campaign bank account?

Yes – all registered political parties **must** open and use a dedicated campaign bank account before paying for any electoral expenditure for a local government election.

This account must be separate from the party's state campaign account.

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.



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Parties that regularly endorse candidates in local government elections may keep the same dedicated campaign bank account for successive local elections.

For more information, see [Fact sheet 28 – Dedicated campaign bank accounts for registered political parties](#).

What disclosure obligations do registered political parties have?

DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS AND LOANS RECEIVED

The LGEA does not regulate the disclosure of gifts received by registered political parties.

Agents of registered political parties must continue to comply with all requirements under the *Electoral Act 1992*. Even if gifts are received for use in a local election, all gifts and loans of \$1,000 or more received during a reporting period must be disclosed. Agents of registered political parties need to lodge returns for gifts and loans with the ECQ within 7 business days.

24-hour disclosure for gifts and loans does not apply for local government elections.

For more information, please refer to state elections [Fact sheet 5 – Disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations received by registered political parties](#).

DISCLOSURE OF ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED

Agents of registered political parties must disclose all electoral expenditure incurred for a local government election once their total expenditure reaches \$500. Returns for electoral expenditure must be lodged with the ECQ within 7 business days, or within 24 hours if the expenditure is incurred within 7 business days before election day.

For more information, see [Fact sheet 18 – Real-time disclosure of electoral expenditure for candidates, groups and registered political parties](#).

ELECTION SUMMARY RETURN

Agents of registered political parties must give an election summary return within 15 weeks after election day for a local government election. The return must state the total amount of all electoral expenditure incurred for the election and include a copy of the bank statement for the party's dedicated campaign bank account.

For more information, see [Fact sheet 14 – Election summary returns](#).

Are any gifts prohibited?

Yes – it is unlawful for a registered political party to accept a gift or loan from a property developer or an industry organisation representing property developers. See the [ECQ website](#) for more information.

It is also unlawful for a registered political party to receive anonymous gifts or loans totalling \$1,000 or more under section 271 of the *Electoral Act 1992*. This includes gifts or loans where the name, address or other required details of the donor are not known to the group.

Are there expenditure caps for local government elections?

Yes – there are limitations (caps) on the amount of electoral expenditure that can be incurred by a registered political party and its endorsed candidates during the capped expenditure period for a local election.

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.

See [Fact sheet 29 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates](#) for more information about expenditure caps and the capped expenditure period.

Record keeping

All registered political parties must keep records for 5 years. This is required to demonstrate compliance in relation to all electoral expenditure, disclosure, and dedicated campaign bank account requirements.

See [Fact sheet 8 – Record keeping requirements](#) for more information about record keeping requirements.

Compliance

The ECQ is responsible for administering and enforcing the LGEA which includes penalties for candidates, councillors, and other parties who breach their disclosure obligations.

The compliance framework is available on the [ECQ website](#).

For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 6 of the LGEA. The LGEA is available in full at legislation.qld.gov.au. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the LGEA.



RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 8 – Record keeping requirements

Fact sheet 14 – Election summary returns

Fact sheet 18 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure for candidates, groups of candidates, and registered political parties

Fact sheet 28 – Dedicated campaign bank accounts for registered political parties

Fact sheet 29 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates

State Fact sheet 5 – Disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations received by registered political parties

Fact sheet 37 – Funding and disclosure overview for associated entities

Fact sheet 38 – Funding and disclosure overview for agents

Fact sheets are available on the [ECQ website](#).

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.