Message from the Commissioner

Members of the media

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) issued the Notice of Election on 22 February, marking the start of the electoral period for the 2020 local government elections.

Elections are complex, and this Media Kit has been developed to help you navigate the process by providing information on legislation, statistics, and a timetable outlining key election dates.

It will also help you understand how the ECQ implements strict guidelines to ensure fair and transparent elections covering diverse local governments and meets its commitment to ensuring every elector has access to a confidential and secure voting experience.

On 20 January 2020, new laws came into effect making changes to local government elections that affect a range of participants, particularly candidates, registered political parties, third-party campaigners and political donors.

The changes impose greater requirements for candidates, including mandatory training and increased disclosure of donations and electoral expenditure. They apply to the 2020 local government elections on 28 March, and the state election on 31 October. Information about the changes can be found on the ECQ website under the ‘Candidates and Parties’ tab, and also in the ‘New legislation’ section of this document.

The ECQ recognises the important role the media plays in educating and updating Queensland electors. If you have any queries, please contact media@ecq.qld.gov.au or call 0438 120 699 during office hours.

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 local government elections are administered by the ECQ under the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 (Qld) and the City of Brisbane Act 2010 (Qld). For each electoral event the ECQ aims to improve ease of access to voting for all electors.

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

ECQ purpose and vision is:
ECQ contributes to the Queensland Government’s objective for the community, Our Future State: Advancing Queensland’s Priorities, ‘Be a responsive government’, by delivering open, accountable and accessible electoral services for all Queenslanders.

Objective 1 Deliver fair and transparent Queensland elections
Objective 2 Increase electoral awareness and participation
Objective 3 Continual improvement in electoral services
Objective 4 Queensland has balanced representation across electoral boundaries

ECQ values are:
- customers first
- unleash potential
- ideas into action
- be courageous
- empower people

For further details go to ecq.qld.gov.au/about-us

Media enquiries

All media enquiries should be directed to 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 9pm on election day.
General contact information
Our office is located at: Level 20, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane Queensland 4000

Our 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 4pm Saturday
8am to 6pm election day, Saturday 28 March

Fax (07) 3036 5776
Email ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au

From outside Australia: Phone +61 7 3035 8103
Fax +61 7 3036 5776

Media enquiries: media@ecq.qld.gov.au

Website: www.ecq.qld.gov.au

Social media

The ECQ will publish regular updates and key messages on its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages throughout the electoral period. Hashtags are #haveyoursay and #LGE2020.

Electronic Disclosure System

Under the Local Government Act 2011, all participants involved in running or supporting a campaign for a local government election have obligations to disclose political donations (gifts or loans) and/or campaign 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.

For further information go to Candidate requirements – 2020 local government elections on the ECQ website. To view the EDS, go to https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au/.

2020 local government election fast facts

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of councils</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of mayoral positions</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of councillor positions</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electors</td>
<td>Approximately 3.2 million electors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government elections are held</td>
<td>Every four years on the last Saturday in March, unless changed by regulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 www.aec.gov.au.

The electoral roll for the 2020 local government elections closes on 28 February.

Electors who did not enrol by the close of rolls may still enrol or update their address details by 6pm on Friday 28 March (the day before election day) but will be required to cast a declaration vote. A declaration vote requires the elector to complete further details when casting their vote.

Election timeline

The Local Government Electoral Act 2011 establishes timeframes for the conduct of local government elections, as detailed in the timetable below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 local government elections</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of election</td>
<td>22 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applications for postal votes commence</td>
<td>22 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate nominations open</td>
<td>22 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of electoral rolls</td>
<td>28 February – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of candidate nominations</td>
<td>3 March – 12pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot paper candidate positions drawn</td>
<td>4 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early voting commences</td>
<td>16 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal vote applications close</td>
<td>16 March – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early voting closes</td>
<td>27 March – 6pm – times may vary from council to council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election day</td>
<td>28 March – 8am to 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day for postal votes to be received</td>
<td>7 April – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election results declared</td>
<td>Progressively as results are known</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final day for election results to be disputed</td>
<td>7 days after results are declared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election summary returns due</td>
<td>13 July – lodged within 15 weeks of election day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Election Service Plan

The ECQ has developed an Election Service Plan for the 2020 local government elections. This plan details the range of services being delivered for the elections, key election timeframes and other information about the elections. This is available on the website at ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/2020-local-government-elections.
New legislation

In October 2019, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019*.

The new laws made changes to local government elections that strengthen the rules around transparency about:

- who candidates are
- how their campaigns are funded
- their interests and affiliations, and
- their relationship with other candidates.

Many of the amendments commenced from 20 January 2020, and the ECQ has upgraded its systems, handbooks and guidance to provide support to candidates, registered political parties and other political participants to comply with their obligations.

The ECQ takes a proactive approach to engaging with candidates and parties to ensure they are aware of the legislative requirements.

For the local government elections, the ECQ has held briefings with registered political parties and emailed all known announced candidates (approximately 600) and every sitting councillor in Queensland to advise of the new obligations.

For the 2020 elections, candidates and parties have new real-time disclosure obligations – this means candidates must disclose gifts or loans and electoral expenditure within seven business days, or within 24 hours for the last week of the election campaign.

This information must be recorded on the ECQ’s Electronic Disclosure System and all information is publicly available at [https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au/](https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au/).

Boundaries

Divisional boundaries in some local government areas have changed. During 2019, the Local Government Change Commission reviewed the boundaries or electoral arrangements for some councils. The local government elections will be conducted using the new divisional boundaries, which come into effect at the conclusion of the elections. Maps of boundaries for the elections will be available on the ECQ website at [ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-area-boundaries](http://ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-area-boundaries).

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 28 March.

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).
Election advertising and signage

Signage is often a contentious issue in elections. Under the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 (Qld), candidates, groups of candidates and campaigns must adhere to the provision relating to election material during an election period. Some provisions may also apply outside an election period. The election period for a local government election commences when the Notice of Election is published and ends when voting ceases on election day.

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. For further details go to Fact Sheet 6 – Local Government Electoral Advertising and Signage at ecq.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/6893/Fact-Sheet-6-Electoral-advertising-and-signage.pdf. Councils may choose to prepare information specific to their local government area.

Local government electoral arrangements

There are three different types of councils at the 2020 local government elections.

- **Divided (single-member)** – local government areas that are divided internally into wards or divisions. Voters elect one councillor to represent their individual division. For example, the Brisbane City Council has 26 wards and voters elect a councillor to represent their ward. The Logan City Council has 12 divisions and voters elect one councillor to represent their division.

- **Multi-member divided (multi-councillor)** – local government areas that are divided internally but have more than one councillor. For example, the Ipswich City Council is moving to multi-member divisions for the 2020 local government elections. It will have four divisions with two councillors representing each one. Currently it is divided into 10 single-member divisions (although there is no elected council at present).

- **Undivided** – local government areas that have no internal boundaries. Voters elect all the councillors representing the entire local government area. For example, the Toowoomba Regional Council.

Divided councils in the 2020 local government elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banana</th>
<th>Ipswich (multi-councillor)</th>
<th>South Burnett</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Isaac</td>
<td>Sunshine Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundaberg</td>
<td>Logan Moreton Bay</td>
<td>Tablelands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns</td>
<td>North Burnett</td>
<td>Torres Strait Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassowary Coast</td>
<td>Northern Peninsula Area</td>
<td>Townsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser Coast</td>
<td>Redland</td>
<td>Whitsunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
<td>Rockhampton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gympie</td>
<td>Scenic Rim</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Undivided councils in the 2020 local government elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aurukun</th>
<th>Douglas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balonne</td>
<td>Etheridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcaldine</td>
<td>Flinders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcoo</td>
<td>Gladstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackall-Tambo</td>
<td>Goondiwindi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulia</td>
<td>Hinchinbrook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulloo</td>
<td>Hope Vale Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdekin</td>
<td>Kowanyama Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>Livingstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentaria</td>
<td>Lockhart River Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Highlands</td>
<td>Lockyer Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charters Towers</td>
<td>Longreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherbourg Aboriginal</td>
<td>Mackay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloncurry</td>
<td>Mapoon Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Maranoa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croydon</td>
<td>Mareeba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamantina</td>
<td>McKinlay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doomadgee Aboriginal</td>
<td>Mornington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Isa</td>
<td>Murweh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napranum Aboriginal</td>
<td>Palm Island Aboriginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noosa</td>
<td>Paroo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pormpuraaw Aboriginal</td>
<td>Quilpie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>Somerset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Downs</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torres</td>
<td>Western Downs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woorabinda Aboriginal</td>
<td>Winton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voting in a local government election

Election day for the 2020 local government elections is Saturday, 28 March.

For most local governments, attendance (in-person) voting is in place and polling booths have been established. Early voting and postal voting (on application) are also available.

Sixteen local governments have received ministerial approval to offer a postal vote election only, and three councils have received approval to offer hybrid voting. Hybrid voting is where attendance voting, and postal voting are both offered to electors depending on their council division.

The full postal option is commonly requested in local government areas that are spread across a wide geographic area. Postal voting may be a better way to ensure the greatest participation of voters in such areas.

Any changes or updates are posted on the ECQ website at ecq.qld.gov.au/elections-election-events/2020-local-government-elections. Attendance voting

The majority of Queensland’s 77 local government areas offer attendance voting, where electors can attend polling booths to cast their vote. Electors must vote at polling booths in their local government area, as the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 makes no provision for absent voting outside of the area. If an elector is unable to vote at a local polling booth on election day, alternative voting arrangements are available for electors within an attendance voting area such as postal voting or early voting.

All polling booths will be open from 8am to 6pm on election day, and locations of booths will be available on the ECQ’s website at ecq.qld.gov.au.
Postal voting
All electors may apply for a postal vote, even those in an attendance voting local government area. The application must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 7pm Wednesday, 16 March 2020. Ballot material will be posted after receipt and processing of the postal vote application.

Note that some local governments will conduct full postal voting elections. Electors in the 16 local governments that have full postal voting for the 2020 elections do not need to apply for a postal vote - they will receive ballot material by post automatically. Three local governments will use a hybrid voting system and this means electors in the designated postal vote areas will receive voting materials in the mail.

Ballot papers received via postal vote must be completed before 6pm on election day and received by the Returning Officer by 5pm on Tuesday 7 April 2020.

Early voting
Electors have the option of voting before election day at an early voting centre. Early voting will be available from Monday 16 March at the office of the Returning Officer or at designated early voting centres in each local government area. A list of these centres will be available on the ECQ’s website at ecq.qld.gov.au.

Electoral visit voting
Electors who qualify due to illness, disability or advanced pregnancy (or persons caring for them), can apply to have an electoral official visit their home to take their vote. Those who qualify should contact the ECQ call centre on 1300 881 665. Applications close at 7pm on Wednesday 25 March 2020.

Telephone voting
A dedicated telephone voting system may be available for eligible electors including those with a disability. To register for this service, contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665 before noon on election day Saturday 28 March.

Voting in hospitals, nursing homes and aged care facilities (Declared Institutions)
The ECQ arranges for electoral officials to visit some hospitals, nursing homes and aged care facilities in the week before election day. Locations will be available on the ECQ website when finalised. For further information on voter assistance go to ecq.qld.gov.au/how-to-vote/voter-assistance
Voting systems in a local government election

At the 2020 local government elections, there are two systems of voting being used, depending on the council. They are First-Past-The-Post and Optional Preferential Voting.

Optional Preferential Voting (OPV) is the system of voting for:

- councillors in divided local governments with wards or divisions
- mayors in local government elections.

Under the OPV system, an elector is required to mark the ballot paper to indicate their preferred candidate/s. OPV can be best described as “vote for one, vote for some, or vote for all”.

If the elector wishes to vote for only one candidate, this is done by marking their ballot paper with a one (1), tick or cross in the square opposite the name of the candidate.

The elector may then choose to indicate preferences by numbering in the squares, some, or all of the candidates remaining on their ballot paper.

A vote is formal if the elector has clearly indicated their first preference for one specific candidate. A voter does not have to indicate any additional preference, but if they do, these subsequent preferences will on be counted if they are clear and unambiguous.

A vote is informal if it is unclear which candidate is the elector’s first preference, or if it is blank.

First-Past-the-Post Voting (FPTP) is the system of voting for:

- councillors in undivided local governments
- councillors in multi-member divisions in divided local governments (currently Ipswich City Council).

Under the FPTP voting system the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. FPTP simply requires an elector to place a mark (tick, cross, or number) in the square opposite the name of the candidate or candidates they support. The number of marks on the ballot paper must equal the number of candidates to be elected.

A vote is informal if the elector has marked a vote (not using numerals) for the number of candidates more or less than the required number. For example, if an elector uses all crosses or ticks, selects one when required to select two, or uses a mixture of numbers and other marks that exceeds the number of candidates required.

A vote is formal if the elector has marked a vote for the number of candidates equal to the required number. For example, in Ipswich City Council, the elector needs to select two candidates for their division. The vote is formal if the voter’s intention is clear.
First-past-the-post (undivided local government areas or divided local
government areas with more than one councillor) means the elector numbers the
boxes according to the required number of candidates to be elected.

If five candidates are to be elected, five boxes must be numbered in order of preference.
If two are to be elected (as with Ipswich City Council in 2020) then two councillors must be
numbered in order of preference starting with 1.

Optional preferential voting
(local government mayoral and
divided council elections) means
electors can number one, some,
or all the boxes on their ballot
paper in order of preference
starting with 1.

Full preferential voting, (state elections and state by-
elections) means all the boxes on the ballot paper must be
numbered in order of preference starting with 1.
**Full postal and hybrid councils**

Voting materials are mailed to everyone on the electoral roll in those areas.

Councils with **postal voting only** at the 2020 local government elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Voting system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balonne Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana Shire Council</td>
<td>divided</td>
<td>OPV mayor and councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcaldine Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcoo Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackall-Tambo Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulloo Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamantina Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etheridge Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goondiwindi Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longreach Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Burnett Regional Council</td>
<td>divided</td>
<td>OPV mayor and councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paroo Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilpie Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Downs Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Councils with hybrid voting at the 2020 local government elections has both **postal voting** and **in person voting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Voting system</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Shire Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Regional Council</td>
<td>divided (postal divisions 1 and 8)</td>
<td>OPV mayor and councillor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maranoa Regional Council</td>
<td>undivided</td>
<td>OPV mayor, FPTP councillor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Declaration of results and post-election activities

Results
Following the elections, the ECQ will conduct a preliminary (unofficial) count (on election night) followed by the official count of votes, with election results declared progressively for individual councils as soon as the election result is clear. In some cases, it may be necessary to await the deadline for return of postal votes (Tuesday, 7 April 2020) before declarations can be made. All election results will be published progressively on the ECQ website.

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.

The ECQ will not declare the result of any poll while there remains a mathematical possibility that more than one candidate could win.

The conclusion of the local government election is the day on which the last declaration of the poll is displayed at the office of the Returning Officer.

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

Disclosure
Following the election every candidate and third-party donor must submit a disclosure return to the ECQ outlining gifts, loans and electoral expenditure.

The due date for these returns is 13 July 2020. Returns will be published on the ECQ’s website.

Statistics – past local government elections

2016 local government elections were held on Saturday, 19 March 2016

- 349 separate elections for 77 local government areas across Queensland
- 1,767 candidates (271 Mayoral and 1,496 Councillor candidates) contested elected positions.
- Considering both mayoral and councillor contests, the total number of positions to be elected was 579 (77 mayors and 502 councillors)
- Mayoral elections were contested using OPV for the first time
- For councillor elections, 23 used OPV (divided councils) while 54 used FPTP (undivided councils)
- 3,083,593 electors were on the electoral roll at close of rolls
- 2.71 per cent increase on voter turnout compared to 2012 – 80.33 per cent to 83.04 per cent

The 2016 Local Government Election Report can be found under About Us/Publications/Statistical Returns/Local Government and Brisbane City Council Elections.

All results for the 2016 Local Government elections can be found at Elections/Election results and statistics/Local government elections.
All election information and results for state, local, by-elections, referendums and polls can be found under Elections|Election results and statistics.

2012 local government elections were held on Saturday, 28 April 2012

- First time the ECQ conducted local government elections
- 349 separate elections for 73 local government areas across Queensland
- Considering both mayoral and councillor elections, the total number of positions to be elected was 561 (73 mayors and 488 councillors)
- Over four million ballot papers were counted
- From the 73 councils, 30 opted to have their elections conducted entirely by post
- 2,745,866 electors were on the electoral roll at close of rolls

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there restrictions on filming / photography on election day?
Request to film or take photos inside a polling booth must be made through media@ecq.qld.gov.au

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.

Who can vote in an election?
Any person who is enrolled prior to election day can vote in an election.

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. 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 and voting booth locations for elections can be found on the ECQ’s website, 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 commence counting. Results are progressively published on the 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. The conclusion of the local government elections is the day on which the last declaration of the poll is displayed at the office of the Returning Officer. 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, 28 March 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?
To qualify as a candidate, a person must:
• be an Australian citizen enrolled on the Queensland electoral roll; and
• be nominated by six electors who are currently enrolled in the local government area the person will be contesting, or be endorsed by a registered political party; and
• not be disqualified from nominating under Local Government Act 2009 (Qld); and pay a $250 deposit.
In order to nominate, all candidates (including sitting councillors) must complete new mandatory training being conducted by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. Candidates must declare they have successfully completed the course when lodging their official nomination forms. Proof of completion may be required. Candidates must also open a dedicated campaign bank account for all donations and expenditure transaction. The account details must be provided as part of the nomination process. These details are not made public.

For further details go to ECQ’s Candidates and parties tab or ecq.qld.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/candidates/2020-local-government-elections

What about people who will be away from home at election time?
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 28 March.

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.