MEDIA KIT

FOR 2020 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Resource

Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

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

Number of councils	77
Number of mayoral positions	77
Number of councillor positions	501
Electors	Approximately 3.2 million electors
Local government elections are held	Every four years on the last Saturday in March, unless changed by regulation

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.

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

For further information on the 2020 local government elections, go to ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/2020-local-government-elections.

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/.

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.

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.

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

Banana	Ipswich (multi-councillor)	South Burnett
Brisbane	Isaac	Sunshine Coast
Bundaberg	Logan Moreton Bay	Tablelands
Cairns	North Burnett	Torres Strait Island
Cassowary Coast	Northern Peninsula Area	Townsville
Fraser Coast	Redland	Whitsunday
Gold Coast	Rockhampton	
Gympie	Scenic Rim	

Undivided councils in the 2020 local government elections

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

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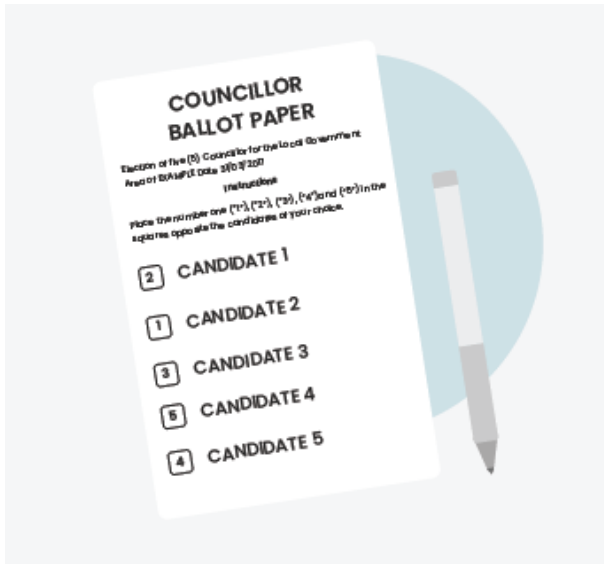
First-Past-the-Post Voting (FPTP) is the system of voting for:

- **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.
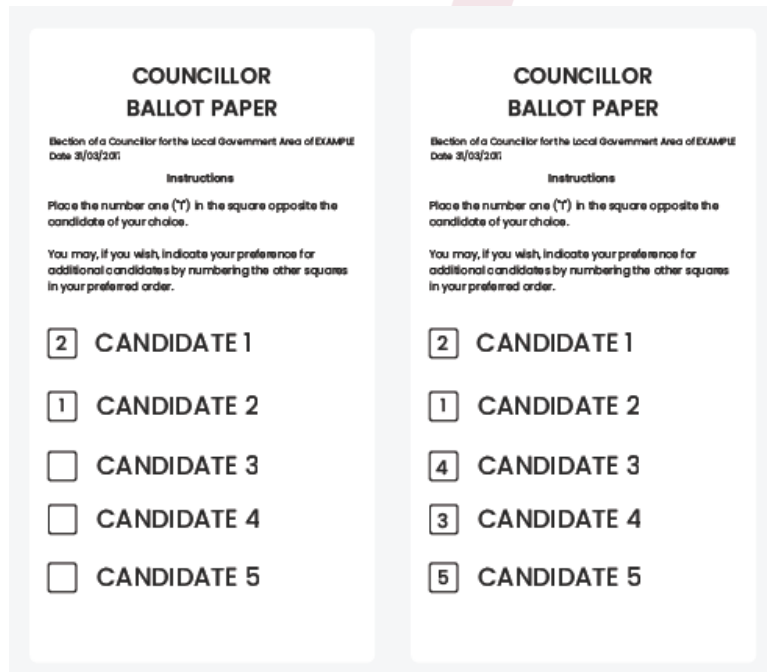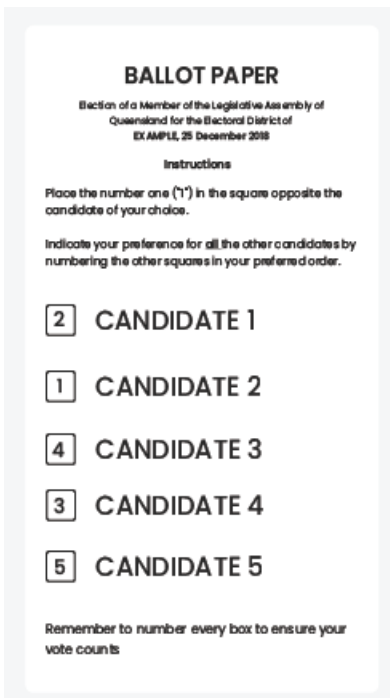
A vote is **formal** if the elector has marked a vote for the number of candidates equal to the required number. For example, in Ipswich City Council, the elector needs to select two candidates for their division. The vote is formal if the voter's intention is clear.

COUNCILLOR
BALLOT PAPER

Election of five (5) Councillor for the Local Government
Area of EXAMPLE Date 31/03/2011

Instructions

Place the number one ('1'), ('2'), ('3'), ('4')and ('5') in the
squares opposite the candidates of your choice.

[2] CANDIDATE 1
[1] CANDIDATE 2
[3] CANDIDATE 3
[5] CANDIDATE 4
[4] CANDIDATE 5

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.

COUNCILLOR
BALLOT PAPER

Election of a Councillor for the Local Government Area of EXAMPLE
Date 31/03/2011

Instructions

Place the number one ('1') in the square opposite the
candidate of your choice.

You may, if you wish, indicate your preference for
additional candidates by numbering the other squares
in your preferred order.

[2] CANDIDATE 1
[1] CANDIDATE 2
[ ] CANDIDATE 3
[ ] CANDIDATE 4
[ ] CANDIDATE 5

COUNCILLOR
BALLOT PAPER

Election of a Councillor for the Local Government Area of EXAMPLE
Date 31/03/2011

Instructions

Place the number one ('1') in the square opposite the
candidate of your choice.

You may, if you wish, indicate your preference for
additional candidates by numbering the other squares
in your preferred order.

[2] CANDIDATE 1
[1] CANDIDATE 2
[4] CANDIDATE 3
[3] CANDIDATE 4
[5] CANDIDATE 5

BALLOT PAPER

Election of a Member of the Legislative Assembly of
Queensland for the Electoral District of
EXAMPLE, 25 December 2018

Instructions

Place the number one ('1') in the square opposite the
candidate of your choice.

Indicate your preference for all the other candidates by
numbering the other squares in your preferred order.

[2] CANDIDATE 1
[1] CANDIDATE 2
[4] CANDIDATE 3
[3] CANDIDATE 4
[5] CANDIDATE 5

Remember to number every box to ensure your
vote counts

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

Council	Type	Voting system
Balonne Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Banana Shire Council	divided	OPV mayor and councillor
Barcaldine Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Barcoo Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Blackall-Tambo Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Bulloo Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Burke Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Diamantina Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Etheridge Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Goondiwindi Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Longreach Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
North Burnett Regional Council	divided	OPV mayor and councillor
Paroo Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Quilpie Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Richmond Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Western Downs Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor

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

Council	Type	Voting system
Cook Shire Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor
Isaac Regional Council	divided (postal divisions 1 and 8)	OPV mayor and councillor
Maranoa Regional Council	undivided	OPV mayor, FPTP councillor

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

The [2012 Elections Report](#) can be found at
https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/2665/2012-Local-Government-Elections-Report.pdf

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?

Electors can vote at any polling booth within their local government area. Early voting will be available at the Brisbane City Hall for residents who live in the local government areas of Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay, Redlands, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. This polling booth will remain open on election day. In a small number of instances, polling booths adjacent to more than one local government boundary operate for both councils. In 2020, this is the case for Eight Mile Plains on the boundary of Brisbane City Council and Logan City Council.

Electors who are not in Queensland during the election can apply for a postal vote or vote at an early voting centre within their local government area prior to election day. Please go to ecq.qld.gov.au for all booth updates.

What is a divided or an undivided local government area?

A local government may be divided into areas called divisions or wards. The *Local Government Act 2009* (Qld) requires that each division or ward of a local government must have a reasonable proportion of electors and councillors. Schedule 1 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld) provides details of the local governments including classification (shire or region), if the area is divided to divisions and councillor representation. Go to legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2012-0236 to view the legislation and regulation.

How can people find out what electoral area 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. Interactive and PDF maps of all local governments are also available on the website. Some local government boundaries were reviewed in 2019 and the reports can be found at ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/local-government-boundary-reviews.

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 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.