

# 2020 STATE GENERAL ELECTION

## Statement of Intent

Queensland's State general election is on Saturday, 31 October 2020, and early voting will start on 19 October 2020. The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) will conduct the election in accordance with the legislation passed by the Queensland Parliament to facilitate the safe conduct of the election, acknowledging the Queensland Government's [Statement of principles governing the conduct of the COVID-19 Queensland General Election](#).

The ECQ has significantly revised its essential services for the election in view of the COVID-19 global pandemic and in line with the health and safety measures introduced for the local government elections held on 28 March 2020.

The ECQ is planning to deliver a 'mixed model' election which features expanded in-person and postal voting options, with telephone voting for eligible electors only. All measures will be implemented based on advice from Queensland's Chief Health Officer.

The ECQ's guiding principles in delivering the 2020 State general election are:

- 1** Implementing public health measures to protect the health and safety of Queensland voters based on the advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer.
- 2** Expanding voting services to ensure electors have a range of voting options.
- 3** Planning for a large expected increase in early voting and postal voting.
- 4** Implementing contingencies for an expanded or predominantly postal vote if required to maintain public health and safety, based on advice from Queensland's Chief Health Officer.
- 5** Facilitating political participation through arrangements for distribution of how-to-vote cards and scrutineering of vote counting, while maintaining appropriate health protections for ECQ staff, voters, candidates and campaign volunteers.

# Electoral services

Based on these principles, the ECQ is planning to deliver the following essential services for the elections:

Public health measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Physical distancing at all polling places, including maintaining distances of 1.5 metres and using alternate polling screens</li> <li>■ Supplies of hand sanitiser and additional cleaning products at all polling places</li> <li>■ Voters encouraged to bring their own pens or pencils</li> <li>■ Additional staff to be employed for queue control and to assist with physical distancing measures</li> <li>■ <b>Any additional measures recommended by Queensland's Chief Health Officer</b></li> </ul>
Early voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Early voting from 19 to 30 October 2020</li> <li>■ Approximately 200 early voting centres at locations across Queensland</li> <li>■ Expanded operating hours at early voting centres:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am to 6pm on Mondays, Wednesday, Fridays</li> <li>• 9am to 9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays</li> <li>• 9am to 5pm on Saturday, 24 October</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Voters encouraged to vote outside peak periods during early voting</li> </ul>
Postal voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Applications for postal votes to open early</li> <li>■ Additional postal voting capacity planned to cater for an expected increased demand</li> <li>■ New postal vote distribution processes for faster processing, delivery and return of postal votes</li> </ul>
Election day voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Approximately 1300 polling booths at locations across Queensland</li> <li>■ All polling booths open from 8am to 6pm on election day</li> <li>■ Fundraising events on election day to be permitted only if the Chief Health Officer's advice supports this occurring</li> </ul>
Other voting services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Additional capacity for the telephone voting service and ECQ call centre</li> <li>■ Telephone voting will be available to <b>eligible voters only</b> – voters who do not meet eligibility requirements will not be able to vote by telephone</li> <li>■ Special arrangements for 'declared institutions' such as aged care facilities</li> </ul>
Political participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Physical distancing measures to ensure the safe:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• distribution of how-to-vote cards and other election material</li> <li>• scrutineering of vote counting on election night and during the count process</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ ECQ directions to be issued prior to the election based on advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer</li> </ul>

A comprehensive service plan for the 2020 State general election will be released in September 2020.

# What can voters do?

- Make sure you're correctly enrolled now – visit [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au) to find out how to [enrol](#) or [update](#) your enrolment details.
- Plan your vote in advance and, where possible, vote outside peak periods during extended voting hours in the two-week early voting period from 19-30 October 2020.
- If you are postal voting, complete your postal vote and mail it back **immediately**.
- Vote safely and follow all health advice – stay 1.5 metres apart, use hand sanitiser, bring your own pen or pencil, and stay home if sick.
- Remember to number all the boxes on your ballot paper in order of preference starting with 1 to make sure your vote counts.

Remember, voting is compulsory



For more information visit [www.ecq.qld.gov.au](http://www.ecq.qld.gov.au) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).

