

INFORMATION FOR THIRD PARTIES

- POLITICAL DONORS AND CAMPAIGNERS

This fact sheet relates to individuals and entities who donate or campaign in support of a candidate or group of candidates contesting a local government election.

What is a third party?

A third party is an individual or an entity who is a political donor or campaigner and makes a gift to an electoral participant or conducts campaigning activities.

What is not a third party?

Registered political parties, associated entities, candidates, members of a committee for the election of a candidate, groups of candidates and candidates endorsed by a registered political party are not considered third parties.

Examples of third party activities

A third party **donor** may make a gift directly to a candidate, group of candidates, registered political party or another third party, such as an entity conducting campaign activity. A third party donor may also incur electoral expenditure, e.g. paying for a political advertisement in a newspaper.

A third party **campaigner** may receive a gift from a donor to incur electoral expenditure, such as paying for a political advertisement on a billboard. A third party campaigner may also incur expenditure, such as incurring electoral expenditure or making a gift to a candidate for an election.

What are the disclosure obligations of third parties?

Once the \$500 threshold has been reached, a third party must lodge a separate disclosure return for gifts received and electoral expenditure incurred. The \$500 threshold is

cumulative, meaning it does not matter whether the gift or the electoral expenditure is made up of several small sums amounting to \$500, or was one amount of \$500.

When do third parties have to disclose?

Third parties must lodge their disclosure returns with the ECQ within seven business days of reaching the \$500 threshold. Once a third party reaches this threshold, every subsequent gift or expenditure item must be disclosed within seven business days of being made.

A summary disclosure return must also be lodged within 15 weeks after the election. This return must state the total amount of political expenditure incurred during the disclosure period, as well as the total value of any gifts received to enable the expenditure.

What is the disclosure period for the election?

The disclosure period for any third party donor or campaigner who has incurred expenditure starts 30 days after the last quadrennial election and ends 30 days after the current election.

For the 28 March 2020 local government election, the disclosure period begins on 18 April 2016 and ends on 29 April 2020.

How do third parties lodge a return?

Disclosures should be lodged via the ECQ's Electronic Disclosure System at <https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au>.

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.