

EXPENDITURE CAPS FOR REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND ENDORSED CANDIDATES

This fact sheet relates to registered political parties and endorsed candidates contesting State elections and by-elections that take place **after 30 November 2020**. All references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992*. The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

There are limitations (caps) on the amount of electoral expenditure that can be incurred during the capped expenditure period for a State election. These caps apply to registered political parties and endorsed candidates, amongst others.

See [Fact Sheet 8](#) for further information about what is and what is not electoral expenditure.

What is the capped expenditure period?

The capped expenditure period starts on:¹

- For the 2024 State general election – Tuesday, 2 April 2024.
- For a by-election – the day the writ for the election is issued.

The capped expenditure period ends at 6pm on election day for both general elections and by-elections.

What is the expenditure cap amount?

The expenditure cap varies depending on the type of election and the participant.

Registered political parties

For the **2024 State general election**, the expenditure cap is **\$95,964.09** multiplied by the number of electoral districts for which the party endorses a candidate.

Registered political parties must not spend more than **\$95,964.09** relating to any one electoral district.

Example: If a registered political party endorses a candidate in 67 electoral districts for the 2024 State general election, the maximum amount the party can spend

generally towards that election is \$6,429,594.03 (67 electoral districts multiplied by \$95,964.09). The maximum amount the party can spend in relation to any one of the 67 electoral districts is \$95,964.09.

For a by-election, electoral expenditure incurred by a registered political party will count towards their endorsed candidate's expenditure cap. In other words, parties and their endorsed candidate must not collectively spend more than the candidate's cap of **\$90,748.65**.²

Endorsed candidates

For the **2024 State general election**, the expenditure cap is **\$60,499.10** for candidates endorsed by a registered political party. This amount is in addition to the \$95,964.09 per electoral district that can be incurred by the party.

If more than one candidate is endorsed by the same registered political party in a single electoral district, the cap amount of \$60,499.10 is divided between them.

For a by-election, the expenditure cap is **\$90,748.65** for candidates endorsed by a registered political party. Any electoral expenditure incurred by the party counts towards this cap amount.

Elected members

If a Member of Parliament who is a member of a registered political party incurs electoral expenditure during the capped expenditure period, but ultimately does not nominate for the next election, the electoral expenditure incurred will go towards their party's cap for that electoral district.³

¹ See section 280

² See section 281L

³ See section 281K

More information

For more information relating to funding and disclosure obligations, please visit the ECQ's website at www.ecq.qld.gov.au, call 1300 881 665, or email fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.

Electoral expenditure relating to an electoral district

Electoral expenditure incurred by a registered political party relates to an electoral district if the expenditure is for advertising or other election material communicated to electors in that electoral district and is not mainly communicated to electors outside that district.⁴

However electoral expenditure does not relate to an electoral district if it is incurred to carry out an opinion poll or research.

Recovery of amounts over the expenditure cap

Failure to comply with electoral expenditure caps is an offence that carries substantial penalties, including potential prosecution.

An amount which is up to double that of the excess expenditure may also be recovered as a debt to the State.⁵

⁴ See section 281B

⁵ See section 281J