

RESTRICTIONS ON SETTING UP ELECTION SIGNS AT POLLING BOOTHS

Sections 4-6 of the Local Government Electoral (2020 Quadrennial Election) Regulation 2020

Sections 5-7 of the Electoral (By- elections Before Next General Election) Regulation 2020

The regulations create a new offence in relation to the setting up and display of signs at polling booths.

Effective immediately, and up until 5am on polling day, Saturday 28 March 2020, a person must not display an **election sign or set up a table, chair, umbrella, portable shade structure or other thing** to be used for a purpose related to the election, in the **area around an ordinary polling booth**.

An **election sign** includes -

- a continuous sign (that is, a sign comprised of a length of continuous flexible material); or pieces of flexible material joined together; or streamers; or bunting, that contain anything that could influence an elector in relation to voting at the election; or
- a sign that could otherwise affect the result of the election; or
- a sign that is the colours that are ordinarily associated with a registered political party.

Streamers in the colours that are ordinarily associated with a registered political party, are an example of an election sign.

Although the following items are excluded from the definition of an election sign, the underlined items may fall within the items prohibited from being set up in the area around an ordinary polling booth, if used for a purpose related to the election:

- an official sign
- an item of clothing being worn by a person
- an umbrella or portable shade structure
- a small thing, including for example, a lapel pin, a badge, a hat, a pen or pencil, or a sticker.

The **area around an ordinary polling booth** is the area within 100 metres of the building in which the voting compartments for an ordinary polling booth are to be located.

However, if the building is located in grounds, the prohibited area will include:

- anywhere in the grounds;
- on a boundary fence or another structure or feature that marks the boundary of the grounds; and
- anywhere within 100m of any entrance to the grounds.

More information

If you need more information relating to the 2020 elections, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing ecq@ecq.qld.gov.au.

However, this area does not include a residence, or premises that are lawfully occupied by a person (other than the ECQ) for a purpose not related to a voting office or polling booth used for an election. Premises which are not places where voting compartments for an ordinary polling booth are to be located are also excluded.

This area also does not include premises used by a candidate in an election or a registered political party as an office.

If a staff member of the ECQ considers a sign or another thing is displayed, or situated in contravention of this law, the staff member may remove the sign or other thing.

Non-compliance is punishable by up to 10 penalty units currently valued at \$1,334.50.

More information

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