

STATE CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNTS – THIRD PARTIES

This fact sheet relates to third parties which register, or meet the registration criteria, for State elections and by-elections. All references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992*, as in force from 1 July 2022. The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

All registered third parties must:

- **establish** a dedicated State campaign bank account with a financial institution, and
- **use the account to pay for all electoral expenditure.**

Unregistered third parties that meet the criteria for registration are also required to maintain a State campaign account.¹

See [Fact Sheet 14](#) for information on what constitutes a third party and the registration criteria.

When to open a State campaign account

Third parties must open a State campaign account **before** they pay for any electoral expenditure.

When to notify the ECQ of bank account details

Registered third parties must notify the ECQ of their State campaign account details within **five business days** of registering for an election.

Bank account details can be by completing [Form QSG16C](#).

Unregistered third parties that meet the criteria for registration have **five business days** to notify the ECQ of their bank account details, from when they meet the registration criteria.

If any State campaign account details change, the ECQ must be notified within **five business days**.

Bank account details can be updated by completing [Form QSG16C](#).

What can go into the State campaign account?

A registered third party can deposit its own funds, including gifts received, into its State campaign account.

Gifts from property developers are strictly prohibited and must not be placed into a State campaign account. See the [ECQ website](#) for more information about prohibited donations.

What can be paid from a State campaign account?

All electoral expenditure **must** be paid from the State campaign account.²

How long must a State campaign account stay open?

Third parties must maintain the State campaign account for a specific election until all obligations relating to electoral expenditure are fulfilled.

Third parties which regularly participate in Queensland State elections may maintain the same bank account for successive elections. A new account does not have to be opened and closed for each election event. However, all disclosure and reporting requirements must be met in full for each election.

All statements and records relating to a State campaign bank account must be kept, and made available to the ECQ on request, for a period of **five years after the record is made**.³

¹ See section 297 for third party registration criteria

² See section 221A

³ See section 305D

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.

Providing bank statements

Registered third parties must provide a copy of their State campaign account bank statement with their election summary return.

The statement provided to the ECQ must cover the period that:

- starts when the first item of electoral expenditure is incurred for the election or the start of the capped expenditure period, whichever is the earlier date, and
- ends on the day before the election summary return is lodged with the ECQ.

Offences and penalties

The maximum penalty for failing to comply with State campaign account requirements is 200 penalty units.⁴

Other penalties apply for failing to keep records or notify the ECQ about State campaign account details.

⁴ See sections 215 and 221A