

## INFORMATION FOR THIRD PARTIES

This fact sheet relates to individuals and entities which make donations or incur electoral expenditure for Queensland 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.

Queensland's electoral laws regulate the activities of third parties which participate in State elections and by-elections.

This fact sheet provides a general overview of those regulations and outlines where to find additional information.

### What is a third party?

A third party is any individual or entity (including those outside Queensland), other than a registered political party, an associated entity or a candidate.

### Does a third party need to be registered?

A third party which incurs, or intends to incur, more than \$6,000 (either as a single amount or cumulatively) in electoral expenditure during a capped expenditure period, must:

- apply to register with the ECQ before election day for an election,
- appoint an agent (if applicable),
- operate a dedicated campaign bank account, and
- fulfil a range of reporting and disclosure obligations.

Third parties that only intend to make donations to candidates or registered political parties do not need to register as a third party. However, they may still have disclosure obligations.

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

Refer to [Fact Sheet 13](#) for further information about the disclosure obligations of donors.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 15](#) for further information about the registration process.

### Electoral expenditure caps for third parties

Third parties must not exceed the electoral expenditure cap during the capped expenditure period for a State election.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 12](#) for information about expenditure caps for third parties.

### Political donation caps

There are caps on the amount or value of political donations that can be made to registered political parties and State election candidates during a donation cap period.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 20](#) for information about donation cap regulations, and what the caps are.

### Disclosure obligations

#### Electoral expenditure disclosure

All registered third parties (including those that should have been registered) must disclose all electoral expenditure incurred for an election in their election summary return.

The return is due **15 weeks after election day** and must be lodged even if the third party has nothing to disclose.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 9](#) for information about disclosing electoral expenditure.

#### Gifts made

**Any third party** that makes a gift of \$1,000 or more (either as a single amount or cumulatively) to a registered political party during a reporting period, or a State election candidate for an election must disclose the details of the gift in a return.

#### More information

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



Refer to [Fact Sheet 13](#) for information about disclosing gifts made.

#### Gifts received

Any third party that incurs expenditure for a political purpose of \$1,000 or more (either as a single amount or cumulatively), and receives a gift of \$1,000 or more (either as a single amount or cumulatively) to incur or reimburse that expenditure (wholly or in part), must disclose the details of the gift in a return.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 7](#) for further information about disclosing gifts received.

#### **How to lodge a return**

Returns should be lodged via the ECQ's **Self Service Portal** (accessed via: [selfserv.elections.qld.gov.au](http://selfserv.elections.qld.gov.au))

#### **Record keeping**

All third parties must keep records for five years. This is required to demonstrate compliance in relation to all electoral expenditure, political donation cap, disclosure, and State campaign account requirements.

Refer to [Fact Sheet 21](#) for information about record keeping requirements.