

## Snapshot – Counting the votes timeline 2020 State general election

### Counting the votes timeline

#### From 6pm Saturday 31 October

The **unofficial preliminary** count commences and includes:

- election day votes
- early votes available to count
- postal votes returned and scrutinised by the ECQ before 6pm on election day
- remote area polling votes - counted by the Returning Officers
- telephone votes

Brisbane City Hall will count votes for all electorates (early voting and election day).

#### Indicative count

An indicative count occurs after 6pm on election night, at the conclusion of the preliminary count. Like the preliminary count, the indicative count is unofficial.

The indicative count is an allocation of preferences to two candidates selected by the Electoral Commissioner. The two candidates are selected because various factors indicate they are the most likely to receive the highest number of first preference votes. The factors include historical trends and current polling.

The two candidates for the indicative count for each state electoral district remain in-confidence until 6pm on election day.

It is possible that, after a majority of polling booth counts are completed on election night, it becomes clear that the majority of first preference votes have been cast for different candidates to those selected for the indicative count. Where this occurs, the indicative count information may be removed from the website.

The progress of the count can be viewed on the ECQ website with results published progressively.

## The days following election night

**Official count** commences and includes:

- postal votes still being returned by the deadline of 10 November
- absent votes returned from other electorates
- declaration votes
- the allocation of preferences for all electorates.

Declarations of the successful candidates are made when the outcome is mathematically certain.

Declarations will appear on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's (ECQ) results website. The daily election update found under the media tab, will include declarations for that day, if any.

## More information on counting the votes

The counting of votes begins at 6pm when polls close. Votes counted on the night include election day, early voting and returned and accepted postal votes.

The count on election night is the unofficial first preference count. The official count is a second count of votes counted on polling night and begins on the Sunday following election day.

More information about counting the vote can be found in the [Counting the votes fact sheet](#).

## Declaration

A declaration of a successful candidate is only made when the outcome is mathematically certain.

As there are 597 candidates across 93 electorates, plus around 900,000 postal votes; it is probable that counting may continue past the deadline for postal votes to be returned on 10 November.

## Viewing the election results

When the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) results web page for the State general election goes live on election night Saturday 31 October, results for each electorate will progressively become available after 6pm.

This information is externally available to the general public, journalists, registered political parties, candidates and anyone interested in election results.

The progress of the count can be viewed on the ECQ website. Results will be being published progressively.

The ECQ has provided a [User guide: Election results website - 2020 State general election](#) to assist in navigating the results website.

**View the results for the 2020 State general election at [ecq.qld.gov.au](http://ecq.qld.gov.au)**

Results for each electorate will progressively become available after 6pm, Saturday 31 October 2020.