

ELIGIBILITY TO BECOME A LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLOR

This fact sheet relates to candidates and groups of candidates contesting local government elections.

What skills are required by councillors?

Local governments need councillors from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience. While formal qualifications are not needed for the role, to be an effective councillor a person needs to have:

- an active interest in community issues
- good communication skills and the ability to engage with a range of people
- good problem solving and negotiation skills
- motivation to work with others to achieve results
- leadership qualities
- business and financial management skills, and
- willingness to do the right thing if faced with a conflict of interest between the public interest and a personal interest.

What are the eligibility requirements to become a councillor?

All candidates must also meet the following mandatory eligibility requirements as set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.

In order to be a councillor, a person must:

- be an adult Australian citizen (including an Australian citizen who holds dual citizenship with another country)
- reside in the local government area for which they are nominating (Note: if standing for election in an electoral division of a divided local government

area, the candidate is not required to reside in that division but within the local government area)

- be enrolled on the Queensland electoral roll
- not be disqualified from being a councillor because of a conviction for the following types of offences:
 - a treason offence
 - an electoral offence
 - a bribery offence
 - an integrity offence, and
- not subject to other circumstances including:
 - being an undischarged bankrupt
 - being on probation, in prison or on parole
 - being a member of a state or federal parliament or a councillor of a local government in another state.

To check if you are eligible to become a councillor, visit the Department of Local Government, Racing, and Multicultural Affairs' [Check Your Eligibility](#) tool.

Note: The ECQ is not able to provide advice on a person's eligibility to nominate as a candidate. If there is uncertainty about a person's eligibility due to specific personal circumstances, it is recommended that independent legal advice is sought.

The legislation governing eligibility to become a councillor can be found in the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, available at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.

More information

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