

ELIGIBILITY TO BECOME A LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILLOR

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

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.