Electoral Commission QUEENSLAND

Newsletter copy

If you live in Redland City Council, you may need to vote for a new Mayor soon.

This is a full postal by-election, so all enrolled voters will have a ballot pack sent to the postal address listed on the electoral roll. No polling places will be open to vote in person.

When you receive your ballot pack, you can vote straight away. Remember to read the instructions on your ballot paper and declaration envelope before you begin.

1. Place a 1 next to the name of your preferred candidate on the ballot paper. You can vote for one, some or all of the candidates.
2. Fold your ballot paper in half, place into the declaration envelope and seal it.
3. After you seal your declaration envelope, sign the envelope before a witness and make sure your witness signs the envelope too.
4. Your ballot paper comes with a reply-paid envelope, so you just need to slide the sealed and signed declaration envelope into the reply-paid envelope and drop it in a post box.

You need to vote by 6pm on election day, Saturday 12 December 2026.

All postal votes must be received by the ECQ **by 5pm on Tuesday 22 December 2026** to ensure they are counted.

The ECQ has short videos about voting in a Queensland local government election and postal voting which you may find helpful.

Visit ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland to learn more about the by-election including who is running and to stay up to date with the results after the polls close.

Social media

Help us get the word out to your community by:

- sharing a post from the ECQ's Facebook or Instagram accounts
- creating your own post with our suggested text and social media tiles below, which can also be downloaded from our Redland by-election page or ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland.

Don't forget to tag us when you share:
FB: @electoralcommissionqld | Instagram: @electoralcommissionqld

Suggested social posts

1. **Live in Redland City Council?**
   Get ready to vote for your new Mayor.
   📍 **Check your mail:** Your ballot paper will arrive from late November.
   ✅ **Complete your vote:** by 6pm Saturday 12 December.
   📮 **Send it back:** make sure the ECQ receives it by 22 December.
   Find out about postal voting and more:
   👉 ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland

2. **Do you live in Redland City Council?**
   You must complete a postal vote to choose a new Mayor by 6pm Saturday 12 December.
   📍 **Postal vote only:** Your ballot paper will arrive from late November.
   1️⃣ **Put 1**: next to your preferred candidate then number the other candidates as you wish.
   ✅ **Get a witness**: sign after you seal your ballot envelope.
   📮 **Return to ECQ:** make sure we receive it by 22 December.
   👉 ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland

3. **First time voting?** 👋
   If you live in Redland City Council, you'll need to vote on 12 December.
   ✅ **It's compulsory:** vote if you're 18+ or risk a fine
   💻 **Enrol or update details:** by 16 November at aec.gov.au/enrol (have ID ready)
   📱 **Add email and mobile**: to get text or email reminders
   📮 **Postal vote:** Look for your ballot pack in the mail from late November.
   More info 👉 ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland

Redland City Council by-election

Saturday 12 December 2026

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Social media tiles

Download these tiles from our Redland by-election page or ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland.













Poster

Promote the by-election by displaying one of our posters at your organisation (e.g. reception area, front window, or public notice board).

You can download our A4 poster from our Redland by-election page or ecq.qld.gov.au/Redland or collect a poster closer to the by-election from our Returning Officer for the Redland City Council by-election at 233 Middle Street, Cleveland 4163.



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Frequently asked questions

Am I enrolled to vote?

- Visit aec.gov.au to enrol to vote or to check your details are up to date.
- Add your email address and mobile number to be notified about elections in your area.

What if I recently changed address?

- You will need to update your details on the electoral roll at aec.gov.au to ensure you are voting in the correct council area.

Is voting compulsory?

- Voting is compulsory for all Australian citizens aged 18 years or older.
- If you do not vote, you may receive a fine.

What is local government?

- Local government, also known as your local council, is responsible for managing public property and a range of local services and activities funded by rates, services fees and grants from state and federal governments.
- Council services could include cultural and sporting facilities, town planning, local roads, waste management, land care programs, pet registration and more.

Why do I need to vote in the local government by-election?

- Your mayor and councillors represent you in your community. Voting in the by-election means you're having a say about the decision-makers who will shape the local community where you live.

Why is voting important?

- Governments make decisions about services, laws and protections that impact on every part of life.
- By voting, you are part of this decision-making and making a choice about your community.
- If you don't vote, you are relying on someone else to choose your representative for you.
- One of the best ways to make sure you are involved in decisions about your community is to vote.

Why aren't there any polling places or voting centres open in my community?

- The Redland City Council requested a full postal vote for this by-election. This means that all voters will receive a ballot pack in the mail along with a reply-paid envelope in which to return the completed ballot paper to the ECQ.
- No polling places or early voting centres will be open to vote in person.
- If you have listed a postal address on the electoral roll, your ballot pack will be sent to that address.
- If you do not receive your ballot pack, please contact the ECQ on 1300 881 665.

How do I complete a postal vote?

- Once your postal vote arrives in the mail, complete the following steps:
  1. Open and read the instructions on your ballot paper. Detach the ballot paper from the declaration envelope and then complete your vote. You can do this as soon as you receive it in the mail.
  2. Then, fold your ballot paper/s in half, place into the declaration envelope and seal it.
  3. Sign the declaration envelope where it says *You sign here*. Have a witness sign where it says *Your witness signs here*.
  4. Put your sealed and signed declaration envelope into the reply-paid envelope.
  5. Post the reply-paid envelope as soon as you can.
- Remember you MUST vote before 6pm on election day, Saturday 12 December 2026.
- Votes must be received by the Electoral Commission of Queensland within 10 days (5pm Tuesday, 22 December 2026) after election day to be included in the count. If a vote is received AFTER the deadline, it can't be included. Any late votes are recorded and stored.
- The counting of all votes begins after 6pm on election day.
- We have a short video about how to cast a postal vote.

How do I know my vote is secret?

- When handling postal ballots, there are steps we take to ensure the secrecy of your vote and the security of your details.
- Candidates are welcome to appoint scrutineers, including themselves, to watch these processes.
- When we receive your postal ballot, we start with these steps:
  1. We check the envelope has been signed by you and a witness.
  2. We mark you off as voting in the election (just like we would at a polling booth).
  3. We put the still sealed envelope into a ballot box.
- Once the Returning Officer has enough postal ballots, they open the ballot box in front of witnesses or scrutineers.
  1. All the sealed envelopes are placed face-down, so we can't see your name and address.
  2. The ballot paper is removed from each envelope and placed in a sealed ballot box ready for counting.
  3. After 6.00pm on election day, we unseal the ballot box in front of witnesses or scrutineers, unfold the ballot papers and count them.

What if my postal vote doesn't arrive or I lose it?

- If something happens to your postal vote before you post it back to the ECQ, you can ask us to reprint your ballot paper.
- Contact the ECQ at 1300 881 665 or visit the Returning Officer for the Redland City Council by-election at 233 Middle Street, Cleveland 4163.

How will I know who is my new Mayor?

- The ECQ will publish the details of the declared Mayor on its website and also post about it on Facebook and Instagram.