Journey of your

postal vote

information sheet



Who can postal vote?

Anyone can apply for a postal vote by going to the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) website at ecq.qld.gov.au when postal voting applications open before each election.

Once your postal vote arrives in the mail, there are 5 easy steps to cast your vote. Remember you MUST vote before 6pm on election day.

- Open and complete your ballot paper. Don't wait. You can do it as soon as you receive it. Follow the instructions on the ballot paper/s so you vote correctly.
- After voting, fold your ballot paper/s in half and put your ballot paper/s in the declaration envelope and seal it. It is very important that you put your ballot paper/s inside the declaration envelope.
- 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.
- Post the Reply Paid envelope right away.

Votes must be received by the ECQ within 10 days after election day to be included in the count. If a vote is received AFTER the deadline, it can't be included. These votes are recorded and stored.

The counting of all votes begins after 6pm on election day.

Follow these links to find out more about how to vote at <u>ecq.qld.gov.au/how-to-vote/voting-systems</u> or assisted voting services at <u>ecq.qld.gov.au/how-to-vote/voter-assistance</u>.

Journey of your postal vote

What happens after your postal vote is mailed to the ECQ?



Your postal vote is RECEIVED by the ECQ.

The OUTER envelope is opened and the declaration envelope is removed and checked.

Has it been witnessed and signed?

Are enrolment details correct?

The DECLARATION envelope is scrutinised - enrolment, signature and witness signature checked. If all in order, the declaration envelope is opened and the folded vote/s are taken out and placed into a ballot box.

Postal votes are progressively counted as they arrive at the ECQ for up to 10 days after the election.

FORMAL votes are counted

From 6pm on election day, postal votes (just like other votes) are removed from a ballot box and checked to see if they are filled out correctly (are formal).

Formal votes go to the correct counting table.

Informal votes are collated.

There must be enough postal votes to count each time. This ensures the vote remains secret. Sometimes the ECQ must wait for enough votes to arrive to continue the progressive count.

Each new count is verified and recorded for upload to the ECQ website.

For all types of votes, including your postal vote, FORMAL votes are counted for the SECOND time.

PREFERENCES are allocated when counting concludes.

Formal votes and preferences are then VERIFIED and RECORDED for upload to the ECQ website.

This is the journey for every postal vote. After they arrive at the ECQ, they are checked for formality, counted, recounted, and the result verified.

This process is repeated until all votes are received or until 10 days after election day. When all possible votes are in, a distribution of preferences may commence.

When the outcome is certain, the successful candidate is declared.



