

PROVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL INFORMATION TO CANDIDATES

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

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) can release information about electors to specific electoral participants before and after an election.

Who can access electoral roll information?

Under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, local government candidates are entitled to receive a copy of the voters roll for the local government area or the division/ward where they are running for election after the close of candidate nominations.

Once elected, a councillor can also request elector information about the local government area or division/ward for which they were elected. A councillor in a divided council can only request information for their division/ward, but not the entire local government area.

Registered political parties can request electoral data about each local government area after the election.

What information is released?

Before the election, candidates receive electoral roll information containing the names and addresses of electors in their local government area or division/ward. The addresses of silent electors are not released.

After the election, elected councillors and registered political parties will receive:

- information about whether the elector voted in person, by post, or in another way, and

- if the elector voted in person at a polling booth within the local government area where they are enrolled or location of the polling booth where they voted.

Information about silent electors is not released.

How can the information be used?

For the information released before an election, the recipient must not use, disclose, or allow another person to access the information unless it is for:

- any purpose related to an election
- the purposes of checking the accuracy of the information
- the performance of a councillor's functions in relation to electors enrolled on the electoral roll, or
- the performance of their duties by an official or employee of a political party in relation to the electors enrolled on the voters roll.

Under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, failure to comply with these provisions carries a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units (valued at \$2,669 as at 1 July 2020), or 6 months imprisonment.

Under the *Electoral Act 1992*, for information released after the election, a person must not use, disclose to another person, or allow another person to access given to them unless the use, disclosure or access is for a purpose related to an election.

Failure to comply with these provisions carries a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units (valued at \$26,690 as at 1 July 2020).