

CAMPAIGN BANK ACCOUNTS AND USE OF CREDIT CARDS

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

Dedicated campaign bank accounts

- Candidates who plan to contest a local government election must open a dedicated campaign bank account prior to nominating for an election.
- Account details must be provided to the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) during the candidate nomination process. Account details are not made public by the ECQ.
- All gifts and loans received in support of the campaign must be deposited directly into this account and all expenses relating to the campaign must be paid from this account, under Queensland's electoral legislation.
- Self-funded candidates are also required to operate a dedicated bank account and use this account for all transactions relating to their campaign.
- Groups of candidates only require one dedicated bank account for the group. The details for this shared dedicated account must be provided to the ECQ by each candidate in the group during the nomination process, and when registering the group.
- After the election, candidates and groups of candidates will be required to provide bank statements to the ECQ with their election summary return.

- There are strict regulations on how campaign funds can be disbursed from a dedicated bank account after an election.
- Records relating to the dedicated bank account must be kept and made available to the ECQ for at least five years after the election.

Use of credit cards not permitted

- The account cannot have a credit card facility attached. **The use of credit cards is strictly prohibited** for election campaign expenses, as is using dedicated bank account funds to pay for a charge incurred using a credit card.

Offences

- There are financial penalties for not complying with the dedicated account requirements and for using a credit card for campaign expenses. Failure to comply with banking requirements carries a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units (valued at \$13,345 as at 1 July 2019).
- Failing to comply with dedicated bank account requirements is also an integrity offence, meaning local government election candidates may also be disqualified from becoming a councillor.

More information

If you need more information relating to Funding, Disclosure and Compliance, please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing fad@ecq.qld.gov.au.