

**REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES****Funding and disclosure overview**

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Electoral Act 1992* (EA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your circumstances, you should seek independent legal advice.

**What is a registered political party?**

A registered political party is a political party that is registered under the *Electoral Act 1992*. The registration of political parties makes their roles in relation to elections transparent to the public. If a political party wishes to nominate candidates for an election, the political party must be registered with the ECQ.

The register of political parties can be viewed at <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/donations-and-expenditure-disclosure/register>.

Registered political parties must adhere to regulations and reporting obligations in relation to gifts, loans and expenditure incurred on election campaigns.

**What is an associated entity of a registered political party?**

Associated entities of registered political parties:

- are controlled by the party or a group of its endorsed candidates
- or
- operate wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of the party or a group of its endorsed candidates
- or
- operate for the dominant purpose of promoting the party or a group of its endorsed candidates.

Associated entities of registered political parties need to be aware of electoral expenditure and political donation caps that apply to their party, because the funds they spend or receive may affect their party's caps.

This fact sheet provides information **only** for registered political parties. For information about associated entities, see [Fact sheet 27 – Funding and disclosure overview for associated entities](#).

**Does a registered political party need to appoint a special agent for state elections?**

The appointed agent for a registered political party is listed on the [Register of Political Parties](#). This agent is responsible for ensuring an election participant's compliance obligations under the EA are met.

See [Fact sheet 28 – Funding and disclosure overview for agents](#) for further information about who can be an agent and their responsibilities.

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**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](mailto:fad@ecq.qld.gov.au).



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## Do registered political parties need a state campaign bank account?

Yes – all registered political parties must establish a state campaign bank account and use it to pay for all electoral expenditure and receive all political donations.

This account must be separate from the party's dedicated campaign bank account for local elections.

Parties that regularly endorse candidates in state elections may keep the same campaign bank account for successive state elections.

For more information, please refer to [Fact sheet 11 – State campaign bank accounts for registered political parties](#).

## What disclosure obligations do registered political parties have?

### DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS AND LOANS RECEIVED

Gifts and loans of \$1,000 or more received during a reporting period must be disclosed to the ECQ within 7 business days. During the 7 days prior to election day, gifts and loans need to be disclosed within 24 hours.

Gift and loan disclosures are lodged as returns in the ECQ's Electronic Disclosure System (EDS) at [disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au](https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au).

See [Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts and loans by registered political parties](#) for more details.

### DISCLOSURE OF ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED

All electoral expenditure incurred by a registered political party for an election must be disclosed to the ECQ.

Electoral expenditure is disclosed in the election summary return following the election.

For more information, please refer to [Fact sheet 8 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure and election summary returns](#).

### ELECTION SUMMARY RETURN

Agents of registered political parties must give an election summary return within 15 weeks after election day for a state election. The return must disclose all electoral expenditure incurred for the election and include a copy of the bank statement for the party's state campaign bank account and an audit certificate.

Election summary returns are lodged in EDS at [disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au](https://disclosures.ecq.qld.gov.au).

For more information, please refer to [Fact sheet 8 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure and election summary returns](#).

## Are any gifts prohibited?

It is unlawful for a registered political party to accept a gift or loan from a property developer or an industry organisation representing property developers. See the [ECQ website](#) for more information.

### More information on state government elections

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It is also unlawful for a registered political party to receive anonymous gifts or loans totalling \$1,000 or more. This includes gifts or loans where the name, address or other required details of the donor are not known.

Registered political parties may not accept gifts of foreign property (including money).

### **Are there expenditure caps for state government elections?**

There are limitations (caps) on the amount of electoral expenditure that can be incurred by a party and their endorsed candidates during the capped expenditure period for a state election.

See [Fact sheet 14 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates](#) for more details.

### **Are there donation caps for state government elections?**

There are limitations (caps) on the value of political donations that can be given to or accepted by a party and their endorsed candidates during state elections.

Please refer to [Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps](#) for more details.

### **What happens if a mistake is made?**

If an election participant realises they have incorrectly handled a funding and disclosure obligation, the participant should contact the ECQ at [fad@ecq.qld.gov.au](mailto:fad@ecq.qld.gov.au). The Funding and Disclosure team can assist the election participant in amending or fulfilling their obligations. Returns must still be lodged, even if they are late.

### **What is a registered political party's record keeping obligations?**

All registered political parties must keep records for at least 5 years. This is required to demonstrate compliance in relation to all electoral expenditure, disclosure, and state campaign bank account requirements. Refer to [Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements](#) for more information.

### **Compliance**

The ECQ is responsible for administering and enforcing the EA, which includes penalties for election participants who breach their obligations.

The compliance framework is available on the [ECQ's website](#).

### **For further information**

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 11 of the EA. The Act is available in full at [legislation.qld.gov.au](http://legislation.qld.gov.au). Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the EA.

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## RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements

Fact sheet 6 – Political donation caps

Fact sheet 8 – Disclosure of electoral expenditure and election summary returns

Fact sheet 11 – State campaign bank accounts for registered political parties

Fact sheet 12 – Real-time disclosure of gifts, loans and political donations by registered political parties

Fact sheet 14 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates

Fact sheet 27 – Funding and disclosure overview for associated entities

Fact sheet 28 – Funding and disclosure overview for agents

Fact sheets can be found on the [ECQ website](#).

### **More information on state government elections**

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