

REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES**Preselection ballots & candidate endorsements**

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 preselection ballot?

Preselection is the process by which a political party chooses a candidate to endorse for a particular election. A preselection ballot occurs when members of the party vote in a poll for the purposes of preselecting a candidate for endorsement.

Notifying the ECQ of preselection ballots

A party's registered officer must give the ECQ written notice at least **7 days before voting** starts in a preselection ballot for a state or local election.

For a state election, a party's registered officer must advise the ECQ within **30 days after election day** about whether a preselection ballot was held to choose a candidate.

Even if a party did not conduct a preselection ballot as part of the preselection process, the ECQ must be notified.

For more information on preselection ballots, refer to the [Preselection Ballot Handbook](#).

Notifying the ECQ of endorsement

No matter what selection method is used, the registered officer of the party must notify the ECQ of a candidate's endorsement.

Registered officers of a political party must notify the ECQ **within 7 days** if:

- the party endorses a person to be a candidate for an election
- the party proposes to endorse a candidate for an election (e.g. by publicly announcing an intention to endorse a person as a candidate, or incurring electoral expenditure for the benefit of a person as an election candidate)
- the party changes its endorsement or proposed endorsement of a person before election day
- an elected member stops being a member of the party.

To do this, the registered officer of the party must complete [Form FAD2A – Endorsement of a candidate by a registered political party](#).

The ECQ will contact the candidate or member as soon as practicable after receiving a notice of endorsement or change to endorsement from the party.

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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.



**Electoral
Commission**
QUEENSLAND

Notifying the ECQ of a withdrawn endorsement before nominations open

The registered officer of a registered political party must notify the ECQ **within 7 days** if the party withdraws or changes its endorsement of a candidate prior to nominations. The ECQ also must be notified within 7 days if the party decides to endorse a candidate in a different electorate than originally chosen.

To do this, the registered officer must complete [Form FAD2B – Withdrawal of endorsement of a candidate by a registered political party](#).

Notifying the ECQ of a withdrawn endorsement after an endorsed candidate is nominated

The registered officer of a registered political party must notify the ECQ as soon as possible if changing or withdrawing the endorsement of a nominated candidate.

This is so the ECQ can advise the candidate of their changed situation quickly.

If the notice of withdrawal is given to the ECQ **before** the close of nominations, the candidate's nomination is automatically withdrawn.

If the notice is provided to the ECQ **after** nominations have closed, the candidate's name will still appear on the ballot paper next to the party's name.

To withdraw the endorsement of a nominated candidate, the registered officer must complete [Form FAD2B – Withdrawal of endorsement of a candidate by a registered political party](#).

The ECQ will contact the candidate as soon as practicable after receiving a notice of withdrawal of their endorsement by the party.

Offences and penalties

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

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. Participants in the electoral process should ensure they understand their obligations under the EA.

More information on state government elections

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