

THIRD PARTIES

State campaign bank accounts

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.

All registered third parties must:

- **establish** a state campaign bank account with a financial institution
- **use the account to pay for all electoral expenditure.**

Unregistered third parties that meet the criteria for registration are also required to establish and use a state campaign bank account.

See [Fact sheet 19 – Funding and disclosure overview for third parties](#) for more information on what constitutes a third party and the registration criteria.

When to open a state campaign bank account

Third parties must open a state campaign bank account before they pay for any electoral expenditure.

Registered third parties that regularly participate in state elections may keep the same bank account for successive elections. A new account does not have to be opened each time. However, all disclosure and reporting requirements must be met in full for each election.

The account must remain open until all obligations relating to electoral expenditure for a specific election are fulfilled.

When to notify the ECQ of bank account details

If state campaign bank account details are not provided as part of the application for registration, the agent of the registered third party must notify the ECQ of the account details within **5 business days** of being registered for the election.

If any account details change, the agent must notify the ECQ within 5 business days of the change.

Unregistered third parties that meet the criteria for registration have **5 business days** from when they meet the registration criteria to notify the ECQ of their bank account details.

Bank account details can be provided and updated through the ECQ's [Self Service Portal](#).

What can go into the state campaign bank account?

A registered third party can deposit its own funds including gifts received into its state campaign bank account.

Gifts from property developers are strictly prohibited and must not be placed into a state campaign bank account. Please see the [ECQ website](#) for more information about the prohibited donor scheme.

Version: April 2024

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.



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What can be paid from the account?

The state campaign bank account **must** be used to pay for electoral expenditure relating to a state government election.

For more information about what is electoral expenditure, see [Fact sheet 7 – Definition of electoral expenditure](#).

Providing bank statements

Registered third parties must provide a copy of the bank statement for their state campaign bank account with their election summary return.

The statement provided to the ECQ needs to cover the period that:

- starts when the first item of electoral expenditure is incurred for the election or the start of the capped expenditure period, whichever is first
- ends on the day before the election summary return is lodged with the ECQ.

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

Records relating to the state campaign bank account must be kept and made available to the ECQ for at least 5 years after the record is made. For further information about record keeping requirements, refer to [Fact sheet 4](#).

Compliance and penalties

There are significant financial penalties for not complying with the state campaign bank account requirements.

Failure to comply carries a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units (valued at \$30,960 as of 1 July 2023).

Other penalties apply for failing to keep records or failure to notify the ECQ of state campaign bank account details.

For further information

This fact sheet mainly refers to part 11, division 3 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.



RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 4 – Record keeping requirements

Fact sheet 7 – Definition of electoral expenditure

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

Fact sheet 19 – Funding and disclosure overview for third parties

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

More information on state government elections

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