

CANDIDATES

Eligibility to become a candidate in local government elections

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your circumstances, you should seek independent legal advice.

What skills are required by councillors?

Local governments need councillors from diverse backgrounds with a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience. While formal qualifications are not needed for the role, to be an effective councillor a person needs to have:

- an active interest in community issues
- good communication skills and the ability to engage with a range of people
- good problem solving and negotiation skills
- motivation to work with others to achieve results
- leadership skills
- business and financial management skills
- a willingness to do the right thing if faced with a conflict of interest between the public interest and a personal interest.

What are the eligibility requirements to become a councillor?

All persons who wish to contest a local government election must be eligible to be a councillor in Queensland.

All councillors must meet the following mandatory eligibility requirements as set out in the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and the LGEA:

- be an adult Australian citizen (including an Australian citizen who holds dual citizenship with another country)
- be enrolled on the Queensland electoral roll and reside in the local government area for which they are nominating
(Note: if standing for election in an electoral division of a divided local government area, the candidate is not required to reside in that division but must reside within the local government area)
- not be disqualified from being a councillor because of a conviction for any one of the following types of offences:
 - a treason offence
 - an electoral offence
 - a bribery offence
 - an integrity or serious integrity offence
- not subject to other circumstances including:
 - having an undischarged bankruptcy
 - being a prisoner or liable to serve a period of imprisonment, even if their sentence has been suspended or they have been released (e.g. on parole)
 - being a member of a state or federal parliament or a councillor of a local government of another state
 - being a candidate for a state election.

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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