

## 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 *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*:

- 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 on probation, in prison, on parole or serving a suspended sentence
  - being a member of a state or federal parliament or a councillor of a local government of another state.

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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).



**Electoral  
Commission**  
QUEENSLAND