

## REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES

## Candidate endorsements &amp; preselection ballots

Unless otherwise stated, all references to legislation are to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA) or the *Electoral Act 1992* (Qld). The information in this fact sheet does not replace legislation. If you are concerned about your obligations, you should seek independent legal advice.

This fact sheet relates to registered political parties that preselect and endorse candidates for local elections and by-elections.

## Notifying the ECQ of a preselection ballot

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

A party's registered officer must give the ECQ written notice at least **7 days before voting** starts in a preselection ballot for a local election. Only parties that use preselection ballots as part, or whole, of their preselection processes need to comply with this requirement.

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

## Notifying the ECQ of endorsement

No matter what preselection method is used, the registered officer of a registered political party must notify the ECQ of a candidate's endorsement for a local election.

The party's registered officer 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 by incurring electoral expenditure for the benefit of the candidate)
- the party changes its endorsement or proposed endorsement of a person before election day
- a councillor who was endorsed by the party stops being a member of the party.

To do this, the registered officer of the party must complete [Form FAD2A](#).

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

## Notifying the ECQ of a withdrawn endorsement

Registered political parties must notify the ECQ of the withdrawal of a candidate's endorsement for a local election.

The party's registered officer must notify the ECQ **within 7 days** if:

- the party has endorsed a person to be a candidate, then changes its endorsement to another person
- the party nominates a person as a candidate, then withdraws its endorsement of that person.

To do this, the registered officer must complete [Form FAD2B](#).

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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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If the notice of withdrawal is given to the ECQ **before** noon on the day the nominations close, the candidate's nomination is of no effect (i.e., the nomination is automatically withdrawn).

If the notice of withdrawal is provided to the ECQ **after** noon on the day the nominations close, the candidate's name will still appear on the ballot paper, adjacent to the party's name.

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

If a registered political party decides to end its endorsement of a candidate during the capped expenditure period for an election, there will be impacts to the electoral expenditure caps of the party and its candidates. For more information, refer to [Fact sheet 29 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates](#).

## Offences and penalties

Penalties apply for failing to comply with these notification requirements. The compliance framework is available on the [ECQ's website](#).

### RELATED FACT SHEETS

Fact sheet 29 – Expenditure caps for registered political parties and endorsed candidates

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

## More information

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