

2024 local government elections

The Countdown



Electoral Commission
QUEENSLAND



Message

FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

We're communicating with you right on the eve of the early voting period for the 2024 local government elections, which kicks off on Monday 4 March at 9am.

It's been a tremendous effort to get to this point and we have great confidence that our almost 170 early voting centres across Queensland are ready to go when the doors open on Monday. Ballot papers have arrived, technology has been tested and voting screens assembled. Our state-wide team of Returning Officers are as eager as we are to start taking votes from electors.

In this edition you'll hear more about some of the work we've been doing since nominations closed on 13 February. In particular, we've done some additional work to support our full postal and hybrid councils and electors in areas such as Moreton Bay City Council where there are five uncontested divisions as well as an uncontested mayor.

Of course, we've also been keeping an eye on weather impacts currently affecting some of our communities out west and continuing to support Wujal Wujal electors through the development of voting arrangements in Cooktown and Cairns.

Our postal voting materials and Voter Information Cards (and email versions of these) have been hitting letterboxes this week and we're now looking forward to Queensland electors engaging with the elections and having a streamlined and efficient voting experience.

Regards,

Pat Vidgen
Electoral Commissioner of Queensland

In this edition of The Countdown

- Hitting letterboxes now...
- 140,000 Moreton Bay City Council electors not required to vote
- Support for full postal and hybrid ballot councils
- Use of mobile phones in our polling booths
- Counting the votes
- Like and share our content



Hitting letterboxes now...

Voter Information Cards (VIC) and postal voting materials are currently arriving in the letterboxes of enrolled electors right across the State.

Ballot papers are being sent to electors in full postal and hybrid voting councils and those who have applied for postal voting and this work will continue following the close of postal vote applications at 7pm on Monday 4 March.



Postal votes

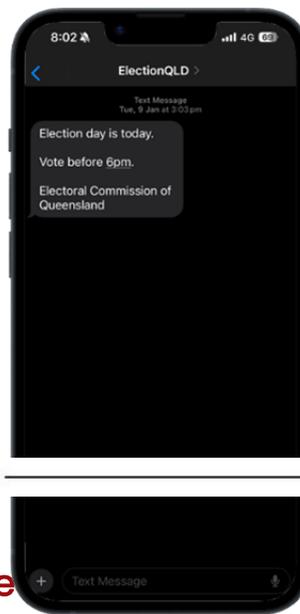
Electors have the weekend and Monday until 7pm to apply for a postal vote directly via the [ECQ website](#). This is the best way of ensuring the ECQ receives the application immediately and that electors receive their voting materials on time. We have a short video on this page on our website to explain how postal voting works. Postal votes must be completed by 6pm on election day and the ECQ must receive them by Tuesday, 26 March 2024 for them to be counted.

Early voting

Early voting across almost 170 early voting centres from Monday ensures Queenslanders can vote when it's convenient to them. We're encouraging electors to bring their personalised Voter Information Card with them when they come to vote, so they can be marked off the roll quickly by our staff.

eVIC and SMS alerts

Electors who have registered their email address on the electoral roll are also receiving their electronic Voter Information Card (or eVIC) in their inboxes. Additionally, for those people who have registered their mobile phone number on the electoral roll they'll receive an SMS reminder from us on election day.

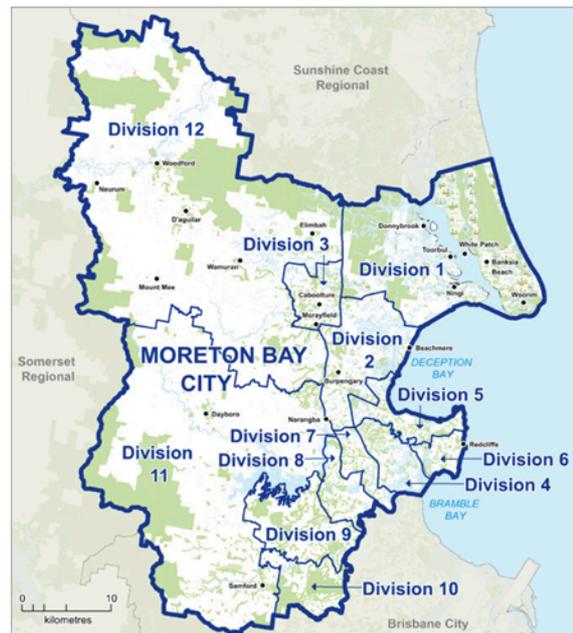


140,000 Moreton Bay City Council electors not required to vote

The ECQ has worked with Moreton Bay City Council to raise awareness among the 140,000 electors in Divisions 1, 4, 7, 9 and 11 that they're not required to vote on account of their mayor and councillors being unopposed.

Print and digital advertising will run during the voting period from next week and a range of other activities have been undertaken to spread the word, including:

- information about uncontested elections added to the ECQ website



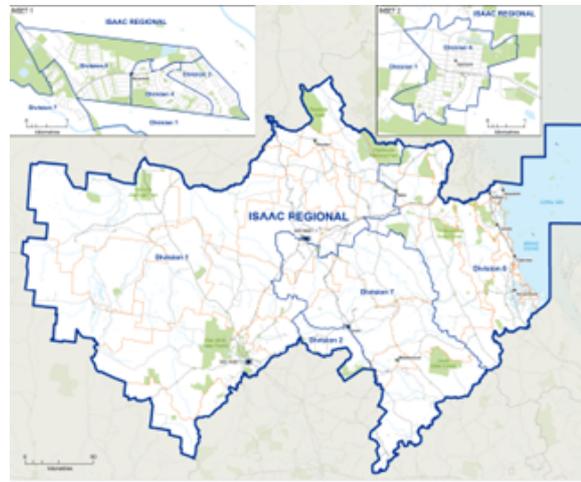
- interviews with the Electoral Commissioner, including on ABC radio
- direct emails and SMS messages to electors who have registered their email and telephone details on the electoral roll
- signage for display at polling places.

Electors in two other councils are also impacted by uncontested elections and do not have to vote, and these are:

- Banana Shire Council – divisions 3, 4 and 5
- Isaac Regional Council – divisions 4, 5, 7 and 8

ECQ communication has been supporting these councils through geotargeted social media and other engagement activities.

For more information, visit <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/elections/election-events/uncontested-elections>



support for full postal and hybrid ballot councils

Communication resources have been sent to 15 full postal ballot councils and 2 hybrid ballot councils to assist councils to promote voting arrangements to electors. Materials include content for websites and newsletters, a poster/flyer and sample social media post and image. Additionally, ECQ has promoted voting arrangements to electors through geo-targeted social media posts. Full postal and hybrid voting councils include:

Full postal ballot councils:

- Balonne Shire Council – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
- Banana Shire Council
 - Division 1, 2 and 6 – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
 - Division 3, 4 and 5 – electors are not required to vote as both the mayor and councillor are unopposed.
- Barcaldine Regional Council
- Barcoo Shire Council
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council
- Bulloo Shire Council
- Diamantina Shire Council – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
- Etheridge Shire Council – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
- Goondiwindi Regional Council – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
- Longreach Regional Council – electors are only required to vote for councillors as the mayor is unopposed.
- North Burnett Regional Council
 - Division 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 – full postal ballot
 - Division 3 – electors are only required to vote for the mayor as the councillor is unopposed.

Hybrid postal ballot councils:

- Isaac Regional Council
 - Division 1 – full postal ballot
 - Division 2, 3, and 6 – attendance voting
 - Division 4, 5, 7 and 8 – electors will not be required to vote as the mayor and councillors are unopposed.
- Maranoa Regional Council
 - The localities of Roma, Mitchell, Yuleba, Injune, Wallumbilla and Surat – attendance voting.
 - All other parts of the council area – full postal ballot.

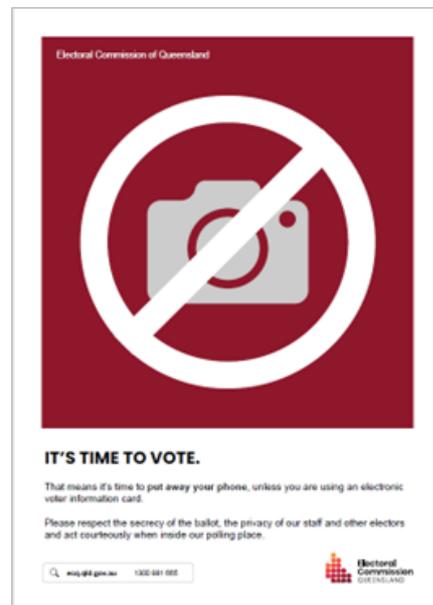


Use of mobile phones in our polling booths

We use mobile phones in all aspects of our lives — to game, search the internet, connect to others using social media, to text, phone or email and to capture moments using the camera.

When it comes to using phones in a polling booth, we have some basic guidelines. ECQ takes protecting the privacy of electors and the secrecy of the vote seriously.

Electors will see this poster displayed when they come to vote, asking electors to put away their phone unless they're using an eVIC.



For media, permission must be sought to take photos or capture footage. We have a flyer in our [media kit](#) which advises media to seek permission in advance from the ECQ media team via email media@ecq.qld.gov.au or phone 0438 120 699.



Counting the votes

Many people are intrigued about the process of what happens to their vote once they put it in the ballot box. To provide people with some insight into what happens after counting begins at 6pm on election night, the ECQ has produced a short video.

The video explains what happens on election night and right through to the declaration of a result. You can find the video on the [ECQ resources website](#) or our [YouTube channel](#).



Like and share our content

We encourage councils to help electors keep up-to-date with everything local government elections by sharing our social media posts. We're on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X.



ecq.qld.gov.au

 This email was sent by Electoral Commission of Queensland, Level 20, 1 Eagle Street, BRISBANE, QLD 4000, Australia to samantha.wilson@ecq.qld.gov.au. The Electoral Commission of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country, and their connection to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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