The Queensland Government is pursuing a rolling reform agenda to strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity measures that apply to the system of local government and elections in Queensland.

Future regulatory amendments under consideration:

- Limits on the size of councillor 'discretionary' funds and new requirement to publicise spending
- Ban on new decisions to use discretionary funds from 1 January in election years

Stage 2 reforms and dates of effect

In effect from **assent**:

- Mandatory So you want to be a councillor? training for all election candidates
- Transparent candidate bank accounts and financial returns
- New restrictions on decisions during the election caretaker period

In effect **18 November 2019**:

- Right to Information laws now to cover Brisbane City Council civic cabinet meetings
- Expanded councillor rights to access council information
- Changes to how a budget is presented to councillors
- Changes to mayoral powers to direct chief executive officers and senior executive officers, and to the appointment of senior executive officers

In effect **20 January 2020**:

- Improved real-time donation disclosures
- Improved disclosures of real donation sources
- Real-time expenditure disclosures

In effect **30 March 2020**:

- Office of Independent Assessor to investigate councillor conduct complaints for Brisbane City Council

For more information visit dlgrma.qld.gov.au/lgreform
Mandatory training: So you want to be a councillor?

The stage 2 reforms introduce the requirement for mandatory training to be completed by all 2020 election candidates, including current councillors and mayors. The training takes around one hour to complete, and contains two modules covering the obligations on candidates and, if elected, the obligations on councillors.

Although many concepts within the modules will be familiar to current councillors and mayors, the training also aligns with recent local government reforms and will ensure that all councillors and mayors are aware of their current and future legal obligations.

Training is expected to be available online from late October 2019.

Register for updates

To register for updates and find out when the new training is available, visit www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/candidates.

Online information

Visit www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/lgreform to view online information or download the podcast summarising the stage 2 reforms.

Publications:

▸ Councillor conduct complaint examples
▸ Councillor responsibilities under the Local Government Act 2009
▸ Community guide to local government
▸ Code of Conduct for Councillors in Queensland (Dec 2018)
▸ Making the most of council meetings

Fact sheets:

▸ Ready for elections in 2020? fact sheet
▸ Ready for elections in 2020? checklist
▸ Disclosures, donations and expenditure fact sheet
▸ Campaigning as a group fact sheet
▸ Sample notice from candidate to donor
▸ Sample notice from donor to candidate
▸ Discretionary funds fact sheet
▸ Councillor complaints fact sheet

More information

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