



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



Stage 2 reforms and dates of effect

In effect from **30 October 2019**:

- ▶ 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 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
- ▶ Ban on new decisions to use discretionary funds from 1 January in election years

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
- ▶ Limits on the size of councillor 'discretionary' funds and new requirement to publicise spending

Local government reforms – stage 2

Mandatory training: *So you want to be a councillor?*

The stage 2 reforms introduced 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.

To complete the training online visit www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/candidates.

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.



Register for updates

To register for updates about local government reforms and the 2020 local government elections, visit www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/candidates.

More information

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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)

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
- ▶ Discretionary funds fact sheet
- ▶ Councillor complaints fact sheet
- ▶ Caretaker period fact sheet