

What candidates, campaigners and supporters need to know

New compliance requirements for the 2027 council elections

The Statutes Amendment (Local Government Elections Review) Act 2025 introduced new offence provisions into the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 (**the Act**) that apply to the 2027 Council Elections.

Order at election places - Section 62A

A designated place may be where ballot papers are scrutinised, as well as other locations published by the Electoral Commissioner. A person must not obstruct access, obstruct or unnecessarily delay election proceedings, or behave in a disorderly manner at or near a designated place. **Maximum penalty: \$5,000**

- **Examples:** blocking access to a vote-counting venue, disrupting the scrutiny process, or engaging in aggressive or disorderly conduct near a designated election site.
- **Comply with lawful directions:** police officers, the Electoral Commissioner and persons authorised by the Electoral Commissioner may give directions necessary to maintain order. Failure to comply is an offence. **Maximum penalty: \$5,000**
- **Do not return after removal:** a person removed from a designated place or its immediate vicinity must not return without permission from an authorised officer. **Maximum penalty: \$10,000 or 1 year imprisonment**

Lawful voting - Section 66A

A person must not publicly encourage electors to mark ballot papers or otherwise vote in a way that is inconsistent with the Act. This includes publishing how-to-vote material that gives instructions contrary to legislative requirements or publicly advocating an unauthorised voting method. **Maximum penalty: \$2,500**

Comply with changes

Campaign Donations and Disclosures

Candidates must comply with updated requirements to campaign donations, gifts, disclosure returns and certain joint campaign arrangements. Failure to lodge required returns remains an offence. **Maximum penalty: \$10,000**

Candidate Profile Requirements | Regulation 6

Candidate profiles must include all required information and, where applicable, disclose adverse findings and the body responsible for the finding, including from the Behavioural Standards Panel, Ombudsman SA, SACAT or the courts. Candidate profiles must not knowingly provide false or misleading information. **Maximum penalty: \$5,000**

Legislative source and more information

Visit ecsa.sa.gov.au for official election guidance, published designated places and contact details.

Prepared for candidate information and education purposes. This flyer provides general information only and is not legal advice. The legislation applies in full, and penalties may apply for offences.