



2024 QUEENSLAND ELECTION PRIMER

KEY POINTS

- The 2024 Queensland State election is taking place on **Saturday 26 October**.
- The incumbent Labor government led by **Premier Steven Miles** is seeking **re-election for a fourth term**. This will be the **first statewide electoral test for Miles** as leader.
- The Liberal National Party (LNP) is led by **David Crisafulli**, who has been the **Opposition Leader since November 2020**.
- All **93 Legislative Assembly electorates** will be contested (**47 needed for majority**).
- Heading into the 2024 election, **Labor** has 51 seats, the **LNP** has 35, Katter's Australian Party (**KAP**) has 4, the **Greens** have 2, and there is one independent.
- Polling suggests the **LNP are strong favourites to win government**, with Miles even [admitting](#) that it was "very likely" that Labor would lose the election.
- Seats to watch: Bundaberg, Nicklin, Hervey Bay, Caloundra, Barron River, Townsville, Thuringowa, Mundingburra, Redlands, Aspley, Pumicestone, Cairns, Keppel and Redcliffe.

PARTIES AND MAIN CANDIDATES

See [Annex A](#) for a list of major party characters

[Queensland Labor](#)

- Premier [Steven Miles](#) has been the leader of the Labor Party since December 2023. Miles represents the seat of Murrumba in Brisbane on a comfortable margin. Miles is a former union official who was first elected to Parliament in 2015 as the Member for Mt Coot-tha. Miles switched to the seat of Murrumba in 2017 and has served as Minister for Health, Minister for the Environment, and Deputy Premier. Miles also has a PhD on the trade union movement. ([Source](#))

[Liberal National Party](#)

- [David Crisafulli](#) has been the leader of the Liberal Party and thus the Leader of the Opposition since November 2020. Crisafulli represents the seat of Broadwater on the Gold Coast on a comfortable margin. Crisafulli is a former journalist who was first elected to Parliament in 2012 as the Member for Mundingburra and served as the Minister for Local Government. Crisafulli lost his seat in 2015 and relocated with his family to the Gold Coast where he was elected to the seat of Broadwater in 2017. In Opposition, he has served in the environment, science and tourism portfolios. ([Source](#))

[Katter's Australian Party](#)

- The KAP is a unique force in Australian politics. Led by [Robbie Katter](#), son of maverick federal MP Bob Katter - the longest current serving MP in the House of Representatives - the KAP focuses on advocating for the interests of regional Queensland and pursues

policies of agrarian socialism ([Source](#)). Robbie Katter has been the Member for Traeger (previously Mt Isa) for 12 years ([Source](#)).

Greens

- The two Greens MPs are Michael Berkman and Amy McMahon. Berkman has been the Member for Maiwar since 2017 and was the first Greens MP elected to Queensland Parliament. Berkman is the Greens' spokesperson for climate action, jobs, justice and the environment. McMahon has been the Member for South Brisbane since 2020 and is the Greens' spokesperson for the treasury, essential services, housing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships portfolios ([Source](#)).

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

- PHON was started in Queensland by Pauline Hanson and has had historically strong ties to the state. PHON does not currently have any members in the Queensland Parliament because earlier in 2024 it denied endorsement to Stephen Andrew, the party's only sitting member. Andrew joined the KAP and is re-contesting his seat of Mirani ([Source](#)). A key PHON candidate is James Ashby, the candidate for Keppel, as he previously served as Hanson's Chief of Staff for eight years ([Source](#)). In February 2024, Hanson confirmed that One Nation will preference the LNP over Labor in every seat ([Source](#)).

Other candidates

- Minor parties contesting the election include: Legalise Cannabis Queensland, Family First Party and the Libertarian Party. There are also several independent candidates who have already declared their intention to contest an election. Sandy Bolton is the one independent MP who currently holds the seat of Noosa and is standing again at the 2024 election ([Source](#)). Candidate nominations close on 8 October.

VOTING PROCESS

- QLD has a **unicameral** system of government with elections **every four years**, administered by the [Electoral Commission of Queensland](#) (ECQ).
- QLD has used **compulsory preferential voting** since 2015. This means voters must number all candidates in order of preference. From 1992 to 2015, state elections were conducted with optional preferential voting. Crisafulli has pledged to re-introduce optional preferential voting if successful ([Source](#)).
- The election campaign period for the 2024 state election **officially started on Tuesday 1 October** when the writs were issued and the Parliament was dissolved.
- **Pre-poll voting** is open from Monday 14 October to Friday 25 October and voters do not need to give a reason to vote. Pre-poll booths are open from 8am to 6pm.

- Voters can register for a **postal vote** from Tuesday 1 October until Monday 14 October. The deadline for the receipt of postal votes is Tuesday 5 November.
- **Ballot counting** begins as soon as polls close at 6pm on Saturday 26 October. While the ECQ will take several days to officially declare the result for every seat, it is expected that predictions can be made with confidence within hours. The time it takes will depend on how close the election result is.

MAJOR POLICIES AND ISSUES

- A poll conducted by Freshwater Strategy for the AFR identified the high cost of living, housing, and young offenders' law and order as the key concerns among voters ([Source](#)). Additionally, Brisbane is due to host the 2032 Olympics. While the issue is not front of mind for voters, the next term of government will be important for shaping the city's preparation ([Source](#)).
- The **LNP campaign** has identified **four 'crises'** as the pillars of its election narrative: **crime** (particularly youth crime), **cost-of-living**, **housing affordability** and **health**. The LNP has also criticised the management of the economy with **state debt forecast to surge** over the next four years by \$67 billion and hit \$172 billion by 2027-28 ([Source](#)). The LNP campaign has been criticised for pursuing a 'small-target' strategy. Other unspecified policy commitments include a venue plan for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics, a plan to achieve the legislated target of reducing carbon emissions by 75 per cent by 2035, and the promise of lower taxes and debt ([Source](#)).
- The Queensland election campaign is likely to feature a strong focus on the regions. At the last census, only 49 per cent of Queenslanders lived in Greater Brisbane ([Source](#)) and the major northern regional cities, such as Townsville and Cairns, are vital to win a majority of seats.

Cost of Living

- Cost of living is a major focus of the election. Intersecting with other policy areas such as transport and energy, Labor has committed to: establish a publicly owned energy retailer, a \$1000 electricity bill rebate, capping public transport fares at 50 cents, and state-owned petrol stations ([Source](#); [Source](#)). Crisafulli has committed the LNP to continue the 50-cent public transport fare cap should it be elected ([Source](#)).

Youth Crime

- The LNP proposes to address increasing rates of youth crime through policy of 'Adult Crime, Adult Time', early intervention for at-risk youths, and increased funding for proven community-led programs ([Source](#)). Labor's policy platform includes a commitment to youth justice reform including "reinstating youth and adult justice conferencing and mediation" ([Source](#)) and the building of two youth detention centres ([Source](#)).

Housing Affordability

- Labor has promised to add one million new homes, including 53,500 for social housing. It has also doubled the first home owners grant and lifted the stamp duty threshold for first-time buyers. The LNP has also committed to the same target of one million new homes but two years earlier, and they have committed to abolish stamp duty for first-time buyers who buy or build a new home ([Source](#)).

Health

- In the recent budget, Labor committed to spend \$28.9 billion on health this financial year. This includes \$2.1 billion for health infrastructure and the hiring of 4,000 extra staff. Labor has also promised more regional satellite hospitals. The LNP has supported all of these measures. The LNP has also promised to release real-time data on hospital performance in the first 100 days, drive-down ambulance ramping, and reduce surgical waitlists. Labor will expand pill testing but the LNP will scrap the program ([Source](#)).

RECENT CONTROVERSIES

Townsville Mayor Suspended on Eve of Election

- On 30 Sep 2024, Local Government Minister Meaghan Scanlon used her ministerial powers to suspend Townsville Mayor Troy Thompson just before the government went into caretaker mode. Mr Thompson, who was elected in March, was referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission after allegedly lying about his military career, university and business qualifications during the local government elections. ([Source](#); [Source](#))

Crisafulli's Home Location

- Crisafulli has been criticised for living in Brisbane while running for re-election in his Gold Coast electorate. Crisafulli has said "we've taken a conscious decision as a family for me to spend more time with my kids who are both being educated in Brisbane". ([Source](#))

INFORMATION SOURCES

- State media: [Courier Mail](#), [Brisbane Times](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [InQueensland](#), [The Chronicle](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#), [The Cairns Post](#)
- National media: [ABC News](#) (Leonie Mellor, Kate McKenna, Jack McKay), [The Australian](#) (Lydia Lynch, Sarah Elks, Jamie Walker), [AFR](#) (James Hall), [News.com.au](#) (Aisling Brennan, Blair Jackson)
- [Electoral Commission of Queensland](#) - The ECQ is running a 'Stop and Consider' campaign against electoral misinformation based on the success of the similar AEC model. The '[Election Facts](#)' webpage contains common misinformation points and rebuttals, and allows users to inform the ECQ about misinformation.

ANNEX A - KEY MAJOR PARTY CHARACTERS

QUEENSLAND LABOR ([Source](#))

Name	Portfolio
Ministers	
Steven Miles	Premier
Cameron Dick	Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Trade and Investment
Grace Grace	Minister for State Development and Infrastructure; Minister for Industrial Relations; Minister for Racing
Shannon Fentiman	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services; Minister for Women
Yvette D'Ath*	Attorney-General; Minister for Justice; Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Mick de Brenni	Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs
Meaghan Scanlon	Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning; Minister for Public Works
Mark Ryan	Minister for Police and Community Safety
Leeanne Enoch	Minister for Treaty; Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts
Dianne Farmer	Minister for Education; Minister for Youth Justice
Mark Furner	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries; Minister for Rural Communities
Glenn Butcher	Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing; Minister for Water
Scott Stewart	Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals
Leanne Linard	Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef; Minister for Science and Innovation
Nikki Boyd	Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery; Minister for Corrective Services
Bart Mellish	Minister for Transport and Main Roads; Minister for Digital Services
Lance McCallum	Minister for Employment and Small Business; Minister for Training and Skills Development

Charis Mullen	Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services; Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Michael Healy	Minister for Tourism and Sport
Assistant Ministers	
Bruce Saunders	Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing, Regional Development and Jobs
Julieanne Gilbert*	Assistant Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing
Brittany Lauga	Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure
Ali King	Assistant Minister for Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
Jennifer Howard	Assistant Minister for Treasury, Trade and Investment
Shane King	Assistant Minister for Clean Economy Jobs
Corrie McMillan	Assistant Minister for Education and Youth Justice
James Sullivan	Assistant Minister for Justice and Veterans' Affairs

** Retiring at the 2024 election*

LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY ([Source](#))

Name	Portfolio
David Crisafulli	Leader of the Opposition; Shadow Minister for Tourism
Jarrod Bleijie	Deputy Leader of the Opposition
David Janetzki	Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Investment and Trade; Shadow Minister for Home Ownership
Ros Bates	Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services; Shadow Minister for Medical Research; Shadow Minister for Women
Amanda Camm	Shadow Minister for Women's Economic Security
Deb Frecklington	Shadow Minister for Energy and Cost of Living; Shadow Minister for Water and the Construction of Dams; Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing
Laura Gerber	Shadow Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support

John-Paul Lanbroek	Shadow Minister for Seniors, Communities and Disability Services
Dale Last	Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; Shadow Minister for Fire and Emergency Services; Shadow Minister for Corrective Services; Shadow Minister for Rural and Regional Affairs
Ann Leahy	Shadow Minister for Local Government; Shadow Minister for Disaster Recovery; Shadow Minister for Volunteers
Tim Mander	Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works; Shadow Minister for Sport and Racing; Shadow Minister for Olympic and Paralympic Sport and Regional Engagement
Brent Mickelberg	Shadow Minister for Employment and Training; Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business; Shadow Minister for Open Data
Steve Minnikin	Shadow Minister for Customer Service; Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads
Tim Nicholls	Shadow Attorney-General; Shadow Minister for Justice; Shadow Minister for CBD Activation
Sam O'Connor	Shadow Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Tony Perrett	Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Dan Purdie	Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety
Christian Rowan	Shadow Minister for Education; Shadow Minister for the Arts
Fiona Simpson	Shadow Minister for Finance and Better Regulation; Shadow Minister for Integrity in Government