

# State Electoral Rolls

## Brief Guide 8

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Queensland State Archives holds Queensland state electoral rolls from 1860 onwards. Complete sets are held from 1875, with the exception of two missing volumes, 1887 and 1888. Prior to 1874 electoral roll holdings may be incomplete. Federal or Commonwealth electoral rolls are at the National Archives of Australia, Brisbane Office.

### HISTORY

Since 1860, the categories of persons entitled to vote in Queensland have changed considerably. Under the New South Wales Electoral Act of 1858, any natural born or naturalised male of 21 years or over could enrol to vote if he satisfied certain qualifications regarding residency, property or academic/education. Personnel in military services and/or the police force, as well as Clerks of Petty Sessions and paid Police Magistrates were ineligible to vote. Initially, males in gold field electoral districts were entitled to vote if they held a miner's right or licence for six months. However, under the Electoral District Act of 1867, the gold field electorates were eliminated. The right to vote was extended to women 21 years and over under the Elections Amendment Act of 1905. Enrolment was made compulsory by the Elections Acts Amendment Act of 1914. These legislative constraints mean for the nineteenth and early twentieth century not all persons resident in any electoral district are on the electoral roll for the district. The right to vote was extended to all Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders by the Elections Acts Amendment Act of 1965. The Elections Act and the Criminal Code Amendment Act 1973 lowered the voting age from 21 years to 18 years.

### ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Boundaries and names of electorates have changed substantially over time. Therefore, before locating a particular person it is necessary to find the relevant electoral district at that time. This can be done by using electoral maps in the Public Search Room. The key maps available in the Public Search Room include those for the years 1985, 1977, 1971, 1958, 1949, 1935, 1931, 1922, 1921, 1910, 1896, 1887. Individual district maps are also available. It was usual for a set of maps showing the new electoral boundaries to be issued each time the boundaries were significantly changed.

### CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION

Early rolls give only name and address. Over the years the amount of information increased. More recent rolls give name, address, date of first enrolment in the electorate, sex and occupation. Electoral districts are also subdivided into divisions.

The electoral rolls were transferred to Queensland State Archives from the State Electoral Office. They have annotations made by departmental staff for most of the twentieth century. This enables researchers to trace a person from one electorate to another and notes the reason for removal of a person's name from the roll, for example, death, or change of residence to another State.

(Refer below for abbreviations used in Electoral roll annotations.)

The Joint Roll Arrangement (refer to the Electoral Act 1992) involved the Commonwealth Government in the maintaining of the state electoral roll. Official notations are not found on the rolls from that date.

For further information, researchers should contact the Australian Electoral Commission.

For complete lists of electoral rolls (19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> century) held at Queensland State Archives search [Series ID 162 Electoral Rolls](#) in the [ArchivesSearch](#) catalogue.

### List of Electoral Rolls 1860 – 1871

Queensland State Archives Item ID	Electoral District	Date Range
<a href="#">Item ID431193</a>	B - E	1860 -1871
<a href="#">Item ID431194</a>	F - W	1864 -1871
<a href="#">Item ID431195</a>	K - W	1862 -1870
<a href="#">Item ID431196</a>	B - I	1864 -1868
<a href="#">Item ID431197</a>	D _ M	1869 -1871
<a href="#">Item ID431198</a>	N - W	1865 -1871
<a href="#">Item ID431199</a>	E _ W	1869 -1871

DESCRIPTION	DATES
Aubigny District to Wide Bay	1875/1876
Brisbane North	1864/1865
Brisbane	1866/1867
Brisbane	1867/8
Burnett	1860,89,70
Burnett	1866/1867
Clermont	1865
Clermont	1866
Clermont	1867/1868
Drayton and Toowoomba	1864/1865
Drayton and Toowoomba	1866/1867
Drayton and Toowoomba	1867/1868
Drayton and Toowoomba	1870/1871
Drayton and Toowoomba	1869/1870
Eastern Moreton	1864/1865
East Moreton	1865/1866
East Moreton	1866/1867
East Moreton	1867/1868
East Moreton	1870/1871
Eastern Downs	1864/1865
Eastern Downs	1866

DESCRIPTION	DATES
Eastern Downs	1867/1868
Eastern Downs	1869/1870
Fortitude Valley	1864/1865
Fortitude Valley	1866/1867
Fortitude Valley	1867/1868
Fortitude Valley	1869
Fortitude Valley	1870/1871
Ipswich	1864/1865
Ipswich	1865/1866
Ipswich	1866/1867
Ipswich	1867/1868
Ipswich	1869/1870
Ipswich	1870/1871
Kennedy	1866/1867
Kennedy	1869/1870
Kennedy	1870/1871
Leichhardt	1866/1867
Leichhardt	1868/1869
Leichhardt	1869/1870
Leichhardt	1870/1871
Maranoa	1862/1863
Maranoa	1866/1867
Maranoa	1867/1868
Maranoa	1870/1871
Maryborough	1865/1866
Maryborough	1866/1867
Maryborough	1867/1868
Maryborough	1869/1870
Maryborough	1870/1871
Mitchell	1866/1867
Mitchell	1867/1868
North Brisbane	1870/1871
Northern Downs	1864/1865
Northern Downs	1865/1866
Northern Downs	1866/1867
Northern Downs	1867/1868
Northern Downs	1869/1870
Northern Downs	1870/1871
Port Curtis	1866/1867
Port Curtis	1870/1871
Rockhampton	1866/1867
Rockhampton	1867/1868
South Brisbane	1864/1865
South Brisbane	1866/1867
South Brisbane	1867/1868
South Brisbane	1869/1870
South Brisbane	1870/1871
Warrego	1865/1866

DESCRIPTION	DATES
Warrego	1867/1868
Warrego	1869/1870
Warrego	1870/1871
Warwick	1864/1865
Warwick	1867/1868
Warwick	1869/1870
West Moreton	1864/1865
West Moreton	1867/1868
West Moreton	1869/1870
West Moreton	1870/1871
Western Downs	1864/1865
Western Downs	1867/1868
Western Downs	1870/1871
Wide Bay	1864/1865
Wide Bay	1865/1866
Wide Bay	1866/1867
Wide Bay	1867/1868
Wide Bay	1870/1871

Note:- for Brisbane refer to South Brisbane, North Brisbane; Toowoomba See Drayton; Moreton See East Moreton, West Moreton; Darling Downs See Eastern Downs, Northern Downs.

## ELECTORAL ROLL NOTATIONS

Many of the original entries on the electoral rolls include the number, last name or surname, first name or Christian name, place of living, occupation, date of claim and sex/gender.

Reasons for notations on the electoral rolls can be found in legislation e.g. Section 27 of the *Elections Act of 1915* lists five reasons why the Electoral Registrar should alter the roll. These are in addition to other provisions of the Act. Section 29 states “*All alterations on a roll shall be made in such a manner that the original entry shall not be obliterated, and the reason for the alteration and the date thereof shall be set against the alteration, together with the initials of the officer making the alteration.*”

## EXAMPLES OF ELECTORAL ROLL NOTATIONS

**Dead 6** – Person died in the 6<sup>th</sup> Month (may sometimes be written as 6 Dead) e.g.

3434 Dead 6.

**CH RES** – Change of residential address

*F CH. RES.*

**E** – Person exited from this electorate within the State. e.g. exited from the electorate to Nudgee.

*E  
2553 Nudgee  
E  
2554 Nudgee*

**E, Re-reg** – person has exited from this electorate but the new electorate is unknown. People are re-registered in the same electorate with a change of name, address or a correction of the entry.

*10041 E. Re-reg.*

**DD** (or simply **D**) – Duplicate entries (the same person has registered twice). Sometimes the information is different however the Electoral Registrar has established the person referred to is the same. e.g.

*D 2065  
2066*

**DIED + date** – Electoral Registrar notified of person's death and the date of death. (See also **Dead 6**)

**DISQUALIFIED** (or **X DISQUALIFIED**) – Disqualified from voting. There are a number of reasons for this which may be found in the legislation. The example shows (P) which may indicate the person may be in Prison (P) at the time of the election. e.g.

*X Disqualified P!  
6267*

**Johnson** – Change of name of electorate

**NV** – The person did not vote (See also **Objection**)

**OBJECTION** – An Objection has been lodged. Maybe the person did not vote (See also the annotation **NV**) or was not that the stated address when the Electoral Registrar was checking the roll. Reasons for objection are also found in legislation. e.g.

10968 OBJECTION...

**PD + date** – Polling date or can be an Electoral Officers initials and date roll was annotated. It is usually entered at the end of an entry.

**RO** – Returning Officer

**X** – Person exited from the electorate to an interstate electorate. X usually, but not always, means a move interstate. e.g. exited from the electorate to Lindfield NSW.

X  
4167 Lindfield NSW  
Heri

**More than one annotation** – Occasionally there may be more than one annotation on an electoral entry for example: A change of name (line through name), change of electorate to Sherwood and an objection would be shown in the electoral as:

4629 ~~OBJECTION~~ <sup>F. D. ...</sup> <sub>Gift</sub>

A Change of name (usually through marriage or deed poll), person exited to the Electoral District of Roma, Division of Murilla.

6896 ~~Roma~~ <sup>Roma</sup> Murilla WEBB  
(Nichols)

## ELECTORAL ROLLS HISTORICAL RESOURCE KIT

The Electoral Rolls Historical Resource Kit is available for purchase. It consists of Queensland state electoral rolls from 1860 - 1900. The organisations that hold the kits are listed on the website.

[How to Order](#) information is available on the [Queensland State Archives website](#).