

Electoral returns

Financial disclosure factsheet – Legislative Assembly

Disclaimer: This factsheet is a general overview provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (NTEC) and should not substitute legal advice. Unless specified otherwise, all references are to the Electoral Act 2004 (NT), effective from 1 July 2021. Please consult the legislation and seek independent legal advice as necessary.

What are electoral returns?

During an election period, election returns are due in addition to annual returns - see factsheet 14 for information on annual returns.

Who needs to submit annual returns?

Election gift returns and electoral expenditure returns must be submitted by:¹

- parties
- associated entities
- independent candidates
- third party campaigners

Contents of returns

Approved forms for returns are on the NTEC website. Election gift returns must include the:

- total amount of gifts (including gifts-in-kind) received during the reporting period
- number of persons/entities who made gifts
- defined details (see Factsheet 9) of donors who donated over the threshold amount (\$1,500 for parties, associated entities and third party campaigners; \$200 for candidates).

Electoral expenditure returns must include the:

- amount of electoral expenditure during the reporting period.

What if no gifts are received or expenditure incurred?

If no gifts are received or expenditure incurred during the period a *Nil* return must be submitted.

How are returns submitted?

To submit a return, complete the approved form and send it to disclosure.ntec@nt.gov.au by the due date.

If you are unable to complete a return you must prepare the return to the extent possible and submit it by the due date.² An amended return can be submitted to correct an error or omission.³

¹ See sections 191, 192, 200

² See section 221

Published 12 February 2026

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³ See sections 223

Are returns published?

Returns are published on the NTEC website.

What returns are due for general elections?

Return	Reporting period	Due
Election gift return – 6 month report	Starting 1 July and ending on 31 December in the year before the year in which the election is to be held If no annual return has been submitted the starting date is 31 days after the previous general election.	30 January in the election year
Election gift return – quarterly report	Starting on 1 January in the year in which the election is to be held and ending on 31 March of that year	10 April in the election year
Election gift return – quarterly report	Starting on 1 April in the year in which the election is to be held and ending on 30 June of that year	10 July in the election year
Election gift return – report prior to early voting	Starting on 1 July in the year in which the election is to be held and ending on the day the writ is issued	5 days after the writ is issued
Election gift return after issue of writ	Starting on the day after the day the writ is issued and ending 17 days later	20 days after the day the writ is issued
Post-election gift return	Starting 18 days after the day the writ is issued and ending 30 days after election day	40 days after election day
Electoral Expenditure Return	Starting on 1 January in the year in which the election is to be held and ending 30 days after election day	60 days after election day

Refer to the returns schedule for the election event available on the NTEC website.

What returns are due for by-elections or extraordinary general elections?

Return	Reporting Period	Due
Election gift return – 6 month report	Starting on 1 July preceding the day on which the election is held and ending on the day the writ is issued If no annual return has been submitted the starting date is 31 days after the previous general election.	5 days after the writ is issued
Election gift return – quarterly report	Starting on the day after the day the writ is issued and ending 17 days later	20 days after the day the writ is issued
Post-election gift return	Starting 18 days after the day the writ is issued and ending 30 days after election day	40 days after election day
Electoral Expenditure Return	Starting from and including the day of the issue of the writ for the election to the end of 30 days after election day	60 days after election day

Refer to the returns schedule for the election event available on the NTEC website.

Version	Date	Author	Changes made
2.1	12 February 2026	Adam Wilson, Financial Disclosure and Compliance Manager	Updated for 2026 Nightcliff By-election