

From: [Geoff Dodd](#)
To: [Electoral Matters](#)
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2024 Tasmanian Election
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Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Inquiry into the Conduct of the 2024 House of Assembly General Election and the 2024 Legislative Council Elections

To the Secretary and Committee members,

It is an essential element of the administration, operation and conduct of any Tasmanian state election that voters have full and timely access to all information regarding donations to candidates and parties.

Without this information, declared before voting commences, voters cannot judge:

- 1) the extent to which candidates and parties may be influenced by such donations during the election campaign and
- 2) whether any candidate may, once elected, make policy, budgetary or legislative decisions that represent the interests of donors over the interests of the citizens of their electorate.

This state should pass legislation that mandates:

- 1) the declaration, in real time, of all political donations to candidates and parties, with penalties for non-compliance
- 2) the establishment of a standing committee or other body with the power to inquire into issues of compliance and the option to refer matters to the relevant judicial body
- 3) the establishment of a permanent, dedicated, publicly accessible website detailing all donations, updated in real time. For the assistance of voters the website should include a summary of current legislation relating to donation limits and any other restrictions, and a guide to the process for the reporting of perceived non-compliance.

These changes to our governance are, at a domestic and international level, non-controversial. They have been well established in many state and national jurisdictions and it is much to the detriment of the integrity of Tasmanian elections that such regulation is presently not in place.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Dodd