



Party Registration – Changes to the *Electoral Act 1907*

On Wednesday, 24 November 2021, the *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021* received Royal Assent. Guidance on party registration is being updated to reflect the changes to Part IIIA of the *Electoral Act 1907* (the Act).

The key changes that impact on currently registered political parties, including parliamentary parties, as well as any parties seeking registration are as follows:

Section	Topic	Description
62CA	Political party membership	Two or more political parties cannot rely on the same elector for the purposes of registration.
62E(4)(da)	Membership declarations	Applications for party registration must include signed declarations from members of the party. The declarations must be in an approved form, as determined by the WAEC, and at least 500 members who are on the electoral roll are required.
62E(4)(g)	Party registration fee	A fee of \$2,000 is required to lodge an application to register a political party.
62HA	Deadline for new party registrations	Parties seeking registration must lodge an application prior to one year before the issue of the writ for a State election in order to be able to contest that election as a registered party.
62J	Application name of a political party	In addition to pre-existing criteria set out by s.62J of the Act, the party name is now required to have no more than 4 words. Also, the name cannot be capitalised, other than the first letter of each word, unless the word is an acronym.
62KA	Annual returns for party registration	Unless the party has been registered for less than 6 months, the Party Secretary must lodge a return confirming continued eligibility for registration between 1 June and 30 June each year. Failure to lodge a return may result in the party's registration being cancelled (s.62L(2A)).
217	Transitional provisions that apply to the registration of existing parties	All parties registered at the time of commencement of the Act have 12 months (until 24 November 2022) to lodge an application for registration. If the party does not apply, their registration will be cancelled. Applications will be considered under the new registration provisions.

Updated: 29 November 2021