

“Everybody tells you to become involved in politics but nobody tells you where to start.”

Women in
Public Life



Becoming a candidate for Deputy

Stage Two – the election process

This infosheet about the election process is a combination of the information available at www.Election2020.gg, a presentation given by the Registrar General at the WEA ‘So You Want To Be A Deputy’ course in November 2019 and enquiries that we and others have made of the Election Team and the States Assembly and Constitution Committee. It covers the information available as at 13th February 2020.

1. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll will close on 30th April 2020 to allow for the production of printed voter rolls for canvassing purposes. Candidates for Deputy do not have to be on the Electoral Roll (but why wouldn't you be, you can vote for yourself!) but your proposer and seconder do. Sign up forms went to all households in December 2019. Go to www.Election2020.gg to sign up online.

A new Roll is created for each election because it becomes out of date very quickly, even if people are asked to update their details. The Home Department tried just rolling over the previous Roll in 2012, but it didn't work, it wasn't accurate. This could be the last time a completely new Roll is needed as there will be auto enrolment at some point in the future using the data held by Social Security.

The Electoral Roll is open to the public so someone can register anonymously if they have a valid reason (an abusive ex-partner, for example).

Prisoners can vote in Guernsey.

2. Nominations

Nomination forms will be available from 12th May 2020 at the Bailiff's Chambers (Royal Court) and the various Douzaines. Each form must be signed by a proposer and seconder whose names must be on the Electoral Roll.

Completed forms must be returned to the Bailiff's Secretary between 9am on Tuesday 12th May 2020 and 4pm on Friday 15th May 2020. Candidates will then be announced to the public.

The nomination period is short because States meetings have to come to a halt once nominations are open.

3. Voting

Opportunities to vote in person

Parish polling stations will be open to residents of that parish who are on the Electoral Roll (who have not opted for a postal vote) from 8am to 8pm on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June 2020. The list of parish polling stations is here: <https://election2020.gg/how.html>.

A 'super-polling station' will be open at Beau Sejour at the same time as the parish polling stations on the 16th and 17th June. But it will also be open the weekend before from 8am to 8pm on Saturday 13th June and Sunday 14th June. Anyone on the Electoral Roll (who has not opted for a postal vote) can use the Beau Sejour super-polling Station, regardless of where they live on the Island.

Postal votes

Anyone can have a postal vote in Guernsey (in Jersey, you can only have one if you aren't on the island at the time of the vote).

If you register for the Electoral Roll online you can opt for a postal vote at the same time.

However, if you register using the household registration form you will need to request a postal vote at a later date. You can do this online or by filling in an application form available from the Election2020 office.

Applications for postal votes must be received by 5th June 2020.

Postal vote packs will be sent out at some point between the 15th May and the election. They can't be sent earlier because the names of the candidates won't be known until 15th May. Postal votes must be received at the address on the envelope by Wednesday 17th June 2020.

The Election Team are expecting many more postal votes at this election – it could be as high as 10,000. In 2016 it was 2000 (8% of the vote). The Island Wide Voting referendum was 20% postal.

Best of both worlds

If voters want to experience the atmosphere of the polling station but still be able to complete their forms at home, they can apply for a postal vote and then drop it off at any open polling station – although the Election Team doesn't recommend the Beau Sejour super-polling station as that will be busy. The postal vote must include the ID verification form and return envelope issued in the postal ballot pack.

IDs will not be checked, it's just one of the forms in the postal voting pack that you need to complete. There will be a separate ballot box for postal votes – voters mustn't put them in the main ballot box. Postal drop-off voters may have to queue up with other voters or may be able to walk to the front of the line, that will depend on the polling station.

Delivery of postal votes by hand is primarily intended for anyone who doesn't get their postal vote in the post in time to arrive by 17th June.

Ballot paper

The number of names on the ballot paper could be 100+. The ballot paper will need to be much larger than in previous years and the text will be small.

The Registrar is working with the Guernsey Disability Alliance to try to make the ballot paper as accessible as possible. There will be magnifying glasses at polling stations and assistance to fill it in is allowed.

If someone votes for 39 people by mistake it will count as a spoilt vote.

Results

In previous years results were announced on the evening of Election Day but due to the volume of votes under the new Island Wide Voting system, counting will not start until Thursday 18th June and results will not be announced until later that day. The count will be held at Beau Sejour starting at 9am.

If all runs smoothly, results could be announced as early as lunchtime. But factors such as the number of postal votes to be opened or the number of ballot papers that need to be checked manually could easily extend the timing.

Any candidate can ask for a recount if they are within 2% of the threshold for being elected. They must do so within 24 hours.

4. Candidate criteria

You can stand for election as a Deputy if you:

- Are 18 years or over
- Are ordinarily resident in Guernsey on the date of your nomination as candidate
- Have been ordinarily resident in Guernsey for the two years immediately before the date of nomination, or for five years in total at any time before the date of nomination
- Have not been sentenced by a court in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man to imprisonment for a period of six months or more, whether suspended or not, without the option of a fine, in the last five years

There are also specific conditions relating to criminal offences committed in the last five years. Contact the Election2020 office for details on 01481 747579 or email elections@gov.gg.

5. Responsibilities

The Committee for Home Affairs is responsible for the Electoral Roll.

The States Assembly and Constitution Committee (President: Deputy Neil Inder) is responsible for proposing the timing and rules of the election. These proposals are contained in a series of policy documents which have been included in various Billets over the last year and voted on in the States. For links to those Billets, go to the Resources section of our website: <https://womeninpubliclife.gg/index.php/resources/>.

The Registrar General for the election is Adrian Morris. It is not a political role, he is not answerable to a States committee. The Deputy Registrar is David Mullins.

The Bailiff, as Presiding Officer of the States, is responsible for receiving and checking candidate nominations and announcing the result of the vote.

For the first time ever in Guernsey, there will be independent observers at this election.

6. Key dates

30 th April:	Electoral roll closes
12 th May:	Nominations open
15 th May:	Nominations close
5 th June:	Last day for applications for a postal vote
13 th June:	Beau Sejour super-polling station open
14 th June:	Beau Sejour super-polling station open
16 th June:	All polling stations open
17 th June:	All polling stations open. Deadline for receipt of postal votes.
18 th June:	Votes counted and result announced

This infosheet has been researched and produced by Women in Public Life volunteers. If you spot an error or would like to suggest an addition, please email hello@womeninpubliclife.gg.

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