

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



Becoming a candidate for Deputy

Stage One – understanding the issues

No-one is up to speed on every local hot topic when they start thinking about becoming a Deputy. But with a bit of effort you can develop your knowledge really quickly.

Here’s some suggestions for where to start. You don’t have to do them all, just pick and mix the ones that suit you.

1. Follow the news

Local media

The news is a bit like a soap opera – even if you’ve ignored it for quite a while it doesn’t take long to get back into the plots and the characters again. A full list of local media and how you access them is given in the Appendix.

Online comments

The comments section at the bottom of each news story on guernseypress.com will give you one perspective (albeit a highly skewed and cynical one) on how Islanders feel about the issues of the day. The

'Guernsey People Have Your Say' Facebook group is similar in style. You can glean some useful information but treat with extreme care – avid contributors are unlikely to be representative of the Guernsey majority.

Podcasts:

Richard Harding's InDepth podcasts are really useful for getting beyond the usual soundbites. All of his 20-30 minute interviews with individual Deputies can be downloaded here: <https://www.islandfm.com/podcasts/in-depth/>.

ITV Channel TV have just started a new news podcast called Channelcast. It features Gary Burgess and Clare Burton discussing the issues of the day across both islands.

States of Guernsey:

The States announces most of its initiatives on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/govgg/>

Twitter: @Govgg

But for a comprehensive list of new initiatives, bookmark their media release page : www.gov.gg/news.

Often when you hear in the media about a new report from the States it can be hard to find. Try www.gov.gg/publications.

2. Read what current Deputies are saying online

About half of our current Deputies use social media. Some post statements about particular issues on Facebook, some use Twitter to debate with other Deputies and the public.

A list of Facebook addresses and Twitter handles is given in the Appendix.

3. Follow States debates

Read the policy papers

Bookmark the following page, you will be coming here a lot: www.gov.gg/statesmeetings.

You can read policy papers here as they are submitted by the various States committees. This may be months in advance of their being debated. Just look in the 'Items lodged for future States meetings' section.

Once those policy papers have been allocated to a particular States meeting, you will find them listed under the date of that meeting in the 'Future States Meetings' section.

To find out what is being debated at the next States meeting, click on the first link: "States meeting on xxx date". You can read each policy individually or download the entire set of papers (the Billet) using the download link on the right hand side.

In this section you will also see any amendments that have been lodged by Deputies who want their colleagues to consider changing an aspect of the proposals. Amendments aren't included the Billet, you will have to look at these separately.

There are many other links and downloads on the www.gov.gg/statesmeetings page, including written records of previous States debates (Hansard). All are worth exploring.

Follow the debates

There are three ways to follow a States meeting as it takes place:

- A) Listen on BBC Radio Guernsey – tune in to 1116AM on your radio or google "BBC States Live" to listen online.

- B) Use the link published on the www.gov.gg/statesmeeting page for that particular meeting. This is a new service, using the learning from holding States meetings by video in lockdown. It uses Microsoft Teams but you don't have to download Teams or know how to use it. Just click 'Watch online' and 'Join anonymously'. You can't actually watch but you can listen this way.

- C) If you want to watch the action you need to sit in the Public Gallery, also called the Visitors Gallery. Full details of the process for watching from the Gallery are on the Women in Public Life website, look under Resources.

Spending some time observing from the Public Gallery is highly recommended. You get a much better feel for the way the debate is playing out than you do on the radio. Plus you get to see the protocol and formalities of the Royal Court – and the note-passing of the Deputies.

4. Look out for consultations

It is now standard practice for the States of Guernsey to consult the public and interested parties before bringing a major policy change to the States for debate. So keeping up to date with consultations is a good way to get to know about changes the States are contemplating in the future.

In addition, responding to consultations help you to practice expressing your opinion about policy.

Consultations are advertised on the States of Guernsey Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/govgg/>) and Twitter feed (@govgg).

Government and commercial surveys are also promoted on the Islands Global Analysis Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/islandopinion/>)

4. Go to events and courses

Deputies surgeries

The parishes of Castel, St Sampson's and the Vale hold regular Deputies Surgeries on Saturday mornings. It's a chance for parishioners to discuss items that will be debated at the upcoming States meeting.

If you live in any of those parishes going along to the Surgeries is a good way to get to know both your local Deputies and members of the Douzaine and to discuss local issues with Islanders.

The surgeries are advertised on the websites for each parish and in the Press. You can find all the parish websites here: www.gov.gg/parishes. Or call your local Douzaine Room or Constables Office to ask.

Public meetings

States committees call public meetings or host drop-ins from time to time to raise awareness of, and answer questions about, a particular policy. These are usually advertised in the Guernsey Press or on social media. Sometimes, the Douzaines or local interest groups also call public meetings.

Events

Organisations like the Institute of Directors and the Chamber of Commerce hold a number of politically-focused events each year. These are open to non-members (but tickets are expensive).

To keep tabs on what events are coming up, search for 'Guernsey' on Eventbrite.com.

Courses

The WEA (Workers Education Association – www.wea.org.gg) put on courses relevant to potential Deputies.

5. Visit the Women in Public Life website

If you haven't already, take a look at the Deputies page on the Women in Public Life website. There's lots of information about the work of States Members and how you get elected. Plus video interviews with Deputies Lindsay de Sausmarez, Rhian Tooley and Michelle Le Clerc.

www.womeninpubliclife.gg/index.php/deputy/

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.

www.womeninpubliclife.gg

#WomenStandGsy

Appendix

Political media sources in Guernsey

Guernsey Press:

To have the Press delivered to your home, call the GP office on 240240 and ask for the contact details of your local delivery person. Cost is approx. £30/month.

Alternatively, you can read the Press online by subscribing here: <https://tinyurl.com/yx88mxmh>. Cost is £16/month.

Or you can have the main Press stories delivered to your Inbox for free each morning by signing up to the GP Newsletter. You'll find a sign up box on www.guernseypress.com -scroll down the home page and look underneath the Weather section.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GuernseyPress/>

Twitter: @GuernseyPress

ITV Channel TV:

Local news at 6pm every weekday evening. Times vary at weekends.

Headlines stories: <https://www.itv.com/news/channel/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/itvchanneltv/>

Twitter: @ITVChannelTV

BBC (CI News):

Local news at 6.30pm every weekday evening.

Headline stories: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe/guernsey>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bbcguernsey/>

Twitter: @BBCGuernsey

BBC Radio Guernsey:

The main news programme is Oscar Pearson's Show on weekday mornings. Headlines on the hour and main interviews at 7.10am, 7.50am and 8.10am.

More news and interviews on weekday evenings, particularly between 5pm and 6pm.

Clips of key interviews and options to 'Listen Again' to all shows from the previous month are posted online here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/radioguernsey>.

Bailiwick Express:

Online news source for Guernsey: <https://gsy.bailiwickexpress.com/>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BailiwickGuernsey/>

Twitter: @BailiwickGsy

Deputies on social media

Twitter:

@DeputyMaryLowe (Deputy Mary Lowe)
@BrehautBarry (Deputy Barry Brehaut)
@tothevale (Deputy Neil Inder)
@emiliemcswiggan (Deputy Emilie McSwiggan nee Yerby)
@RhianGsy (Deputy Rhian Tooley)
@SarahHRouxel (Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel)
@Lindsay_Gsy (Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez)
@armoricana (Deputy Charles Parkinson)
@mkleclerc (Deputy Michelle Le Clerc)
@HeidiSoulsby (Deputy Heidi Soulsby)
@GollopGuern (Deputy John Gollop)
@deputycgreen (Deputy Chris Green)
@ShaneLanglois (Deputy Shane Langlois)
@Ietocq (Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq)
@gavinstpier (Deputy Gavin St Pier)

@victoria1oliver (Deputy Victoria Oliver)

@jstephengsy (Deputy Jane Stephens)

@dawnatindall (Deputy Dawn Tindall)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/InderVale/> (Deputy Neil Inder)

<https://www.facebook.com/emilie.yerby> (Deputy Emilie McSwiggan)

<https://www.facebook.com/AndreaDudleyOwen/> (Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen)

<https://www.facebook.com/charles.parkinson.98> (Deputy Charles Parkinson)

<https://www.facebook.com/voteletocq/> (Deputy Jonathan Le Tocq)

<https://www.facebook.com/gavin.stpier> (Deputy Gavin St Pier)

<https://www.facebook.com/john.gollop.5> (Deputy John Gollop)

<https://www.facebook.com/rhian.tooley> (Deputy Rhian Tooley)

<https://www.facebook.com/SarahHansmannRouxel/> (Deputy Sarah Hansmann Rouxel)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009596930451> (Deputy Lindsay de Sausmarez)

<https://www.facebook.com/velobella> (Deputy Heidi Soulsby)

<https://www.facebook.com/michelle.leclerc.370> (Deputy Michelle Le Clerc)

<https://www.facebook.com/chris.green.94064> (Deputy Chris Green)

<https://www.facebook.com/shane.langlois.5> (Deputy Shane Langlois)

<https://www.facebook.com/Deputy-Victoria-Oliver-1137042919673189/> (Deputy Victoria Oliver)

<https://www.facebook.com/DawnTindallforDeputy/> (Deputy Dawn Tindall)