

MEDIA RELEASE

Women in Public Life will be holding a drop-in session for potential Election 2020 candidates this Saturday, following confirmation that the general election will now be on 7th October 2020.

The volunteer group is keen to offer information and practical advice to women considering standing in Election 2020, whatever their political views or party affiliation.

At the drop-in session, potential candidates can meet the Women in Public Life team and find out more about the support on offer, including a programme of four evening sessions to help potential candidates understand the role of Deputy and prepare their campaigns.

In the 2016 election, only 19 of the 81 candidates were women. Twelve went on to be elected which increased the proportion of female States members from 11% to 30%.

Shelaine Green, Chair of Women in Public Life, said “The upcoming election is hugely significant. On October 7th the island will be electing 38 people who will decide what “new Guernsey” will look like. Just like the team that lead us through lockdown, we need a new Assembly that is competent and balanced. But Guernsey can’t choose a balanced team of the best of the island’s talent if not enough women stand in the first place.

“We know that women are more likely to put themselves forward for new roles if they have sources of clear information and a supportive network around them, so we’re keen to meet potential candidates on Saturday and volunteer our help.

“We aren’t a political party or association, we’re simply offering some moral and practical support to women of all political views. As well as encouraging more women to stand, we hope that, by bringing potential candidates together at an early stage, we will create a sense of camaraderie and collaboration that will continue through the election and beyond.”

The role of Deputy, alongside 14 other roles in public office, is explained in detail on the Women in Public website (www.womeninpubliclife.gg), together with video interviews with three current States members. In addition, Women in Public Life volunteers have created infosheets to explain different aspects of standing for election as a States member. These are available in the Resources section of the website for anyone who wishes to use them.

Women in Public Life is group of local volunteers that aims to inspire the women of Guernsey to stand for a variety of roles in public office. The group launched in January with a well-attended event that introduced women considering public office to people already doing the roles and those who recruited them. Felicity Quevatre-Malcic was inspired to stand for election as a Jurat as a result of the event and was sworn in on March 9th 2020.

Women in Public Life's Drop-In Session for potential candidates will be at KGV on Saturday 11th July from 2pm to 4pm. More details available at www.womeninpubliclife.gg.

Editor's notes:

1. Media contact for Women in Public Life: Shelaine Green
hello@womeninpubliclife.gg 07497 081126
2. The media are kindly requested not to attend the Drop-In to ensure privacy for those who are just considering their options.
3. Women in Public Life inspires and supports the women of Guernsey to stand for public office. www.womeninpubliclife.gg.
4. Women in Public Life is a support network for women, run by volunteers. We are not a political party or an association. We will not be fielding any candidates in Election2020. We encourage **women of all political views** to stand.
5. Examples of the roles described on womeninpubliclife.gg are:
 - Deputy
 - Douzenier/Constable
 - Jurat of the Royal Court
 - Business Adviser to a States Trading Asset
 - Non-States Member on a States Committee
 - Planning Panel