

“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 that is 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 reflects the delay in the election date from 17th June 2020 to new confirmed date of **7th October 2020**.

Important: For full in-depth guidance, read the official ‘[Information for Prospective Candidates 2020](#)’ available from www.election2020.gg.

1. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll will close on 21st August 2020 to allow for the production of printed voter rolls for canvassing purposes. You and your proposer and seconder must be on the electoral roll. [Note: the need for candidates to be on the roll is a new rule for this election]. 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A new Roll is created for each election because it becomes out of date very quickly, even if people are asked to update their details.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 States 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

A draft nomination form is currently available to download from www.Election2020.gg. The final nomination form will be available to download during w/c 10th August and printed versions will be available from the Bailiff's Chambers at the Royal Court or your Douzaine office. 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 1st September and 4pm on Friday 4th September 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 and have not opted for a postal vote from 8am to 8pm on Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th October 2020. The list of parish polling stations is included in the [Information for Prospective Candidates 2020](#).

A 'super-polling station' will be open the Princess Royal Centre for Performing Arts at the same time as the parish polling stations on the 6th and 7th October. It will also be open the weekend before from 8am to 8pm on Saturday 3rd September and Sunday 4th September, together with a second super-polling station at St Sampson's High School. Anyone on the Electoral Roll who has not opted for a postal vote can use the super-polling stations, 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 registered using the printed 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 Election 2020 office. Applications for postal votes must be received by 25th September 2020.

Postal vote packs will be sent out at some point between nomination closing on 4th September and the election. They can't be sent earlier because the names of the candidates won't be known until 4th September. Postal votes must be received at the address on the envelope by Wednesday 7th October 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.

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 8th October and results are not due to be announced until later that day. The count will start at 9am.

If all runs smoothly, results could be available 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 on the Electoral Roll
- 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 Election 2020 office for details on 01481 747579 or email elections@gov.gg. Unspent convictions will need to be declared on the nomination form.

5. Responsibilities

The Committee for Home Affairs (President: Mary Lowe) 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 at www.womeninpubliclife.gg.

The Registrar-General for the election is Collette Falla. It is not a political role, she is not answerable to a States committee.

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

6. Key dates

21st August: Electoral roll closes

1st September: Nominations open

4th September: Nominations close

25th September: Last day for applications for a postal vote

3rd September: Performing Arts/St Sampson's High super-polling stations open

4th September: Performing Arts/St Sampson's High super-polling stations open

6th October: Parish and Performing Arts polling stations open

7th October: Parish and Performing Arts polling stations open. Deadline for receipt of postal votes.

8th October: 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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