

PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF NON-PRIORITY WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY SELECTIONS IN ENGLAND

To be read alongside the NEC's Procedural Guidelines for *Westminster Parliamentary selections where there is a vacancy* agreed in March 2022 and amended in July 2022 ("the Full Procedures").

BACKGROUND

As of May 2023 95 candidates have been selected in target or retirement seats, and there are 161 Labour MPs expected to contest the next Election. This leaves 273 vacancies to fill¹.

Some of these remaining vacancies are target seats that will be filled using the existing NEC procedures. However, in order to ensure as many seats as possible are filled with the involvement of local members ahead of a General Election in 2024, the Party must significantly increase the rate of selections.

These procedures are intended to simplify the process for selections in non-priority seats in order to quickly and efficiently select candidates whilst still taking due regard of the NEC's commitment to diversity and to the principle of high quality candidates.

For the purposes of this procedure, a non-priority seat is defined as a seat with a notional Tory majority of over 40%. This definition will be reviewed by the NEC as selections progress to ensure the ambition to democratically select as many candidates as possible outlined above is met. All selections undertaken using these procedures will be on the basis of the [Boundary Commission for England's revised proposals](#).

PROCEDURES

1. NEC Supervision & Expressions of Interest.

- A. There shall be an NEC Representative to supervise each selection, who will usually be a member of the relevant Regional Executive Committee appointed by the Regional Director. An NEC Representative may act for more than one selection at a time, where that best meets local and/or regional circumstances.

¹ All figures England only

- B. The NEC Representative will ensure that the parliamentary selection process is carried out in accordance with the principles of the Equality Act, that there will be no discrimination on the grounds of protected personal characteristics; age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.
- C. The Regional Director shall also appoint a staff member for each selection to advise on rules and procedures and to support the selection process.
- D. The NEC Representative will consult the Governance and Legal Unit as and where necessary, and any matters that cannot be resolved shall be referred to the Chair of Organisation committee for resolution. Such decisions shall be reported back to the NEC and where necessary amendments agreed to clarify these procedures.
- E. NEC Officers shall agree tranches of non-target seats to be opened for expressions of interest. NEC Officers may request that any suggested non-priority seat instead be selected using the Full Procedures.
- F. The Governance and Legal Unit will arrange for the tranche of seats to be advertised on the national Labour Party website and to be advertised to graduates/participants of relevant training programmes, such as the Future Candidates, Jo Cox Women in Leadership, and Bernie Grant Leadership Programmes and to notify TULO, the Co-operative Party and affiliated organisations.
- G. The Regional Director will notify each CLP Secretary and Chair that the NEC will be seeking expressions of interest for their seat, and outline the broad timeline to be followed.
- H. Upon receipt of expressions of interest, the NEC Representative shall, for each seat, judge whether:
 - a. The NEC's commitments in terms of diversity have been met, and therefore a selection should progress; or
 - b. Those commitments have not been met and therefore the selection should go back out to advert
 - c. Prior to forming such a judgment, the NEC Representative will:
 - i) be briefed by the Governance and Legal Unit on the overall state of expressions of interest and the current list of selected candidates, to ensure that that the Party's overall slate of candidates reflects the communities the Party seeks to represent.
 - ii) A due diligence report shall be prepared for each applicant.
 - iii) Where concerns arise from these reports they shall be referred to an NEC panel – which may include members co-opted from RECs where

necessary – which shall judge whether an application should progress. Panels will reflect the usual balance of stakeholders on the NEC.

- iv) Such decisions will be made with reference to the NEC’s previously agreed approach to due diligence, and shall be final.
- J. Where a selection is progressing, those who have submitted an expression of interest will be asked to confirm they wish to progress.

2. Eligibility & Freeze date

- A. Eligibility to participate in this process as a candidate or as a member shall be as laid out in Clauses 3 and 4 of the Full Procedures.
- B. The freeze date for each seat shall be the date on which the notice of expressions of interest for that seat is published on the Labour Party website.

3. Shortlisting

- A. For each seat, a shortlisting panel shall be established which shall comprise three members of the relevant CLP. At least one member of the shortlisting panel shall be a woman, and one should be a representative of affiliated organisations where possible.
- B. The shortlisting panel shall be responsible for, where required, drawing up a shortlist based on applications received, as well as making arrangements for the hustings
- C. The selection panel may progress with a shortlist of one where there is only one suitable applicant. In such cases the applicant will be deemed selected, subject to NEC endorsement.
- D. The NEC Representative shall be responsible for signing off the final shortlist and may refer matters to the Chair of the Organisation Sub-Committee for final adjudication where required.
- E. When a shortlist is confirmed it will be made available to organisations affiliated to the CLP so they may make supporting nominations.

4. Postal Votes

- A. Postal votes will be administered in line with Clause 9 of the Full Procedures, save that there will be no provision for “all postal” ballots and that the NEC’s presumption would be that any postal votes will be administered via the Party’s approved platform(s) for electronic voting in order to save time and resources wherever possible.

5. The Hustings Meeting and the Count

- A. The Hustings Meeting and the Count shall be conducted in line with Clause 10 of the Full Procedures, save that there will be no provision for informal meetings.