

INTERNAL ELECTIONS – CODE OF CONDUCT

The below updates the code of conduct for internal elections to include changes to the procedures agreed to be used moving forward. It also strengthens the commitment that candidates for internal elections meet a higher standard of probity than the standard required for membership.

1. Candidates will be given the opportunity to submit a statement to the Party before the nomination period which will be published on the Labour Party website. This will be supplied to all members from the national party and via the CLP Secretary of affiliated organisation before the nomination meeting.
2. Candidates must not use any data held by the Party to contact members. Any member with access to Party data who have been found to use their access to support candidates may be subject to disciplinary action by the party under Appendix 2 of the Labour Party Rule Book.
3. For elections to be conducted by a ballot of members and/or trade unions, the Labour Party will supply a candidates' statement booklet (or online equivalent) to all eligible Party members at no cost to candidates.
4. Canvassing is specifically allowed and candidates and their supporters may approach members and relevant organisations to seek their support. Contact must not be carried out in a manner likely to cause offence or be seen as applying pressure to any member.
5. Candidates are permitted to mail and email relevant organisations direct with canvassing or promotional material.
6. No candidate or persons acting on behalf of a candidate will use their own material or access to publicity to disparage any other candidates or members or staff. This includes social media, websites and blogs. Candidates are particularly reminded to be careful when linking to other websites that may contain disparaging material.
7. All candidates at every stage of the contest are expected to fulfil a higher standard of probity and behaviour than may be expected of them as a member. Any member found not to meet this standard, either by an act during or before the contest, may be disqualified as a candidate at any stage. Such a decision would be made by the Ballot Procedures Committee.
8. No financial or other inducement may be offered in an attempt to secure support.

9. Only officers designated by the General Secretary will be authorised to issue statements to the media about any aspect of the election process, and then only after consultation with appropriate senior Party officers. This does not preclude candidates undertaking press, radio or TV interviews; though under no circumstances should any candidate disparage any other candidate.
10. No candidate or persons acting on her/his behalf will interfere with or put under duress any member in regard to how they vote at any stage during the process.
11. Party staff will not use their position, Party resources or time in the process of an internal election so as to further the interests of any candidate(s). This does not preclude normal contact or general conversation undertaken in their capacity as a member of the Party or undertaking of their normal duties. The General Secretary is responsible for all staffing matters and will deal with alleged breaches of the code by Party staff.
12. Members seeking election as a national officer or to a national committee are regulated donees for the purposes of the Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Donations of more than £500 (cash or non-cash) must be from a permissible donor. Donations of more than £1500 (cash or non-cash) from the same donor in a calendar year must be reported to the Electoral Commission directly by the candidate within 30 days of receipt of the donation that causes the £1,500 threshold to be exceeded. Contact the Governance and Legal Unit at legal_queries@labour.org.uk for more information. Members of Parliament make these declarations via the Register of Members Financial Interests in the House of Commons, and should note that the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament requires reporting within 28 days of receiving a donation or donations exceeding the aforementioned threshold.
13. Any member breaching this Code of Conduct or knowingly allowing others to do so on her/his behalf could be liable for disciplinary action. The Ballot Procedures Committee* will not hesitate to use its powers of disqualification to impose sanctions to enforce the Code.
14. For all elections, the Procedures Committee will be made up of members of the NEC Organisation sub-committee.