

# 2025 GREEN PARTY INTERNAL ELECTIONS

These regulations cover the conduct of elections for office in the Green Party at a national level. The authority for these regulations is clause 18(iv) of the Green Party constitution.

One of the key aims of these rules is to increase turnout in these elections in a fair way. For that reason, it is important to enable candidates to communicate effectively with the membership.

Not all posts are normally available for election in any one year. Leader(s) and Deputy Leader(s) are up for election in every even year, along with half of the Green Party Executive (GPEx), with the other half being elected in odd years. In addition, there may be elections for casual vacancies on the Executive whether these posts have been filled by co-option or not.

## THE POSTS

Following a vote at Autumn Conference 2023, the elections scheduled for 2024 were delayed by one year to 2025. As a result, there are two blocks of positions for election in 2025 – one block will be elected on a one-year term, and the other on two, to maintain Constitutional requirement for staggered elections under clause 7(iii).

One Year Term	Two Year Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leader</li><li>• Deputy Leader</li><li>• Chair</li><li>• Campaigns Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Elections Co-Ordinator</li><li>• External Communications Co-Ordinator</li><li>• International Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Management Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Trade Union Liaison Officer</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equality &amp; Diversity Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Finance Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Internal Communications Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Local Party Support Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Policy Development Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Publications Co-Ordinator</li><li>• Policy Development Committee (5 positions)</li></ul>

Further information about the roles, including job descriptions, will be available in the Internal Elections section of the national website.

## NOMINATIONS

A candidate for Leader or Deputy Leader shall have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the close of nominations.

Nominations for leadership posts require twenty proposers.

A candidate for Chair, Trade Union Liaison Officer or any Co-Ordinator post shall either:

- Have been a member of the party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations; or
- Have been a member for one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations and their nomination be supported by a majority of Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body.

Candidates for these positions require ten proposers.

Positions on Policy Development Committee are not open to job-share and candidates need to be proposed by two fully paid-up members of the Green Party of England and Wales.

The names and local parties of proposers will be published alongside the Statement of Persons Nominated.

For the nomination to be valid the proposers for any position must be paid up national members.

Both nominations and proposers must be submitted to the ERO through the relevant forms which will be published on the members website.

By standing for election, candidates consent to the following being published: -

- their name
- their photo
- any contact information that they provide for the purpose of the election.
- the position they are standing for.

Candidates also consent to the following being published in a statement of results that may be redistributed publicly by the Green Party, or by members of the Party: -

- their name
- their photo
- the position they are standing for.

Any candidate may withdraw from any election by written notice to the ERO, at any time up until the commencement of the count. In conducting the count, the ERO will pass over preferences for that candidate, passing on to the next available preference. In the event that a withdrawal causes the number of candidates to fall below the number of positions to be filled, the quota will be adjusted accordingly.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

A 500-word statement and a single photo, plus the following optional contact details: -

- Email address
- Social Media contact details
- LinkedIn URL
- A single URL of the candidate's choice
- A video URL. This video can be up to three minutes in length.

These details will be published on the national website and included in a booklet with the ballot paper sent to members voting by post.

Candidate statements should not give a misleading or misinformed account of what the candidate is able to do in the role. The statement should be factually accurate and comply with the constitution and, if not, the ERO may inform the candidate of any issues and allow them to resubmit a different version.

The format of all candidate statements will be uniform and printed in black and white. The photos should be in high resolution, ideally no smaller than 2MB and suitable for printing in black and white on an A5 page.

A copy of the current Election Regulations is included, containing rules on conduct during the election. These rules are intended to ensure fair play, so all candidates and their supporters are asked to study these carefully. If you have any queries, please email the ERO on [ero@greenparty.org.uk](mailto:ero@greenparty.org.uk).

Completed nominations, proposers' details and candidate statements must be received by the ERO no later than noon on the last day of the nomination period.

Candidates, or nominated agents, must be available in the first week of July to answer any final queries about your nomination, statements or other points before the ballot papers are issued.

# NATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR THE 2025 INTERNAL ELECTIONS

## 1 Method of Election

### a. Introduction

As specified in the constitution the method of election shall be the Single Transferable Vote. There will be provision for negative voting, even if there are fewer candidates than vacancies. In elections for Deputy Leaders, the Constitution requires that these be of different self-determined genders.

### b. Conduct of the Election

Subject to the additional regulations below, the method of election and count shall follow the guidelines set down in How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, published by the Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The nomination process will be through webforms on the members' website.

Ballots will be issued by email and (where required) via paper copies.

The electorate will be fully paid-up members in good standing as of the day before the ballot opens.

### c. Provision for Negative Voting

In addition to the candidates, the ballot paper shall allow the voter to express a preference for "Re- Open Nominations" (RON). This indicates that no further candidates are acceptable to a voter. There can therefore be no transfers of preference from RON. At the count, votes for RON are treated in the same way as votes for a normal candidate, except that if RON is elected or excluded, RON's surpluses transfer to a new RON candidate.

### d. Quota when there are fewer candidates than places

If there are fewer candidates than places there is still an election because of the provision for negative voting. In calculating the quota the maximum number of places that could be filled in this election, which will usually be the number of candidates (unless there are additional constraints on the result, such as gender balancing), shall be used in place of the number of places to be filled.

#### **e. Multiple candidacies**

Clause 7(vii) of the Constitution states that: -

“Members of the Party may be nominated for no more than one GPEX Chair and Co-ordinator post at any one time, and no member may hold more than one post on the Party Executive at any one time. Members of the Party Executive may not hold any other elected office in the Party at national level. Members of the Party may be nominated for both Leader and Deputy Leader(s).”

Ballots will be run in the following order: -

- Leader(s)
- Deputy Leader(s)
- All Executive positions
- Policy Development Committee

In the event that a candidate is nominated for more than one position (e.g. Leader and Deputy, Policy Co-Ordinator and Policy Development Committee) they will be automatically withdrawn from later ballots in the event of a win in an earlier ballot. Section 1(d) of these rules may then apply.

#### **f. Deputy Leader(s)**

Clause 8(iv) of the Constitution addresses the situation where there are elected Co-Leaders: -

“The post of deputy leader will be held as a job share with two individuals of a different gender, noting that gender is self-determined. Two members of a different gender may together stand for the office of Leader in order to hold the post as a job-share in which case they shall be known as ‘Co-Leaders’. In this case a single Deputy, the individual who polls the highest vote, regardless of gender, will be elected. Members standing to be Co-Leaders may not simultaneously be candidates as individuals for either Leader or Deputy Leader.”

In the case of a sole elected Leader, the winning Deputy Leader candidates will be the top ranked two individual candidates of different genders, or the top ranked job-share candidates, whichever is placed higher.

## 2 Timetable

The ERO shall determine the timetable, subject to the requirements of the constitution. The counting of any postal ballot will take place as soon as convenient after the published deadline for receipt of ballot papers. In extreme circumstances, such as a postal strike, the ERO may accept ballot papers returned after this deadline and/or authorise a delay to the count. Standing Orders Committee (SOC) shall be the final arbiter in case of dispute.

The timetable for elections in 2025 shall be as follows:

- Nominations open: 10am on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025
- Nominations close: Noon on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- Voting opens: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025
- Online voting closes: Noon on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- Deadline for receipt of postal ballots: Last post on Monday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

### **3 Rules for Nomination**

Nominations must be submitted to the ERO via the members' website, making clear the post the nomination is for, by the closing time for nominations and must include the candidate's consent to the nomination.

Each proposer must also submit a form via the members' website to support a candidacy, including the candidate's name and the post they wish to stand for, with the proposer's name, email address, postal address, and the name of the local party to which they belong.

Members can make as many nominations as they wish.

Candidates for Leadership positions must have been a member of the Party for the three complete years preceding the close of nominations. Nominations for leadership posts require twenty proposers.

Candidates for Executive posts must have been a member of the party for the two complete years preceding the date of close of nominations, or have been a member for one complete year preceding the date of close of nominations and their nomination be supported by a majority of GPRC members in attendance at a quorate official meeting of that body. Nominations for Executive posts require ten proposers.

Positions on Policy Development Committee are not open to job-share and candidates need to be proposed by two fully paid-up members of the Green Party of England and Wales.

All other posts are available to job-share. In cases where two or more members are standing for election to a single post as a job-share, the term 'Candidate' shall be taken to refer to the job-sharing team, therefore only one nomination form need be completed and the number of proposers required will be as specified for the post in question. If a proposer only nominates one member of the job-share that nomination will not count for the other member of the job-share, each will require the number of proposers specified for the post.

By standing for election, candidates consent to their names being published, along with the position they stood for, in a statement of results that may be redistributed publicly by the Green Party, or by members of the Party.

Any candidate may withdraw from any election by written notice to the Electoral Returning Officer, at any time up until the commencement of the count. In conducting the count, the ERO will pass over preferences for that candidate, passing on to the next available preference.

## 4 Disclosure

On a separate document all candidates are required to:

- disclose any criminal convictions not regarded as spent under the requirements of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 s.5.
- disclose anything in their current or personal history that is likely to bring the Party into serious disrepute or result in adverse media coverage. This includes opinions that are incompatible with Green Party ethics or philosophy. This must include any sanctions imposed by Disciplinary Committee.

While it is not a requirement, candidates should reflect on whether any pending disciplinary procedure might affect their ability to fulfil the requirements of the role for which they are standing.

The ERO may refer any declarations to the Co-Chairs of GPRC for decision by a mechanism established by that body.



## **5 Conduct of Candidates and their Agents**

### **a. Rules of Conduct**

By submitting their online nomination forms, candidates agree to abide by these rules. If candidates, or their supporters acting with their approval, are found to have violated these rules the ERO and/or SOC may make a formal report to the GPRC. If the ERO considers any violation has materially affected the outcome of the election, the election may be ruled void.

### **b. Regulated Campaigning**

#### **i. Campaign Expenditure**

Candidates (or their agents) must make a declaration of donations made to campaigns and expenditure incurred, to the Returning Officer by noon on Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Candidates should provide a 'nil' return if necessary.

Candidates must make themselves aware of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act (PPERA) rules, particularly in relation to acceptability of donations. Failure to comply with this is not only illegal but could result in significant cost and embarrassment to the candidate and/or Party.

#### **ii. Regulated Period**

The regulated period for these elections begins on the day after the date you officially become a candidate and end at the close of polls.

The earliest date you can officially become a candidate is on the publication of the notice of election, which will be on or before Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025. You will become a candidate on this date if you or others have already announced your intention to stand.

If your intention to stand has not been announced by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, you will officially become a candidate on the earlier of: -

- the date your intention to stand is announced.
- the date when you submit your nomination papers.

This must be prior to the close of nominations, which is noon on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

### **iii. Expenditure Limits**

Candidates shall be permitted to undertake internal campaigning within the following guidelines.

Leadership candidates may spend up to a limit of £1000 towards their campaign costs, including notional expenditure. All other candidates may spend up to a limit of £500.

Candidates standing on a job-share will have a limit of £1000 or £500, whichever is applicable for the role.

Should candidates for Leader and Deputy campaign together then their joint expenditure will be reduced to the same as that for a Co-Leader job-share (i.e. £1000).

Should any candidates stand for more than one position they are entitled to one expense limit, whichever is the greater.

The agent or candidate must keep invoices or receipts for all payments over £20. You do not need these for notional expenditure.

### **iv. Notional Expenditure**

On your election expenses return, you must declare the full commercial value of items or services worth more than £20 which are given free of charge, paid for on your behalf or purchased at a discount of more than 10% off the commercial rate. The difference between what you pay (if anything), and the commercial value of the item or service is called 'notional expenditure'. You do not need to count anything valued at £20 or below, any discount of 10% or less or commercial discounts.

Commercial discounts are those given by a supplier to other customers, such as a bulk-order discount.

The candidate or agent must make sure that the value declared is a fair and honest assessment of the commercial rate. If the supplier is a commercial business, the commercial rate is what they would normally charge another customer for the same item or service.

If the supplier does not usually supply to other customers, the agent should find out how much a commercial supplier would charge. The internet may be helpful in checking prices.

The agent should keep records of how the value has been reached, including any quotes obtained.

#### **v. Hustings expenses**

Expenses paid by regional, local or other party groups for hustings should be recorded on a separate section of the candidate expense return, but do not count towards any limit if all candidates are invited for the relevant post(s).

Where only select candidates for a particular post are invited, the cost of the hustings and any travel expenses will count towards the expenses limits of the candidates attending.

#### **vi. Joint Candidates**

In addition to those openly declaring that they are standing as joint candidates, other candidates will be considered to be joint candidates if they do any of the following:

- appoint the same election agent
- use the services of the same campaign teams
- publish joint addresses, circulars or notices at elections
- actively co-operate in the election campaign
- endorse other candidates for other posts
- act as a “slate” of candidates

#### **vii. Election Agents**

Candidates may appoint an agent for their internal campaign, and this must be notified in writing to the Electoral Returning Officer within 7 calendar days of the appointment.

#### **viii. Election Materials**

Any campaign materials distributed online should bear the following imprint, written in at least an 8-point typeface:

“Promoted and Produced by (Candidate name) as part of their campaign for election to the post of (insert position here). This is not an official communication from the Green Party of England and Wales.”

In order to ensure that election materials coming directly from candidates are clearly distinguished from official party mailings and are not misconstrued as implicit endorsement of candidates by the party, candidates will not be allowed to use the Green Party “world with petals” logo on their campaign materials. For the sake of clarity this includes the background to videos etc, but not to rosettes and banners relating to previous events.

## **ix. Election Interference**

Candidates must not promise or imply in any statement to voters, including at hustings, that they will give any monies, goods or services to any part of the Party dependent on their election to any position on the Executive other than as may be required by any rules agreed by the Party.

Candidate statements should not give a misleading or misinformed account of what the candidate is able to do in the role. The statement should generally be factually accurate and comply with the constitution and, if not, the ERO may inform the candidate of any issues and allow them to resubmit a different version.

Candidates and/or their agents should not collect, complete or otherwise interfere with a ballot paper other than their own. Candidates and/or their agents should not request to see a member's ballot paper. Non-compliance with this rule will be considered as a particularly serious breach of the regulations.

## **x. Campaign Staff**

Paid assistants working for the Party at any level are not permitted to campaign for candidates in the election.

However, activities associated with general promotional work, undertaken in the normal course of a staff member's duties in support of a candidate or as an officer or volunteer within the national party, will not be in any way affected by this restriction.

Staff should not: -

- Like or comment on any posts from candidates from personal social media accounts
- Declare their support for/opposition to candidates from personal social media accounts.
- Make comments on the merits of candidates on emails from work email addresses.
- Take part in telephone canvassing or any other form of voter contact for candidates.

Staff should consider: -

- Whether any work request received from a candidate (e.g. a Party spokesperson who is also a candidate asking for a press release) is part of normal function of The Green Party of England and Wales or part of their internal election campaign
- A good rule of thumb is to compare nomination and election period work requests with 'peacetime' work requests. If, for

example, a Spokesperson who would normally request one press release per month then requests three press releases per month in the nominations or election period, this could be considered over promotion.

- Spokespeople and Leaders currently in place will remain in post over the nomination and election period. To be fair to other candidates, support offered to them in both the nominations and election periods must be consistent with support offered at other times.
- If a specific individual who is a candidate is asked to become involved in an activity, event or press release then the two questions to ask are: 'Does this member need to do this, or can somebody else who is not a candidate do it?' and 'Does this need to be done in the election period, or can it be left until after August 31st'

Staff should feel able to: -

- Speak discreetly with colleagues about their own views on the elections, as long as it is clear that these are personal rather than professional views.
- Express support verbally to candidates, as long as it is clear that this support is personal rather than professional.
- Request a leave of absence from work to go and work on a particular leadership campaign. In such circumstances, any promotion of that campaign will cease completely on return to Green Party work, when all the above rules will apply.

## **xi. Media**

The press office will inevitably find it necessary to provide basic information about the candidates to the media. To this end, the press office may request a short biography of each candidate for a leadership office, which may be forwarded directly to journalists, or be conveyed through verbal briefing. This biography will contain only factual information; details of a candidate's platform or politics will not be relayed by the press office, but journalists will of course be provided with candidates' contact details in order to pursue this information.

## 6 Communication with Members

Candidates and their agents will be able to communicate statements and details to all members through official mailings (see section 6(c) on statements for more details). No other contact with members using the party membership lists will be permitted.

### a. Printed Election Materials

In the interests of creating a level playing field, candidates will not be allowed to distribute any printed campaigning materials (leaflets, flyers, booklets, letters, banners etc.) either by post or by hand. Candidates are encouraged to campaign through the official mailings and online channels available to all candidates.

### b. Websites, Blogs and Party Email Lists

Any website run by or for a candidate should carry an imprint as in 5.b.vi of these regulations. Candidates and members are not entitled to use any party email lists or websites for campaigning purposes as the access for many of them is uneven and difficult to determine.

Where candidates ask for email addresses from members in order to email them election materials and involve them in their campaigning, they are recommended to use a system which complies with the relevant legislation on this issue, in short this should ensure that consent is acquired and affirmative action has been taken to opt in, that anyone signing up is aware of what data will be recorded and how it will be used, and provide the opportunity to unsubscribe by free and easy means, as is required by law.

The easiest way to comply with this is to use a system such as Mailchimp (other services are available) to undertake your email campaigning.

The content of blogs, websites and web-based publications produced by members, candidates, their agents and supporters are not covered by these regulations; however, the promotion of these sites is covered by these regulations.

Candidate statements, contact details and links to candidates' online presences will be published on the members' website and will be promoted at least once in the members' internal email bulletin during the course of the campaign. Candidates are encouraged to publish times and telephone numbers when they will be available to take calls from party members, and to consider email and web-based hustings.

### **c. Candidate Statements and Votes**

All candidates are entitled to provide the following:

- Ballot Paper Statement: A 500-word statement
- One photo
- Email address
- Social Media contact details
- LinkedIn URL
- A single URL of the candidate's choice
- A video URL. This video can be up to three minutes in length.

These will be included in a booklet with the ballot paper and on the online voting website. The format of all candidate statements will be uniform and printed in black and white.

All candidates may submit a video URL. This video can be up to three minutes in length, which will, along with written statements, become viewable when voting opens.

### **d. Online Q&A**

Members will be given the opportunity to ask Candidates questions. These will be collected and moderated by the ERO and a representative from SOC before being passed to Candidates. Answers should be returned to the moderators for publishing.

### **e. Spokespeople**

After the submission of nomination forms, currently elected, selected or otherwise appointed spokespeople or representatives for the party shall not be permitted to pro-actively seek to engage the party press staff in issuing statements on external current events.

If the party press office deems it necessary for one of the candidates to make a statement or comment on a situation in the press, then they will make contact, and the candidate will be permitted to make a statement under those circumstances. Under no circumstances should any press statements released by the party on an unrelated issue include any reference to any particular candidacy.

During the period from the date they become a candidate to the close of the ballot, any candidates who are already in these roles are not permitted to send out all member mailings.

## **7 Conduct of other Party Members**

### **a. Rules of Conduct**

The ERO has no redress against members who are not candidates in the election. A candidate should not be disqualified due to the actions of another member, unless it is clear that member has acted with the approval of the candidate. However, if, in the opinion of the ERO, the actions of a third party may have materially affected the result of the election, the ERO may declare the election void. All members are therefore requested to abide by the following rules.

While members of course will express views for and against the election of individual candidates, any co-ordinated campaign against the election of any particular candidate may also be sufficient to declare an election null and void.

All members should abide by the Green Party Code of Conduct.

### **b. Candidate Promotion**

Members agree to abide by the rules for regulated campaigning as outlined above.

### **c. Arranging Hustings**

Online hustings will be organised by the national party and advertised to all members.

Candidates may also take part in hustings organised by local or area parties, or other Green Party groups, provided that all candidates for a post have been invited, and that expenses are being paid.

Where local or area parties, or other party groupings, arrange their own hustings for a particular post, they should invite all the candidates for that post and pay their travel expenses. They should also make all reasonable attempts to ensure that the meeting is at a time and place that makes it possible for all candidates wishing to attend to be there. To make these as accessible as possible to all candidates and members, we would encourage the use of online platforms for hustings.

Expenses paid for these hustings should be recorded on the candidate expense return, but do not count towards any limit.

Groups wishing to organise hustings must check with the ERO which dates have not already been allocated for national or regional hustings and be aware that excessive demands should not be placed on candidates.



**d. Publications**

There should be no direct advocacy of a person's candidature in formal or informal party publications (for example Bright Green, Green World, members' internal emails or Party websites), unless equal space is given to all Candidates for a particular post to express their own views. This does not include fair comment on the elections.

Stewart Christie  
Electoral Returning Officer

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.