

Standing for election to the States Assembly: a guide for prospective candidates

VOTE.JE
Jersey's Official Election Guide

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Introduction

Thank you for considering standing for election to the States Assembly.

Jersey's community benefits from people like you who are willing to put themselves forward to lead and make important decisions about the laws and policies that affect us all, both now and into the future. Working as a States Member is a role like no other you may have had before. People describe it as both an honour and a privilege. It's also incredibly challenging yet rewarding.

Vote.je is Jersey's Official Election Guide and this document is an introductory guide for anyone who aspires to be an elected Member of the States Assembly – Jersey's elected parliament. This guide gives an overview of the political system, the key points that prospective election candidates need to know, and a taste of what to expect over the first few months if you are successfully elected.

Please contact Vote.je if you have any unanswered questions.

contact@vote.je

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Disclaimer: If you are using a printed version of this guide, bear in mind that details are subject to change. Please refer to the [Vote.je](https://www.vote.je) website for the latest information or contact Vote.je if unsure of anything.

Elections to the States Assembly: a brief overview

There are elections every 4 years to elect 49 Members to the States Assembly – Jersey’s elected parliament. By-elections are held to fill any casual vacancies as they arise, for example, if a States Member decides to stand down.

Who can vote?

Automatic Voter Registration will be in effect, meaning that Islanders who are eligible to vote will automatically be added to the electoral register.

To be eligible to be registered to vote, you must:

- Be aged 16 or over by Election Day
- Have lived in Jersey for at least one year up to and including Election Day;
(OR have lived in Jersey for at least six months up to and including Election Day PLUS periods which add up to five years in total).

Who can stand for election?

Eligible individuals can stand for election as independent candidates or as a member of a registered political party. You are eligible to stand for election to the States Assembly if:

- You are a British citizen
- You will be aged 18 or over by Election Day
- You have lived in Jersey for at least two years up to and including Election Day OR have lived in Jersey for six months up to and including Election Day PLUS periods which add up to five years in total.

There are different types of elected States Member – further details of this are included in this guide. All 49 Members are selected on the same day and the candidates who receive the most votes are elected.

Successful election candidates are sworn in at the Royal Court and take their oath of office as a States Member. Any of the 49 elected Members may be appointed to additional roles, whether that is as a Government Minister (including Chief Minister) or as a member or chair of a Committee or Panel.

About the Jersey Electoral Authority

Elections are overseen by the Jersey Electoral Authority (the JEA), which acts as a politically neutral and independent arbiter to determine candidate disputes and complaints.

The remit of the JEA also includes addressing any conduct issues amongst candidates and overseeing their election expenditures; and it has responsibilities in setting the nomination period for elections to the States Assembly. The JEA operates in accordance with the [Elections \(Jersey\) Law 2002](#).

The JEA was established in 2022 in response to recommendations contained within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Electoral Observer’s Mission Report published after the 2018 election.

To contact the JEA, email admin@jea.je.

Vote.je is run by the States Greffe and overseen by the JEA. It is responsible for informing Islanders about elections, and encouraging people to register, vote and stand for election to the States Assembly.

What is the States Assembly?

The States Assembly is Jersey's elected parliament. It works on behalf of the people of the Island and is made up of 49 elected States Members who are responsible for:

- Appointing Ministers to the Government of Jersey
- Making and approving new laws for Jersey
- Debating new policies and matters of public interest
- Approving the amount of tax to be raised
- Agreeing how public money should be spent by the Government of Jersey
- Holding the Government to account through Scrutiny

Every 4 years Jersey has an election where Island residents can put themselves forward to become – or be re-elected – as a States Member.

What is the Government of Jersey?

The Government of Jersey is led by a Chief Minister and group of Ministers known as the Council of Ministers. Each Minister has a specific area of responsibility, for example Justice and Home Affairs, or Health and Social Services. Ministers can nominate Assistant Ministers to support their work, but only 21 Members in total can be part of the Government. This limit on the number of Members in Government is sometimes referred to as the 'Troy rule'.

Once elected, States Members can take on specific roles within the Government (as a Minister or Assistant Minister). These additional roles are appointed by the Assembly immediately after a general election or when there are vacancies.

What are Scrutiny Panels and Committees?

Elected members who are not in Government are known as the 'non-Executive'. These States Members can join Scrutiny Panels and Committees whose role is to check, challenge and recommend improvements to changes that are proposed by the Government. There are five Scrutiny Panels and a Public Accounts Committee.

The five Scrutiny Panels are:

- Corporate Services
- Children, Education and Home Affairs
- Economic and International Affairs
- Environment, Housing and Infrastructure
- Health and Social Security

These Panels scrutinise the work of specific Government Ministers. You can read more about this as well as the focus of any recent reviews, on the [States Assembly website](#).

The scrutiny work undertaken by Panels is supported by officers from the States Greffe. The Panel officers provide politically impartial research, administrative and procedural support and advice.

The Public Accounts Committee is slightly different as it has non-elected lay members in addition to elected States Members. Typically the lay members will be appointed on the basis of the experience and knowledge they have which is relevant to the work of the Committee.

Other Committees

Aside from Scrutiny, Members can work on Committees such as the Privileges and Procedures Committee (which oversees parliamentary process and the [Standing Orders of the States](#) – effectively the rules of the States Assembly), the States Employment Board (which oversees the employment and management of the Public Sector staff) and the Planning Committee (which decides upon land-use applications).

Inter-parliamentary associations

The States Assembly participates in the work of several inter-parliamentary associations to share ways of working and to exchange views. States Members have the opportunity to represent the Assembly both in Jersey and abroad in conferences and knowledge-sharing activities. A brief summary of each follows and you can read more on the [States Assembly website](#).

- Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)
- The British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Political parties and independents

Although the recent States Assemblies have had more independent elected Members than party Members, there are established political parties active in the Island. People thinking about standing for election have 3 options:

1. Be an independent candidate;
2. Join a political party; or
3. Start a new political party.

Independent candidates

Independent election candidates are exactly that; they are not a member of a political party and they stand for election based on their own independent values and manifesto.

Sometimes groups of like-minded individuals work together on common themes and issues without becoming officially registered as a political party. Individuals who are part of such groups who go on to become election candidates will not have any reference to the group on the ballot paper on Election Day.

How to join a political party

If you are interested in party politics, it is worth doing some research of your own to understand which party aligns best with your views and values. Spend some time speaking with members of the parties

to help figure out the best fit and find out what the membership process is for your preferred political party.

Remember that you do not necessarily need to want to stand for election to join a political party and be an active supporter.

If you stand for election as a member of a registered political party, on Election Day your name will be listed on the ballot paper alongside the name of your political party.

How to start a new political party

If you decide to start a new political party, you must register it with the Royal Court. Here's a brief overview of requirements for political parties:

- The party must have three office holders (a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) and one person can hold a maximum of two of those offices. This means your party must contain at least two individuals and they must also be registered on the electoral roll in Jersey.
- The name of the party can't exceed six words, and it and the emblem, mustn't be offensive, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate. It also can't be identical or too similar to the name or emblem of any other organisation, in order to avoid confusion. You will need to submit the name and emblem with the application to register the party with the Royal Court.
- The party must have an address in Jersey.
- The party must have a written constitution and one of the objectives must be the endorsement of candidates for election as a States Member. This will need to be submitted with the application.
- You will need to keep accounts for the party and the accounting period can't exceed 12 months. A copy of the most recent accounts must be submitted with the application.
- You will need to pay a fee to apply to register a party.

For further information contact the Judicial Greffe: jgreffe@courts.je

Read the law in full here: [Political Parties \(Registration\) \(Jersey\) Law](#)

Becoming an election candidate

These are the six key steps to follow to become an election candidate:

1. Check your eligibility;
2. Decide what elected role you wish to stand for;
3. Fill in a nomination form;
4. Find people who will support your candidacy by signing your nomination form;
5. Submit your nomination form to the Jersey Electoral Authority (JEA);
6. Your nomination is checked and – if approved – you are announced as an election candidate.

Eligibility to stand for election

The first step to becoming an election candidate is to check your eligibility to stand for the role you'd like. **Anyone** who wants to stand for election to the States Assembly must:

1. Be a British Citizen;
2. Be at least 18 years old; and
3. Have been ordinarily resident in Jersey for either:
 - a. At least two years up to and including the day of the election (7 June 2026); **or**
 - b. Six months up to and including the day of the election **as well as** for previous periods totalling five years.

There is no limit on the number of times a person can stand for election to the States Assembly and no limit on the number of political terms for which they can be elected.

The rules about qualification to stand for election as Senator or Deputy are set out in the [States of Jersey Law 2005](#).

Additional eligibility criteria for Connétable (Constable) candidates:

Anyone intending to stand for election as Connétable (Constable) needs to meet the eligibility criteria above AND live in the Parish they wish to represent, with the exception of candidates for Connétable of the Parish of St. Helier.

The rules about qualification to stand for election as Connétable are set out in the [Connétables \(Jersey\) Law 2008](#).

Criteria for candidates for Connétable of St. Helier:

If you wish to stand for election to be Connétable of St. Helier you must meet the eligibility criteria for all candidates **as well as at least one of the following**:

- a) Be a St. Helier resident (i.e. you live in St. Helier);
- b) Be a St. Helier ratepayer (i.e. you do not have to live in St. Helier but you pay rates to the Parish of St. Helier);
- c) Be a St. Helier 'mandataire' (i.e. you do not have to live in St. Helier but you are a voting member of a St. Helier ratepaying company).

It is advised that you check your eligibility carefully before you complete a nomination form to become an election candidate.

At-a-glance table of eligibility to stand for election:

Here's the eligibility criteria for all roles ahead of the 2026 elections:

	British citizen	At least 18 years old	Resident in Jersey at least 2 years/6 months + 5 years prev.	Resident of the Parish you wish to represent
Connétable	✓	✓	✓	✓*
Deputy	✓	✓	✓	
Senator	✓	✓	✓	

*Except candidates for Connétable of St. Helier.

What restrictions are there on who can stand for election?

On your nomination form you will have to make a declaration in writing that you are qualified to stand for election. If you are uncertain about this, check the following list and **contact Vote.je if you need further clarification.**

You cannot stand for election to the States Assembly if:

- You hold a paid office or other place of profit under the Crown.
- You are a member of the States of Jersey Police Force.
- You are detained in an approved establishment or subject to guardianship under the Mental Health (Jersey) Law 2016.
- You have an appointed delegate under Part 4 of the Capacity and Self-Determination (Jersey) Law 2016.
- You have an attorney without whom you may not act in matters movable or immovable.
- You are bankrupt or have an arrangement in place with creditors.
- You have been convicted of an offence under the Corruption (Jersey) Law 2006 and are a public official, or a member, officer or employee of a public body.
- You have been convicted within the last 7 years (in Jersey or elsewhere) of an offence and ordered to be imprisoned for a period of at least 3 months with no option of a fine.

If you are employed, it is important to check your contract of employment to confirm whether or not you are restricted from standing for election to public office. If you are a public sector employee your role may be 'politically restricted' and it could be that your contract prevents you from standing for election or publicly supporting political candidates. From a practical point of view, you may also wish to check whether your employer would allow you to stop work temporarily and return to the same job after the election campaign in the event that you are not elected.

If you are unsure about potential restrictions, please contact Vote.je.

What does 'Ordinarily resident' actually mean?

'Ordinarily resident' is the term used to describe the address where someone lives on a normal basis. You may be temporarily absent from it, but otherwise, in day-to-day terms, it is typically the address where you live, are registered to vote, and where your utility bills are sent.

What if I change my mind about standing for election?

It is possible to withdraw from the election if you have decided you no longer wish to stand. If you decide this before you have submitted a nomination paper, there is no need to do anything. If you decide against standing after your nomination paper has been accepted, you must notify the Royal Court in writing.

Connétables, Deputies and Senators – a brief overview

The States Assembly has different types of elected Member. For first-time voters and anyone not yet familiar with Jersey's political system, it's worth reading more about this to understand what this actually means.

Note that it is not necessary to have prior experience as an elected States Member - candidates can stand for election to **any** role – Connétable, Deputy or Senator.

Connétables (Constables)

Connétables (sometimes known as Constables) are elected to be the head of a Parish. Anyone elected as a Connétable also becomes an elected Member of the States Assembly by virtue of their office. Connétables are voted for by residents of their Parishes; candidates for Connétable need to convince parishioners to vote for them at election time. There is one Connétable per Parish, which means there are 12 in the Assembly.

On a day-to-day basis, Connétables can expect to divide their time between Parish work and States Assembly work. The Connétable's work can include activities such as:

- Parish Assemblies
- working with parish officials to run the Parish
- dealing with queries from parishioners
- meetings of the Comité des Connétables

As an elected Member of the States Assembly, a Connétable's duties will also include:

- attendance at all States Meetings
- contributing to States Meetings as they see fit, for example asking questions, making speeches in debates
- voting on the outcome of debates
- the ability to lodge a proposition (a proposal for change) for debate in a States Meeting

If a Connétable has taken on any additional roles in the Assembly, for example, as a Minister, or on a Scrutiny Panel or a Committee, their responsibilities may also include:

- A regular programme of Scrutiny public hearings and panel meetings
- Attendance at meetings of the Council of Ministers
- Legal responsibilities relating to the laws within their ministerial remit
- Answering Written Questions, Oral Questions, Questions Without Notice, or in Scrutiny Public Hearings on matters within their ministerial remit

Deputies

Deputies are elected to represent a constituency. From the 2026 elections onwards, there will be 28 Deputies in the Assembly. There are nine constituencies in Jersey. These are formed based on population figures so that each Deputy represents approximately the same number of constituents. Some constituencies are made up of multiple Parishes; some are a single Parish. As the most populated area of Jersey, St. Helier is split into three separate constituencies. Candidates for Deputy need to convince the people in their constituency to vote for them at election time.

Deputies' duties include:

- attendance at all States Meetings
- contributing to States Meetings as they see fit, for example asking questions, making speeches in debates
- Voting on the outcome of debates

- The ability to lodge a proposition (a proposal for change) for debate in a States Meeting
- Responding to queries from constituents
- Meeting Islanders to discuss matters of interest or concern

If a Deputy has taken on any additional roles in the Assembly, for example, as a Minister, on a Scrutiny Panel or a Committee, their responsibilities may also include:

- A regular programme of Scrutiny public hearings and panel meetings
- Attendance at meetings of the Council of Ministers
- Legal responsibilities relating to the laws within their ministerial remit
- Answering Written Questions, Oral Questions, Questions Without Notice, or in Scrutiny Public Hearings on matters within their ministerial remit

Senators

Senators are elected to represent the entire Island – also known as an ‘Island-wide mandate’. From the point of view of someone wishing to stand for election as a Senator, this means having to run an election campaign which seeks support from all Jersey voters. There are 9 Senatorial roles available to be filled at the 2026 election.

Senators’ duties include:

- attendance at all States Meetings
- contributing to States Meetings as they see fit, for example asking questions, making speeches in debates.
- Voting on the outcome of debates
- The ability to lodge a proposition (a proposal for change) for debate in a States Meeting
- Responding to queries from constituents
- Meeting Islanders to discuss matters of interest or concern

If a Senator has taken on any additional roles in the Assembly, for example, as a Minister, on a Scrutiny Panel or a Committee, their responsibilities may also include:

- A regular programme of Scrutiny public hearings and panel meetings
- Attendance at meetings of the Council of Ministers
- Legal responsibilities relating to the laws within their ministerial remit
- Answering Written Questions, Oral Questions, Questions Without Notice, or in Scrutiny Public Hearings on matters within their ministerial remit

What’s the difference between Connétables, Deputies and Senators?

The powers and responsibilities of each elected role are identical in many aspects, for example: all types of elected Member have the right to bring proposals for debate to the States Assembly, and all have the power to vote on those proposals. All elected Members are eligible to be appointed as a Minister – including Chief Minister.

The key differences in the roles are in terms of who you represent, the number of people you’ll have to convince to vote for you and the amount of money you are able to spend on your election campaign. For Connétables, a notable difference is that you will be head of a Parish *and* a States Member. For Deputies and Senators the key difference is whether you want to have an Island-wide

mandate representing everyone, or if you want to keep your representation localised to a smaller constituency.

If you want to stand for election to become a States Member you need to decide which role you want **before** you ask people to sign your nomination form. You can only submit one nomination form which must state your role of choice.

Connétables, Deputies, Senators: at-a-glance comparison table

	Connétable	Deputy	Senator
Number of seats in the current States Assembly (up to June 2026)	12	37	-
Number of seats available at the 2026 elections	12	28	9
Is an elected Member of the States Assembly	✓	✓	✓
Elected for a 4-year term of office	✓	✓	✓
Swears an oath to attend every States Meeting	✓	✓	✓
Leads a parish	✓	No	No
Elected by residents of a parish	✓	No	No
Elected by residents of a constituency	No	✓	No
Elected by residents of the entire Island	No	No	✓
Eligible to be appointed by the Assembly as any Minister, including Chief Minister	✓	✓	✓
Eligible to work on Scrutiny – as Chair or Member of a panel/committee	✓	✓	✓
Can lodge a proposition for debate	✓	✓	✓
Can lodge amendments to propositions	✓	✓	✓
Can vote to decide the result of a debate	✓	✓	✓
Makes decisions that affect all Islanders	✓	✓	✓

What is a Constituency?

Constituencies are the areas of land and the people living in them which are represented by one or more elected representative. The size of your constituency and the number of people you will need to canvas to gain their vote will vary depending on the role you'd like.

If elected, your constituency is likely to influence the volume and breadth of your day-to-day work. For example, Connétables are more likely to hear mainly from their Parishioners; Deputies may hear more from their local constituents; Senators could be contacted by anyone in Jersey who is seeking their help or action.

Senators' constituency

In 2026, there will be 9 Senators and their constituency is the entire Island. The Senators have an Island-wide mandate, therefore represent everyone living in Jersey.

Deputies' constituencies

Deputies represent one of nine constituencies which are divided up according to population so that each Deputy represents approximately the same number of residents.

The constituencies for Deputies are:

Constituency	Number of Deputies (up to June 2026)	Number of Deputies at 2026 election and beyond
Grouville and St. Martin	3	2
St. Brelade	4	3
St. Clement	4	3
St. Helier Central	5	4
St. Helier North	4	3
St. Helier South	4	3
St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity	4	3
St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter	4	3
St. Saviour	5	4

Connétables' constituencies

Connétables represent one of Jersey's 12 Parishes. The Parish constituencies are:

- Grouville
- St. Brelade
- St. Clement
- St. Helier
- St. John
- St. Lawrence
- St. Martin
- St. Mary
- St. Ouen
- St. Peter
- St. Saviour
- Trinity

Nominations

Islanders who intend to stand for election must complete a written nomination form. The nomination form is an official document which provides details such as:

- The individual's personal information
- The role they intend to stand for
- The constituency or parish they wish to represent
- Whether they intend to stand as a member of a political party or an independent candidate
- A list of ten people – one proposer and nine seconders – who publicly support the individual's candidacy **and** are eligible to vote for them
- Personal details of those supporters, including their electoral roll numbers

The legal requirements of the nomination process are set out in Part 4A of the [Elections \(Jersey\) Law 2002](#).

Nomination process

Anyone wishing to stand for election to the States Assembly should download a copy of the nomination form made available on [Vote.je](#) or collect a paper copy from the States Assembly Information Centre at Morier House, Halkett Place, St. Helier.

The nomination form must be completed and returned to Morier House during normal working hours on 20, 21 or 22 April 2026. Candidates should deliver these in person and bring photographic ID such as a passport or driving licence. States Greffe staff will do a preliminary check of the forms received to ensure there are no obvious errors or omissions and then pass them on for detailed checking by the Parish electoral administrators. Candidates will be advised at the earliest opportunity of any corrections required.

Prospective candidates will be contacted by the Jersey Electoral Authority to confirm their candidacy has been processed and accepted.

The election candidates for the 2026 election will be publicly announced by Vote.je on Monday 27 April 2026. This marks the start of the election campaign period.

What else do prospective candidates need to supply with their nomination form?

In addition to your completed nomination form, prospective candidates should also:

1. Provide a digital photograph of themselves for use in Vote.je's online and printed election information. The file should be .png or .jpeg and be between 1-3mb in size. Ideally, the photograph will be a colour headshot image which gives a recent likeness of the candidate to help voters identify them.
2. Prepare a short speech or spoken version of their manifesto (up to 2 minutes in duration) and be ready to record this. The video will be published online by Vote.je.
3. Write a 450-word manifesto which will be published online and in the printed manifesto booklets which will be delivered to Island homes during the election campaign period.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Vote.je **before** the nomination period opens on 20 April 2026 to allow yourself plenty of time to prepare everything you need.

How to complete your nomination form:

You must fill in your own details as a candidate **BEFORE** seeking support of proposers and seconders. This is to ensure that your supporters are completely clear about who they are backing. They need to know which role you are standing for and whether you are standing as an independent candidate or with a political party.

Candidates' proposers and seconders must:

1. Live in the constituency the candidate wishes to represent; **and**
2. Be on the electoral register for that constituency.

If you are standing for election as Senator, your proposer and seconders can live anywhere in Jersey because the whole Island will be your constituency.

Ask your proposers and seconders to check with their Parish Hall that they are on the electoral register and eligible to nominate you – this is particularly important if you are standing for election as a Connétable or a Deputy. Names, addresses and electoral roll numbers given on nomination forms must match the electoral register. It is possible that people's personal details may have changed since the last time the register was updated – e.g. if they have moved house or changed their name. To avoid mistakes, ask the Parish to check and confirm these details.

Candidates should not underestimate how long it may take to find 10 eligible people to nominate them. Start early to avoid a last-minute rush.

Code of Conduct for election candidates

Everyone who completes a nomination form to become an election candidate signs an agreement to act in accordance with the [Code of Conduct for Election Candidates](#). The Code sets out the rules for what to do and what not to do during the election campaign period and is available on [Vote.je](#). The Code is issued, reviewed and updated by the Jersey Electoral Authority.

Candidate disputes and complaints during the election campaign period

The Jersey Electoral Authority (the JEA) acts as an independent and politically neutral arbiter of candidate disputes. If during the election campaign you wish to make a complaint about another candidate to the JEA, you can email admin@jea.je.

Candidates' Election Expenses

Rules about election expenses are set out in law – the [Public Elections \(Expenditure and Donations\) \(Jersey\) Law 2014](#). These rules create a level playing field for all candidates so that no one is disadvantaged in the election process because they have less to spend than another candidate and, conversely, that no one is advantaged by having more to spend on their campaign.

The spending limits

Senators: Candidates for the office of Senator are able to spend a total of £4,146 plus 13 pence for each person registered to vote in the election across the entire Island.

Connétables and Deputies: Candidates for the office of Connétable or Deputy can spend a total of £2,517 plus 13 pence for every person registered to vote in the Parish/ Constituency in which the candidate is standing.

Vote.je will provide an updated figure for these additional spending limits before nominations are open in April.

TABLE - Overview of candidate expense limits:

Role	Constituency	Base expense limit	Additional expenses
Senator	Entire Island	£4,146	13 pence per person registered to vote in Jersey
Connétable	Parish	£2,517	13 pence per person registered to vote in the Parish you wish to represent
Deputy	Constituency	£2,517	13 pence per person registered to vote in the Constituency you wish to represent

What are election expenses?

Expenses are regarded as **any** sums relating to the supply of goods or services **used during the regulated election period** which are used to promote a candidate's election or to prejudice the electoral prospects of another candidate at the same election.

Expenses can be direct or notional (such as when services are provided free of charge or at a discounted rate). Where candidates are given goods or service free of charge, they have to be declared. The notional value is the difference between the open market/commercial rate for those goods and services and the actual cost to the candidate. If that value exceeds £145 then it must be declared as a donation.

Candidates cannot keep anonymous donations. If you receive a donation towards your election campaign and do not know the source, you must send it to the Treasurer of the States within 4 weeks of receiving it. Candidates who fail to do this without reasonable excuse are guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

If in any doubt over what does or does not count as an election expense candidates should contact the JEA for confirmation.

When do candidates have to start tracking their expenses?

Election spending limits apply from 4 months before the election day – also known as the 'regulated election period'. **This period is 7 February 2026 up to and including the election day – 7 June 2026.**

All election candidates should keep track of the money they spend on their election campaign so that they can submit a record of all the goods and services they have used during the regulated election

period. It may be the case that candidates have spent money on items or services but do not use them. Such expenses would not need to be declared.

Keep track of your expenses by saving receipts, invoices and any other proof of election expenses. The JEA can request to see such proof of candidates' expenses.

If in any doubt about election expenses, contact the JEA: admin@jea.je

Who needs to submit expenses?

All election candidates, whether successfully elected or not, must submit their election campaign expenses to the Jersey Electoral Authority no later than 4 weeks after Election Day.

'Third party' election expenses

Third parties are also required to submit election expenses. A third party is an individual or can be two or more people working together who are neither acting on the express or implied wishes of an election candidate or political party who have incurred expenses during the regulated election period which either promote or prejudice the election of a candidate. For example, if a person or group of people paid to advertise to discourage people from voting for a candidate or political party, that would be an election expense and would need to be declared to the JEA.

Data protection responsibilities of candidates

Election candidates are eligible to be provided with a list of registered voters drawn from the electoral register for election campaign purposes. Candidates typically use the list to enable them to run an efficient campaign by targeting their efforts on those who are registered to vote. Parishes will provide the list(s) covering the constituency you are standing in.

The electoral register contains people's personal data and so its use is very carefully controlled. Candidates need to register with the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner (JOIC) as a Data Controller before they can be given a copy of any list of registered voters. There is no charge for this.

At the end of the election campaign period candidates must return their lists of registered voters to the Parish.

Read the JOIC's general guide to registering for data protection: [Jersey OIC Data Protection Registration Guide](#). Contact JOIC with any queries.

Election campaign period

Your election campaign

With a limit on expenses and the 6-week time limit of the campaign period, it's important to plan how you are going to market yourself to make the most of your resources to persuade as many people as possible to vote for you.

When planning your time in the lead up to the election, all candidates are advised to keep the 2-week period following Election Day free – do not book a holiday or similar commitments because successful candidates will need to be sworn-in at the Royal Court and invited to an induction programme.

Where to start? Top tips:

Start early so that you can get ahead and be well-prepared. Don't underestimate how busy the campaign period will be. Start now on your plans to avoid a last-minute rush and needless mistakes.

Budget: All candidates have maximum election expenses amount they are allowed to use. Remember there is no requirement to use it all – just be certain to keep track of any costs you do incur so you can declare them in your election expenses form after Election Day. Allocate your time and resources carefully to reach potential voters. You might need to test different campaign tactics to see where time and/or money is best spent before allocating more to them.

Be targeted: Register as a Data Controller with the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner (the JOIC) so that you can get a list of registered voters in your constituency. This will allow you to target your campaign efforts – especially if you are planning on delivering leaflets to homes and door-knocking to speak to registered voters.

Plan your manifesto and campaign messaging in advance. Be clear from the outset of your top priorities and motivations for standing for election and know them inside out so you can talk about it with ease and confidence. Be sure to include this information in your manifesto so that voters can be clear about how you will represent them.

Enlist help: You may have a lot of ground to cover and it could be challenging to do this alone. Who can you work with to ensure your election campaign reaches as many eligible voters as possible? Do you have a network of trusted supporters and allies who will back you and take care of some of the campaign work?

Use a variety of tactics: There are many ways to advertise and promote yourself to help you stand out among the competition. Here's a list of options to consider:

Printed materials:

- Business cards
- Leaflets/flyers
- Postcards
- Manifesto (you can arrange to print your own, but bear in mind Vote.je offers print and online publication of a short manifesto and video for all candidates)
- T-shirts
- Stickers
- Posters
- Roadside banners

Rules for displaying campaign advertising

Election candidates need to follow the rules in the schedule of the [Highways \(Exemption for Campaign Advertising Material\) \(Jersey\) Order 2026](#). Remember that any outdoor advertising (posters, banners, etc) you use must be displayed in accordance with the Order and must be taken down promptly after Election Day. Advertising can be displayed from the start of the campaign period – i.e. from Monday 27 April 2026. It is worth keeping a list of all the poster or banner locations you have used to ensure you remove them all after the election.

Digital channels:

- Website
- Social media (bear in mind different social media platforms' audiences vary. You may wish to research this to target specific demographics).
- Paid online ads: boosting posts on social media channels can increase your visibility.
- SMS/text messaging
- Email marketing: you don't need to have special software to be able to email your contacts to seek support. Remember to use the 'bcc' **blind copy** if you are emailing many recipients the same message.

Events:

Attending events is a brilliant way to meet people and to network. Voters often say how much they value the opportunity to meet candidates and speak to them face to face.

- Hustings
- Attendance at any public community events in the lead up to the election. Speak to organisers of events which align with your values and campaign priorities – you may be able to find excellent opportunities to reach your target audiences.
- Vote.je candidate events, such as the [Candidate Fayre](#) on Wednesday 29 April.

Activities:

- Door-knocking: election candidates can obtain a list of registered voters in the constituency they wish to represent, provided they are registered with the Jersey Office of the Information Commissioner as a Data Controller. This can be used to target the registered voters in the area to enable door-knocking so that you can go from home to home and speak with potential voters to persuade them to vote for you. Plan this activity well and it could make a huge difference to your results. Think about:
 - What you're going to say if someone answers the door
 - What you will do if nobody answers (e.g. put a flyer through the letterbox, make a note to go back another time)
 - How you will keep track of your progress so you know how many voters you've spoken to
- Create a network of supporters who can help you spread the word about your campaign. Can you find people who will:
 - Display your posters
 - Help you go door-knocking
 - Distribute your leaflets/flyers
 - Support you by sharing, 'liking', or engaging with any online content you publish
- Leverage any opportunity you may have with community groups, networks or associations which could see you as 'their' candidate. Support from a willing group of people could make a difference to your campaign.

Hustings

Hustings are an important event for candidates in the campaign period. They are public meetings where election candidates can be asked questions by voters. The Jersey Electoral Authority determines

the dates and locations of hustings. They are typically held at venues like Parish Halls and community centres.

The format of the hustings is decided by the group of candidates. The key principle is to ensure fairness so that each candidate is given the same amount of speaking time and all candidates are asked the same questions.

Traditionally, candidates draw lots to decide who goes first answering voters' questions. An impartial host or moderator invites questions from the audience in the room. Candidates take it in turn to be the first to answer each question and have a pre-agreed time limit to give their response.

Hustings are an opportunity for candidates to showcase their knowledge of particular topics or issues; to express ideas for change; to indicate their views on areas of policy and to prove to voters that you can think on your feet and act under pressure. Candidates should expect the unexpected and come to hustings prepared. Read up on the key issues of the moment. Do your research to be ready to answer questions about long-term and short-term issues that frequently crop up in the news and on social media. Expect to have to explain how you would tackle challenges or difficult issues.

Ahead of elections, Vote.je advertises the dates, times and locations of hustings. Hustings are usually filmed and made available on the [Vote.je YouTube channel](#) for playback.

Manifestos

Your manifesto is your statement to voters explaining what you stand for and why people should vote for you. It's entirely up to you what you say and how you want to get your message across.

Vote.je publishes details of all the candidates following the official announcement of everyone standing for election. Prospective candidates are asked to provide a written manifesto no longer than 450 words, which will be published online and in a printed booklet distributed to all Jersey residential addresses by Vote.je. Candidates are also invited to record a short video manifesto.

Candidates can self-publish materials online or in print to promote their election campaign and win votes. Think about who you need to convince to vote for you and what format will work best:

- Should you spend more time on digital/online or print?
- Is it worth getting any content translated into languages spoken in the communities you're targeting?
- What will work best for different age groups?

Remember to keep a track of any costs associated with producing your campaign materials as these count towards your election expenses.

Imprints: What is an imprint?

Anyone creating election campaign material – printed or digital – needs to include an imprint, which is a clearly visible acknowledgement of who is responsible for the production of that material. Imprints help to ensure that your campaign is open and transparent.

Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for your campaign

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are readily available and easier to use than ever before. Using AI tools could help you run your campaign more efficiently. Candidates and election campaigners should refer to the AI guidance provided in the [Code of Conduct for Candidates](#) published by the JEA.

Social media

Using social media platforms is a great way to get yourself known and does not have to cost you any money. After the 2022 election over a third of all voters said they researched candidates online, with younger voters in particular favouring online sources of information to decide who to vote for.

If you plan to use social media for your election campaign and you don't know where to begin, make sure you give yourself time to learn or speak to someone with experience who can help you.

General social media guidance:

Social media platforms enable you to share your election campaign messages in different formats to different audiences. You can engage in discussions with potential voters and answer questions.

Social media can be a great low, or no-cost option to get your candidacy in the public domain. Be mindful of how much time you are able to spend on social media and which platforms are going to be the best for reaching voters. Platforms popular in Jersey include Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, YouTube, and X (formerly Twitter). What suits you best for sharing your campaign message? Are you able to make short videos? Would you prefer to write articles or short messages about your campaign?

Points to bear in mind:

- Audit your existing online presence and delete or make any old accounts private.
- You do not need to be on every social media platform – pick which platform(s) will suit you best.
- Remember to be social! Answer questions; engage in conversations where appropriate.
- Decide early on whether or not you intend to stay active on the platform(s) you use for your election campaign.

Staying safe on social media

Be prepared to share your views on your chosen platform(s) and expect to be challenged by other social media users. If interactions crossover into trolling or bullying, remember that you can step away from the platform and you can report unacceptable behaviour to the platform moderators. If messages on social media are abusive and threatening, save a copy and refer them to the Police.

Read this advice from the States of Jersey Police about social media for further information: [Offensive messages and posts on social media](#)

Traditional media

During the election campaign period candidates should expect to be contacted by members of the media. Candidates may be invited to provide comments, to be interviewed, to take part in live discussions about election-related topics with other candidates.

It is advisable for candidates to prepare themselves for contact with the media. Know what your key campaign messages are and practise what you want to say. Nobody necessarily expects perfection but bear in mind that voters can be quick to judge and appreciate candidates who are open, honest and authentic.

The law relating to elections and candidates

What candidates can and cannot do is set out in the following Jersey laws:

- [Elections \(Jersey\) Law 2002](#)
- [Connétables \(Jersey\) Law 2008](#)
- [States of Jersey Law 2005](#)
- [Political Parties \(Registration\) \(Jersey\) Law 2008](#)
- [Public Elections \(Expenditure and Donations\) \(Jersey\) Law 2014](#)
- [Highways \(Exemption for Campaign Advertising Material\) \(Jersey\) Order 2026](#)

Voting

Who can vote?

You must be on the electoral register to vote in an election in Jersey.

People are eligible to register to vote if they:

1. Are at least 16 years old; and
2. Have been ordinarily resident in Jersey for either:
 - a. At least one year up to and including the day of the election (7 June 2026); **or**
 - b. Six months up to and including the day of the election **as well as** a previous period or periods totalling five years.

The Electoral Register and voter registration

Automatic Voter Registration means that everyone who is aged 16 or over and has lived in Jersey for at least one year will automatically be registered to vote. In advance of the election, Islanders will be invited to check that their election registration details are up to date and correct.

How does voting work?

Voters have as many votes as there are seats to be filled in their Parish or Constituency. The candidates with the highest number of votes win.

If voting in person on Election Day, voters must use their specified polling station. This can be checked in advance using the [Vote.je constituency finder](#).

On entering their polling station, voters are asked by polling station staff to identify themselves to confirm they are on the electoral register and able to vote. Although there is no legal requirement to provide photographic ID, voters are advised to have identification with them to avoid disappointment.

Voters are given a separate ballot paper for the election of each type of States Member.

- **Connétable:** One candidate to be Connétable (aka Constable) to head up their Parish of residence.
- **Deputies:** Between 2-4 candidates to be Deputy to represent their Constituency of residence (the total number varies depending on which Constituency you live in).
- **Senators:** Up to 9 candidates who will represent the entire Island as a Senator.

Voters take their ballot papers to a voting booth where they mark the paper with a cross in the blank square next to their chosen candidate(s). The completed ballot papers should be folded and then posted into the ballot boxes provided. Voters should then leave the polling station.

'None of the Candidates'

In the event that there are any elections where there are the same number of candidates as available seats *or* fewer candidates than the available seats, then voters will be given the option to vote for 'None of the Candidates' – sometimes known as 'None of the Above'. This option means that voters have the ability to reject the candidates in an election with insufficient competition. In the past, candidates would have been automatically elected unopposed.

If fewer candidates come forward than the available number of seats, the Jersey Electoral Authority can call for a 2-day extension to the nomination period so that efforts can be made to invite additional candidates to stand for election. Following this, if there are still fewer candidates than the available number of seats, voters will see 'None of the Candidates' as an option on their ballot papers.

What happens if 'None of the Candidates' wins?

Candidates who lose to 'None of the Candidates' may call for a recount only if the difference between the number of votes cast for the 'None of the Candidates' option and the candidate is 1% or less of the total number of votes cast in that election. If 'None of the Candidates' is the confirmed winner, a by-election will be held. Candidates who lost out to 'None of the Candidates' may seek nominations to stand again if they wish.

What is a 'spoiled' ballot?

Some voters deliberately choose to 'spoil' their ballot paper by defacing the paper so that no vote can be counted.

Sometimes voters may make a genuine mistake (for example by accidentally voting for one too many candidates) and can request a replacement ballot paper which may be issued at the discretion of the polling station official (the 'Autorisé').

How Islanders can vote for you

There are 3 different voting methods available to voters at election time:

1. Postal voting
2. Pre-poll (early voting before election day)
3. On Election Day at a polling station

When you are speaking to voters, a sensible question to ask is 'how are you planning to vote?' Anyone who is voting by post or pre-poll needs to decide who to vote for earlier than those who are voting on

Election Day. If you are talking with voters closer to Election Day, it's possible they may have already voted.

If people ask you about how to vote, you can advise them:

1. That Election Day is on Sunday 7 June 2026
2. Polling stations are open 8am-8pm
3. To check they are registered well in advance of Election Day
4. To check their polling station and candidates they can vote for
5. To bring some photographic ID when they vote

Postal voting

Voting by post is a method available to anyone – whether on or off-Island – registered to vote in Jersey. It is a useful option for people who know they could be off-Island on Election Day or cannot be certain if they will be able to get to a polling station on Election Day. Voters do not need to provide a reason for wishing to vote by post.

Further information about postal voting is available on [Vote.je](https://www.vote.je).

Early voting (pre-poll)

Candidates should remember that voters are able to cast their votes before Election Day. A 'pre-poll' station enables early voting for anyone who chooses to vote early or needs to cast their vote before Election Day – for example if they know they will not be able to get to a polling station on Election Day. Some voters prefer to use the pre-poll station because the location may be more convenient for them.

All voters from across the Island can vote early at the pre-poll voting station at St. Paul's Centre, Dumaresq St., St. Helier, JE2 3RL. This is open from Tuesday 26 May-Friday 29 May from 8:45am-5pm, and Monday 1 June from 8:45am-12 noon.

Assisted voting for those who are ill, disabled etc.

Election officials ('Autorisés' and 'Adjoints') have the ability to provide measures for people to vote in advance of Election Day if a person is unable to vote at the polling station because they are ill, have a disability, are illiterate, or are the carer of a person who is ill or disabled.

Those with advance knowledge they'll be unable to get to the polling station can choose to apply to postal vote if preferred.

Sick votes

Where voters expected to be able to vote in person but then are unwell and unable to leave their home to vote on Election Day, they may contact their Parish Hall to request a 'sick vote'. Where possible, Parish officials can make home visits to collect votes.

Election Day

Sunday 7 June 2026 is Election Day.

Polling stations across the Island will be set up - typically in public buildings such as Parish Halls and community centres – for people to cast their votes from 8:00am-8:00pm. A list of polling stations will be made available on Vote.je in advance of the elections.

Key points for candidates on Election Day:

- Candidates can attend polling stations and stand outside. They are not allowed to do anything to influence voters on their way into the polling station.
- Candidates who are standing for election in multi-Parish constituencies may wish to visit different polling stations across their constituency.
- Candidates can continue to campaign on Election Day and continue to encourage people to get out and vote.
- Candidates can vote and are allowed to vote for themselves.

When the voting closes at 8:00pm, the polling stations will close.

Election results

When the polling stations have closed, ballots will be counted and the results will be announced publicly by the electoral authorities. Election results are typically counted and announced on Election Day itself.

In the event that the results are counted and announced after Election Day, the ballot boxes will be sealed and transported to secure storage overnight before being taken to the counting location.

Detailed election results

Election officials known as 'Autorisés' provide a detailed written record of the election count for each polling station. This is returned to the Royal Court and is the official record of the election results.

Results recount

Unsuccessful candidates may request a recount within 24 hours of the announcement of the results **only** where the difference between the unsuccessful candidate and the elected candidate is 1% or less of the total number of votes cast.

What happens if you are not elected

Candidates who are unsuccessful are able to stand for election again in the future, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.

Unsuccessful candidates must submit their election expenses declaration to the JEA within 4 weeks of Election Day. Candidates who fail to deliver an expense declaration are guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

Depending on length of service in the States Assembly, existing States Members who are not re-elected may be eligible for a loss of office payment. The amount is calculated as one month's salary per four years' continuous service. It is advisable for any such candidate to check the details of this with the States Greffe well in advance of the election campaign period.

After Election Day

Following Election Day candidates are expected to ensure the prompt removal of all campaign posters and advertising materials from public places. It is a good idea to keep a list of the locations of your posters and any other public advertising to ensure you have not missed any.

All candidates, *whether successful or not*, must return their election expenses records to the JEA by 5 July 2026 – 4 weeks after Election Day.

What to expect if you are elected

The following section provides a snapshot of what to expect if you are elected. A full induction is offered by the States Greffe to help to newly-elected States Members get up to speed with their roles and responsibilities.

Successful candidates will be invited to a special sitting of the Royal Court where they will take an oath to be sworn in as a States Member. Election candidates will be given prior notice of the Swearing-in session by the Greffier of the States.

Following an election, newly-elected States Members can expect to be very busy from the outset. Do not book a holiday in the two weeks following Election Day as there will be an induction programme for new States Members. The timeline from Election Day through to your first States Meeting will be filled with meetings, briefings and training sessions. It is also likely that you could be contacted by local media representatives to comment on the election.

Salary and pension

States Members receive an annual salary of £59,874.72 (figure correct from 1 October 2025) which is paid monthly in arrears. The salary increases each year, on 1 October, in line with the Average Earnings Index published by Statistics Jersey.

The salary is the same for all types of States Member (Connétable, Deputy or Senator), irrespective of any additional responsibilities held (such as ministerial or chairing a Scrutiny Panel).

States Members' pay is decided by an independent reviewer. Each parliamentary term an independent reviewer is appointed to review and determine Members' remuneration.

States Members' pension

Members have the option to join the States Members' contributory pension scheme which is run by Rossborough Financial Services Limited. Members who join the scheme must pay a minimum contribution themselves (currently 7.75% of the salary) whilst an 'employer contribution' is also paid from the States Assembly budget (current set at 16%).

Benefits

Members can apply for a parking permit which is valid for use in car parks administered by the Department for Infrastructure. You will be given further information about this if you are successfully elected.

Declarations of Interest

All elected Members are required to submit a Declaration of Interests and to review it on a regular basis, as well as providing an annual confirmation to the Greffier that this is correct and up to date.

Declarations cover matters such as:

- Employment, offices, directorships, and partnerships
- Self-employment
- Shareholdings exceeding 1% or more of the issued share capital of the company or £25,000 in value
- Sponsorship (i.e. anyone who provides you with sponsorship for the purpose of enabling you to carry out your duties as an elected Member)
- Gifts, hospitality and other benefits (which has a monetary value greater than 1% of the current remuneration figure for elected Members)
- Overseas visits
- Land either wholly owned or jointly owned with another person

Note that in some cases you need to make declarations of interests which are your spouse's or cohabitee's. The States Greffe can advise on queries relating to the Declaration of Interests if you are elected.

'Politically Exposed Persons': What you need to know

A politically exposed person or 'PEP' is an individual who has been entrusted with a prominent function and as a result, is at greater risk of money laundering, corruption or bribery. In Jersey, this means that if you are elected to the States Assembly you and your immediate family members will be considered as PEPs.

What does this actually mean for you as an elected Member?

Many PEPs hold positions which can be abused for the purpose of laundering money or can make you a target for corruption or bribery. Elected States Members and their immediate family members will be subjected to enhanced customer due diligence measures which may include identification measures such as identifying you or anyone claiming to act on your behalf, as well as ongoing monitoring like scrutinising transactions.

Data protection responsibilities of elected Members

If elected, you will need to register afresh with the Office of the Information Commissioner. A States Greffe officer will make contact with you to ensure that you have the appropriate data protection registration in place to undertake your work as an elected States Member.

What resources and support are available to elected Members?

The resources available to elected Members vary depending on your role.

States Members have access to office facilities on Hill Street, close to the States Chamber and the States Greffe. In addition, Members have meeting rooms and a Members' break room in the States Building.

All Members can access support offered by the States Greffe. Led by the Greffier of the States – the clerk to the Assembly – the States Greffe provides politically neutral support to States Members. This includes:

- Research
- Constituency support
- Procedural advice on the Standing Orders of the States, which are the rules of the Assembly
- Access to training and development
- Access to coaching and counselling

States Members working on Scrutiny Panels or Committees will work with States Greffe officers who provide administrative support and guidance on running reviews and public hearings.

Any Members who are appointed as Ministers or Assistant Ministers benefit from support provided by Government officers from the Cabinet Office and the departments within their ministerial remit.

Connétables also have their Parish Hall and are supported by Parish Officials.

What is the day-to-day work of a States Member like?

The work of a States Member can vary enormously depending on the roles they may be appointed to following election. A Minister's work will differ to that of a member of a Scrutiny Panel, for example.

The States Assembly meets every 3 weeks to consider and debate public business and to ask Ministers questions. If you are elected, it is your sworn duty to attend every States Meeting.

When the States are not meeting, Scrutiny meetings and Public Hearings take place. Elected Members may also spend time on activity such as parish or constituency work; researching and drafting propositions for debate; formulating Written or Oral Questions to be asked as part of States business; attending briefings on draft laws, consultations or topics of upcoming debates.

Much of the day-to-day States business is dealt with electronically. As with roles in most office environments, knowledge of Microsoft applications such as Teams, Outlook, Word, Excel, etc., is beneficial, however, training will be provided.

Publications relating to States Meetings such as Propositions (proposals for debate) and official reports are published on the States Assembly website and circulated to all elected Members by email.

Ministers' day-to-day work

Any elected Member who is appointed to be a Minister will be supported by officers from their respective departments as well as from the Government's Cabinet Office. Officers brief Ministers to ensure they are prepared to answer official questions in States Meetings and Scrutiny Public Hearings. Ministers work with officers from their departments on a wide variety of matters, including: the delivery of public services and infrastructure, creating proposals for new laws or policies which will be brought to the States Assembly for debate, bringing forward Ministerial Orders, running public consultations, and more.

Ministers have legal responsibilities within their ministerial remit. These are specified in law and any elected Member appointed as a Minister will be given an overview of this by their officers.

Scrutiny Chairs and Panel Members: day-to-day work

If you are appointed to one or more Scrutiny Panels or Review Panels – whether as a Chair or a Panel Member – you will undertake a programme of work which includes:

- Private meetings with your Panel to determine the focus of your reviews, the questions you will ask at Public Hearings, consideration of research and reports
- Public Hearings where you will question Ministers and key officials to gather evidence in support of the Panel's work
- Working with States Greffe officers who provide research, administrative support and procedural advice to enable the writing and publication of reports, comments papers and other panel documentation

Appointing a Chief Minister

A top priority for the newly-elected States Members will be conversations – usually held in private – about who intends to stand for Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister is the head of the Government of Jersey and leads the Council of Ministers. The States Assembly chooses the Chief Minister at the first States Meeting following an election.

Note that:

- **Any** elected Member (Connétable, Deputy or Senator; newly-elected or re-elected) may put themselves forward as a candidate for Chief Minister.
- There is no legal or procedural requirement for election candidates to publicly declare their intention to be considered for Chief Minister during an election campaign.
- There is no limit on the number of times an elected Member may put themselves forward for consideration as Chief Minister.

What do candidates for Chief Minister need to do?

Elected Members wishing to become Chief Minister need to follow these steps:

- Complete a nomination paper supported and signed by at least six other elected Members
- Write a statement explaining their strategic vision for Jersey and how they would act as Chief Minister
- Submit these to the Greffier of the States (the clerk to the States Assembly) **by 5pm on Friday 11 June 2026.**

If you already know that you want to be nominated to be Chief Minister and you have any questions about the process you need to follow, contact the Greffier of the States.

After an election, anyone who has been successfully elected can expect to be contacted by States Members who are seeking support in their bid to become Chief Minister. You may be asked to sign their nomination paper. You may also be approached by prospective candidates for Chief Minister to discuss potential roles in the Council of Ministers. If you want to be considered for a particular ministerial role, this is the time to express your intentions and suitability for the role with people who approach you to support them in their bid as Chief Minister. There is no obligation to share your intentions with everyone. Who you support and what role(s) you may want to take on are up to you.

How is the Chief Minister appointed?

At the first meeting of the newly-elected Assembly, nominations for Chief Minister are read out. Each candidate makes a statement of up to 10 minutes and faces up to 1 hour of questions from other Members – even if there is only one candidate.

If there is only one candidate, that person becomes Chief Minister designate. If there is more than one candidate, the Assembly votes for its preferred candidate. Members choose by recorded vote so it is possible to see who has voted for each candidate. The successful candidate becomes Chief Minister *designate*. They only become Chief Minister once the full Council of Ministers has been appointed.

How is the Council of Ministers appointed?

Before the second meeting following a general election, the newly-appointed Chief Minister designate is required to send a declaration to the Greffier stating –

- the names of the elected Members they wish to nominate as their Ministers
- the proposed Ministerial office in each case, as well as the order in which the States will vote on them.

At the second meeting following an election, the Chief Minister designate must propose their preferred candidates for their Council of Ministers. Other candidates may be proposed by Members across the Assembly; it is up to Members to decide whether they agree with the Chief Minister designate's nominee or the other candidates suggested. For each ministerial role, the candidates must make a statement of up to 10 minutes, then face a period of questions from the rest of the Assembly for up to 20 minutes.

Following the statement and question period, if there is only one candidate, they are declared the Minister. If there is more than one candidate, there is a vote and elected Members choose who they want to be Ministers. If an alternative candidate nominated by the Assembly is appointed, the Chief Minister designate is given the opportunity to make changes to their proposed list of nominees and order in which they are to be voted on.

Once all the Ministers have been chosen, the new Council of Ministers is formed. At this point, the Chief Minister officially takes up the position.

Ministers and Assistant Ministers

Ministers have responsibility for policies, decisions and actions of the departments and agencies in their remit. This includes responsibilities which are set out in law. States Members who are appointed as Ministers are supported by Government officers from their departments and the Cabinet Office with the work in their ministerial portfolio.

Ministers can delegate responsibilities to other States Members as Assistant Ministers. This may include delegation of legal responsibilities, for example, the Minister for Sustainable Economic Development may delegate responsibility for Data Protection to an Assistant Minister. It is possible for Ministers to also be Assistant Ministers. Note that Assistant Ministers are not voting members of the Council of Ministers.

The 'Troy rule'

A maximum of 21 elected Members can be appointed to the Council of Ministers – sometimes referred to as the 'Troy rule'. This means that the Government does not have a majority in the Assembly and must convince States Members to adopt its proposals.

Scrutiny panels and committees – appointment of Chairs and Members

The Scrutiny Panels have a vital role in checking and challenging the work of the Government and ensuring that policies and laws are fit for purpose. States Members who are not in ministerial roles can be appointed to work on Scrutiny. In the States Meetings after the Council of Ministers has been appointed, the Assembly decides on appointments to the panels and committees.

Induction and ongoing training for new States Members

The States Greffe provides newly-elected States Members with a comprehensive induction programme to help individuals get up to speed. All States Members are offered ongoing training and development.

Who's who – a brief introduction for newcomers

The Bailiff of Jersey

The Bailiff is appointed by the Crown after consultation with Island representatives and, as President of the States, is responsible for the orderly conduct of the States Assembly. During States Meetings, as Presiding Officer of the States Assembly, the Bailiff is responsible for ruling on the admissibility of questions and propositions and for applying the rules governing proceedings (the Standing Orders). The Deputy Bailiff acts as Presiding Officer in the Bailiff's absence and, in the absence of the Deputy Bailiff, the Greffier or Deputy Greffier normally fulfils this role. The Bailiff has other important roles outside the States Assembly: as President of the Royal Court and as civic head of the Island. The current Bailiff, Robert MacRae, was appointed to the position on 24 October 2025.

The Lieutenant-Governor

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor is the representative in Jersey of His Majesty The King. Although they have the right to speak during States Meetings, by convention they only do so twice: at the beginning of their five-year term and at the end of their term. The Lieutenant-Governor also has a role in ensuring the passage of official correspondence between Jersey and the UK; for instance, when Laws adopted by the States Assembly are sent to His Majesty for Royal Assent.

The Dean of Jersey

The Dean is the head of the Anglican Church in Jersey and chaplain to the States Assembly. By convention they generally only speak during debates on matters that directly affect the Church, or on moral issues. Each meeting the Dean leads the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer in the traditional French.

The Greffier of the States

The Greffier is clerk of the States Assembly and is appointed by the Bailiff with the agreement of the Assembly. The Greffier provides advice and support to States Members and departments relating to the business and procedures of the States Assembly. During States Meetings, the Greffier calls the roll at the beginning of each meeting, reads out the propositions at the start of each debate and is

responsible for the electronic voting system. The Greffier has a legal responsibility to act as keeper of the official records of the States Assembly and publisher of official publications. The Greffier occasionally presides during States Meetings if the Bailiff and Deputy Bailiff are unavailable. The Greffier leads the States Greffe – the department responsible for supporting the work of the States Assembly, its Committees and Panels, and States Members.

The Deputy Greffier

The Deputy Greffier of the States is appointed by the Greffier with the consent of the Bailiff. The Deputy Greffier is clerk-assistant to the Assembly and assists the Greffier in supporting the work of the Assembly, its Committees and Panels and elected States Members.

HM Attorney General and HM Solicitor General

The Attorney General and the Solicitor General (sometimes known as ‘the Law Officers’) are appointed by the Crown to act as legal advisers to the States Assembly. They attend States Meetings and generally only speak during debates when asked for advice by elected Members, or where they have a direct official interest, for example, in relation to the prosecution service. Any States Member can request legal advice from the Attorney General or Solicitor General in relation to matters being considered by the Assembly. If a draft law is being debated by the States Assembly, Members might ask the Law Officers questions to clarify technicalities of the law.

The Viscount

The Viscount is the executive officer of the States Assembly. During States Meetings, the Viscount (or their Deputy) carries the Royal Mace before the Bailiff and assists with counting the votes in any ballots cast during appointments. If there is a need to exclude someone from the Public Gallery during a States Meeting, the Viscount acts under the orders of the Bailiff. Away from the States Assembly, the Viscount leads the department which is responsible for executing orders made by the Royal Court and conducting inquests.

The Cabinet Office

The Cabinet Office of the Government of Jersey supports the effective running of the Government through development of good policy; delivery of corporate functions; ensuring good governance and communications; and the delivery of the Council of Ministers’ agenda.

The Judicial Greffier

The Judicial Greffier is the lead officer of the Judicial Greffe – the department which supports the operation of the Island’s courts, tribunals and judicial work. They are responsible for some aspects of the delivery of public elections in Jersey relating to electoral registers, postal voting, and the provision of a pre-poll station.

Timeline to Jersey's next general election: Sunday 7 June 2026

Date	Activity
Saturday 7 February	Regulated campaign period begins (candidates to track expenses)
Monday 20 April	Nominations open
Wednesday 22 April	Nominations close
Monday 27 April	Candidates announced
Monday 27 April	Campaign period begins
Wednesday 29 April	Candidate Fayre
Tuesday 5 May	Hustings schedule starts
Monday 11 May	Election campaign booklet delivered to Jersey homes
Tuesday 26 May	Early voting (pre-poll) station opens
Monday 1 June	Early voting (pre-poll) station closes
Wednesday 3 June	Hustings schedule ends
Sunday 7 June	Election Day
Sunday 7 June	Election results announced
Sunday 7 June	Candidates to remove all election advertising (posters, banners etc)
Thursday 11 June, 5pm	Deadline to submit nominations for Chief Minister candidates
Friday 12 June	Successful candidates are sworn-in at the Royal Court
Friday 19 June	First States Meeting to appoint a Chief Minister designate
Friday 26 June	Chief Minister designate submits their list of preferred ministerial candidates
Monday 29 June	States Meeting to appoint Ministers and Scrutiny Chairs
Sunday 5 July	Deadline to submit election expenses declarations