

# Peter Roffey

## *South-East*



*Dear South-East Voter,*

*I'm asking you to give me one of your five votes on April the 27th and help to elect me as one of our district's representatives in the new States.*

## *Why?*

I care deeply about our island and I'm convinced Guernsey is in a really critical phase of its history. The new States face massive challenges and I believe I have the experience, clear thinking, and strength of character to help tackle them on your behalf. Of course that judgement is one for you.

## *Who am I?*

I am was born and bred in Guernsey. After a youth spent driving overland buses to India and tractors in Israel I became Guernsey's youngest deputy aged 23 in 1982. After three terms I decided a lifetime in politics would be unhealthy and left to become a journalist – firstly with the BBC and then Channel Television.

In 2000 I returned to the States for another stint heading up challenging departments such as Agriculture and Health. Previously I was a Vale Deputy but having lived in the South East district for more than 20 years it feels natural to stand for election here this time around.

## *How could I make a difference?*

Experience tells me specific policy promises made at election time soon become redundant. Many of the issues at the forefront of people's minds today will be replaced with new and different challenges within a year. That's why so many election promises seem to disappear like smoke on the water. So instead I'll explain my general approach to every issue.

## *Cash*

Let's start with prudence and restraint. Over the next four years there is never going to be enough cash to go around. Spending constraint will be vital. If we splurge on "nice to haves" we won't be able to fund the essentials. I'm a tight Guernseyman and I will apply the same grudging approach I have to spending my own cash whenever I'm spending yours.

That doesn't mean Guernsey shouldn't look after its most vulnerable citizens or sometimes "speculate to accumulate" but we can no longer afford to spend money on marginal projects however worthy.

## *Judgement*

Next a warning. I am not a populist and my approach if you elect me will be to investigate issues in depth and then exercise my own best judgement. Of course as a democrat I will be hugely influenced by my perception of public opinion but I will never vote in a way which I think is bad for Guernsey just to appease a vocal lobby. I will always do what I think is best for our island.

## *Business, Poverty, Fairness and Balance*

I'm not ideologically driven and have never understood the simplistic left-right analysis of politics. What's needed from deputies is the pragmatism to do what really works for Guernsey.

That can sometimes involve a difficult balancing act. For instance I put economic success at the top of my agenda and my approach is to encourage business and leave it free to thrive wherever possible but some controls are needed to protect the wider community. For example too much planning flexibility could ruin the quality of island life, as would unbridled population growth.

On the other side of the coin I make no apology at all for wanting to help and protect those least able to fend for themselves. A society can be judged by how it treats its weakest members.

# *Grey Guernsey*

We are getting older as a community. The states can't change that trend but it can make the best of it. A radical rethink of how we tap into older islanders' skills and experience is needed if we are going to cope. That doesn't mean making a labourer work outside in all weathers until he's 70 but most of us still have something to contribute in our later years.

We also need to liberate other islanders who want to work [or work more hours] to do so. These include women with dependent children and islanders with disabilities. Far better to maximise the economic contribution of our existing population than to put further pressure on our creaking infrastructure by letting our population rip.

## *Liberalism*

I don't believe it's the States' job to protect adults from themselves. There may be the odd extreme example where that philosophy is unsustainable but generally the law should be there to protect people from the actions of others. I believe people want power over their own lives wherever possible.

## *Education*

I have two main priorities on this contentious subject. An education system which develops the maximum potential of all island children and one which is cost effective. This leads me to instinctively favour having three states secondary schools with setting by subject to make sure pupils are taught with others of a similar ability. However I remain willing to listen to other alternatives.

What is desperately needed is an informed but timely decision to bring an end to the current damaging uncertainty. To decide to reduce to three schools without a clear route map for getting there was always going to create huge concerns for thousands of islanders.

## *Where would I want to serve?*

I'm certainly not presuming I'll be elected but if you did honour me with your confidence I would like to either chair the new Scrutiny Management Committee or sit on Policy and Resources.

Our new system of government absolutely requires intelligent, challenging scrutiny. That process shouldn't be about being negative or setting out to embarrass but it should be fearless in probing, challenging and making government better.

I'd also love to rise to the challenges facing the new P+R Committee in drawing up an overarching policy and resource plan for Guernsey. That's going to be a very tough job but it's one I'd relish.

Of course I may not succeed in getting either of these jobs. If so you won't see any hissy fits or sulks from me. I'll simply roll up my sleeves and set to work in whichever role I'm given.

## *Any Questions?*

I want to meet as many voters as possible but modern lifestyles mean few people are at home when candidates deliver their manifestos by hand.

So I've decided to post mine and invite you to phone me on **238435**

or e-mail me at **[rufusroffey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rufusroffey@yahoo.co.uk)**

to ask any questions or to arrange for me to call around and see you at a convenient time.

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- *Guernsey should live within its means.  
The road of borrowing is the road to ruin.*
  - *Guernsey needs to control its population.  
Ever greater numbers simply isn't a  
sustainable answer to our  
demographic challenges.*
  - *Guernsey needs an education system which  
develops the full potential of ALL of our  
children.*
  - *Guernsey needs to both encourage wealth  
creation and look after its most  
vulnerable citizens.*
  - *Guernsey's government needs to cut out all the  
expensive dithering and U-turns.*
  - *Guernsey needs deputies who can both think  
deeply and speak clearly.*
  - *Guernsey's government desperately needs to  
get back on track. I think I can help.*
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