

**IN THE STATES OF THE ISLAND OF GUERNSEY
ON THE 22nd DAY OF JUNE, 2017**

**The States resolved as follows concerning Billet d'État No XIV
dated 9th June, 2017**

STATES' ASSEMBLY & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

REFERENDUM ON GUERNSEY'S VOTING SYSTEM
P.2017/49

IX:- After consideration of the policy letter entitled "Referendum on Guernsey's Voting System":-

1. To agree to proceed with the holding of a referendum on the method of electing People's Deputies to the States of Deliberation;
2. To agree that the question to be put to the electorate in the referendum shall be along the following lines:

Which of the following options should be used to elect Deputies?

Option A

- 1 island-wide electoral district
- Each voter would have 38 votes at each election
- Each Deputy would serve for 4 years
- An election would be held every 4 years for all Deputies at once

Option B

- 7 electoral districts
- Each voter would have 5 or 6 votes at each election
- Each Deputy would serve for 4 years
- An election would be held every 4 years for all Deputies at once

Option C

- 1 island-wide electoral district (represented by 10 Deputies) plus the 7 existing electoral districts (represented by 28 Deputies, with precise allocation per district to be determined in accordance with respective populations)
- Each voter would have 10 votes at each election in respect of the 1 island-wide electoral district and 3, 4 or 5 votes (or such other number of votes), depending on appropriate allocation of Deputies, in their own electoral district

- Each Deputy would serve for 4 years
- Elections would be held every 4 years for all Deputies but the election for the 10 island-wide Deputies would take place first and then the election for the 28 district Deputies would take place on a different day.

Option D

- 4 electoral districts
- Each voter would have between 9 and 11 votes at each election
- Each Deputy would serve for 4 years
- An election would be held every 4 years for all Deputies at once

Option E

- 1 island-wide electoral district
- Each voter would have 12 or 13 votes at each election
- Each Deputy would serve for 6 years
- An election would be held every 2 years for a third of Deputies each time

And

To agree that preferential and transferable voting (known as the Alternative Vote or Instant Run-Off) shall be used to determine which of options A to E was the most favoured.

AND CONSEQUENTIALLY Propositions 3 and 3A fell;

4. TO NEGATIVE THE PROPOSITION to introduce the electoral system which is the most favoured in the referendum, provided that the number of persons voting in the referendum has exceeded a certain percentage of those persons inscribed on the Electoral Roll who are eligible to vote on the day of the referendum;
5. TO NEGATIVE THE PROPOSITION to agree that the certain percentage referred to in the preceding Proposition shall be 40%;
6. TO NEGATIVE THE PROPOSITION to agree that, in the event that turnout at the referendum is less than 40% of those persons inscribed on the Electoral Roll who are eligible to vote on the day of the referendum, the States' Assembly & Constitution Committee should within three months of the date of the referendum submit a policy letter to the States setting out any recommendations for reform to the electoral system which it considers necessary, having first taken into account how far short of 40% the turnout was, the number of votes cast for each outcome and (if the referendum was a multi-choice one) the share of the vote obtained by each of the five options A to E, and, in particular, the margin between the option which placed first and the other options;

AND THE STATES RESOLVED

7. To agree that campaign groups should be permitted along the lines set out in paragraphs 13.1 to 13.9 inclusive, save that, instead of the process set out in paragraph 13.7 of the Policy Letter:
 - (a) If no campaign group comes forward to be selected as the official campaign group for an option, there shall be no official campaign group for that option, and the government shall not act as a surrogate campaign group;
 - (b) If there is no campaign group which meets the criteria adopted by the independent Appointment Panel for selection as an official campaign group for an option, there shall be no official campaign group for that option, and the government shall not act as a surrogate campaign group; and
 - (c) The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee shall have principal responsibility for ensuring the provision of a set of impartial and comparable information on each of the options A to E (or, in the event that the States approves any other form of referendum, including a binary referendum, for each of the options in that referendum), which –
 - (i) it shall provide in such formats and publish in such manner as it believes will be most readily accessible to all eligible voters, and
 - (ii) may be further supplemented by the information provided by official campaign groups,but should, in its own right, be sufficient to enable voters to reach an informed decision on their preferred choice of option.
8. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to use its delegated authority to transfer funding of a maximum of £31,000 from the Budget Reserve to the 2017 revenue expenditure budget for the Royal Court to fund the 2017 costs associated with holding a referendum on the method of electing People's Deputies;
9. To direct the Policy & Resources Committee to recommend a 2018 Cash Limit for the Royal Court that includes a specific additional allowance of a maximum of £128,000, including a contingency sum of £5,000, to fund the 2018 costs associated with holding a referendum on the method of electing People's Deputies;
10. To direct the preparation of such legislation, based on the provisions of the attached policy letter, as shall be necessary to hold the referendum – such legislation to include, *inter alia*: all the provisions necessary to enable the referendum to be held, the question to be asked, arrangements for voting, provisions in respect of promotional expenditure, relevant offences including double voting, and the date on which the referendum shall be held.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE STATES' BUSINESS

P.2017/60

X: After consideration of the attached Schedule for future States' business, which sets out items for consideration at the Meeting of the 27th June 2017 and subsequent States' Meetings, they are of opinion to approve the Schedule, subject to the following amendment:

Replace the text at (g) with:

" all other types of business not otherwise named;

No. 29 of 2017 The Land Planning and Development (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2017

No. 22 of 2017 The Insider Dealing (Securities and Regulated Markets) (Amendment) Order, 2017

No. 25 of 2017 The Companies (Recognised Stock Exchanges) (Amendment) Regulations, 2017

P. 2017/63 The High Hedges (Guernsey) Law, 2016 (Commencement) Ordinance, 2017
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P. 2017/62 The Social Insurance (Guernsey) Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 *

P. 2017/61 Committee *for* Employment & Social Security – Employment and Discrimination Tribunal: Removal of the Retirement Age of Panel Members and Designation of the Convenor and Deputy Convenor * "

S. M. D. ROSS

HER MAJESTY'S DEPUTY GREFFIER