



States of
Guernsey

Referendum on Guernsey's Electoral System Campaign Groups

Public Meeting | Monday 16th April | 7pm | Princess Royal Centre for Performing Arts

The story so far...



In June 2017, the States agreed to hold a multi-option referendum on the method of electing People's Deputies to the States of Deliberation.

The draft legislation underpinning this referendum – the *Electoral System Referendum (Guernsey) Law, 2018* – was approved by the States of Deliberation on 7th February, 2018. This is referred to as the “Referendum Law”

It is intended that the referendum will be held on **Wednesday 10th October, 2018.**

The five options in the Referendum

	Electoral District	Number of Deputies to be elected	Frequency of elections	Number of votes each voter would have...	Each Deputy would serve...
Option A	1 island-wide	38	Every 4 years	38 votes at each election	4 years
Option B	7 districts	38	Every 4 years	5 or 6 votes at each election*	4 years
Option C	1 Island-wide 7 districts	10 28	Every 4 years	10 votes for island-wide deputies 3, 4 or 5 votes for district deputies*	4 years
Option D	4 districts	38	Every 4 years	Each voter would have 9, 10 or 11 votes at each election*	4 years
Option E	1 island-wide	38	Every 2 years	Each voter would have 12 or 13 votes at each election	6 years

* number of votes dependent on the size of the population of the district

Why are campaign groups being appointed?

It is important in advance of the referendum for information to be made readily available about each of the options A to E.

It is also important that no individual or group should be able unduly to influence the outcome of the referendum by spending disproportionate amounts of money promoting their preferred option(s).

The States agreed these objectives could best be met by appointing official campaign groups to promote each of the options A to E.

It was further agreed that options A to E have only one campaign group each.

What is the role of the campaign groups?



To provide information regarding the option they are representing.



To promote the option to voters.



To be able to explain how the option will work in practice.



To encourage voters to participate in the referendum.

Who can form a campaign group?



Any group of two or more “qualifying individuals” may form a campaign group.

The Referendum Law defines a “qualifying individual” as a person eligible to vote in the referendum i.e. to form a campaign group your name must be inscribed on the electoral roll.

Members of the public and serving and former Deputies can apply.

How do you apply to be a campaign group?

Anyone interested should read the guidance notes entitled **'Applying to be a campaign group'** available online at www.gov.gg/referendum.

The application form will be available to complete online or to download as an MS Word document at www.gov.gg/referendum.

Applications need to provide information regarding:

- ✓ How the option works, including the benefits and drawbacks of its introduction.
- ✓ An outline campaign plan.
- ✓ The names, skills and experience of group members.
- ✓ Use of budget.
- ✓ Any other information in support of the application.

How will the campaign groups be appointed?

The States of Guernsey will appoint a 'Campaign Group Assessments' Panel' to assess all applications received.

The Panel will recommend to the Committee which applicants should be appointed for each option.

The Panel will recommend appointing the group which has most strongly demonstrated its ability to effectively publicise and represent an option.

The Committee will make the final decision based on the Panel's recommendations.

When will the campaign groups be appointed?

25th May 2018

Application deadline
is at 12 noon

June 2018

The Panel will
undertake interviews
with groups

Early July 2018

The Committee
will announce the
appointed campaign
groups

**1st September to
9th October 2018**

The official 'campaign
period' will commence

How much can appointed campaign groups spend?

The Referendum Law sets out rules and limits on referendum expenses and guidance notes are available

Campaign groups can spend up to **£10,000**, which includes:

- up to £5,000 of a States' grant ; and
- a further £5,000 additional spending from other sources

Receipts and invoices for all expenditure together with a signed declaration by the campaign group's nominated officials must be submitted within six months of the date of the referendum

“Referendum period” – commences on date the Referendum Law comes into force and ends on the day of the referendum, i.e. Wednesday 10th October 2018

“Campaign period” – commences on Saturday 1st September 2018 and ends at 11:59 on Tuesday 9th October 2018

Who can spend money on behalf of the campaign group?

It is important that members of the group and volunteers are aware of who can and cannot incur costs during the referendum period.

Campaign group members and volunteers are strongly advised to read the relevant sections of The Electoral System Referendum (Guernsey) Law, 2018 before spending any money.

If a group has any questions further to reading the guidance and legislation, they are advised to contact the Lead Referendum Officer.

General restriction on referendum expenses

It is important to note there is a limit on the amount of money an individual or group – who is not an appointed campaign group – can spend during the referendum period on promoting an option in the referendum.

The total referendum expenses incurred by or on behalf of any individual or body during the referendum period **must not exceed £100 (in money or money's-worth)** unless, in the case of a body, the body is a campaign group.

Further information

Please visit **www.gov.gg/referendum** to obtain electronic copies of the:

- Guidance notes
- Presentation from meeting on 16th April 2018
- Policy letters
- Legislation

If you have any questions, please contact the Lead Referendum Officer, Ms E Dene:

- **Tel:** 01481 717284
- **Email:** referendum@gov.gg
- **Address:** c/o The States' Assembly & Constitution Committee, The Royal Court House, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 2NZ

Any questions?