

REFERENDUM ON GUERNSEY'S VOTING SYSTEM

Wednesday 10th October, 2018
sees Guernsey's first ever referendum.
The public will vote on how to elect
their Deputies to the States.

There are five options on the ballot paper:
you can rank one or more of those options.

This leaflet explains those five options and
how you may cast your vote for them.

It also provides information regarding
registering to vote and postal voting.

www.gov.gg/referendum



States of
Guernsey

YOU HAVE UNTIL
THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2018
TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND TO
UPDATE YOUR CURRENT DETAILS.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL!

In order to vote in the referendum on Guernsey's voting system on **Wednesday 10th October, 2018**, you will need to be on the Electoral Roll. You have until **Thursday 4th October, 2018** to register.

Am I already on the Electoral Roll?

If you were on the Electoral Roll for the 2016 General Election, and you have not moved house or changed your name, you remain on the Electoral Roll and do not need to do anything. If you have moved house or changed your name since then, please update your details using the information below or online at www.gov.gg/elections.

I am not on the Electoral Roll – am I eligible to register?

To be eligible to register to vote, you must:

- ✓ be 15 years of age or older (you must be 16 years old on or before 10th October 2018 to vote in the referendum); and
- ✓ be ordinarily resident in Guernsey; and
- ✓ have been ordinarily resident in Guernsey for the last two years consecutively or for a total of five years at any time.

How do I register to vote?

You can register to vote in a number of ways:

- ✓ online at www.gov.gg/referendum or www.gov.gg/elections; or
- ✓ by picking up a form from Sir Charles Frossard House, the Guille Allès Library or the various Constables' and Parish offices.

THE OPTIONS AT A GLANCE

| | Number of Electoral Districts | 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 | 2 elections held every 4 years | 10 votes for Island-wide Deputies; and 3, 4 or 5 votes for District Deputies* | 4 years |
| Option D | 4 Districts | 38 | Every 4 years | 9, 10, 11 votes at each election* | 4 years |
| Option E | 1 Island-wide | 38 (1/3 at each election) | Every 2 years | 12 or 13 votes at each election | 6 years |

* The size of the population of each Electoral District will determine the number of votes each voter will have.

THE OPTIONS EXPLAINED

A 38 Deputies elected Island-wide every 4 years

Deputies would be elected in a single Island-wide District. At each election, all electors would have 38 votes. Every elector, regardless of where he or she lives, could choose from the full list of candidates. All Deputies would be elected on the same day to serve for a term of 4 years.

B 38 Deputies elected between 7 Districts every 4 years

This is the current voting system. Guernsey would remain divided into 7 Electoral Districts. Each District would continue to elect 5 or 6 Deputies depending on the size of its population. Every elector would have as many votes as there are seats in his or her District. All Deputies would be elected on the same day to serve for a term of 4 years.

C 10 Deputies elected Island-wide and 28 Deputies elected between 7 Districts, every 4 years

This combines an element of Island-wide voting (for 10 Deputies) together with District representation (28 Deputies). For the Island-wide election, every elector would have 10 votes to elect Island-wide Deputies. For the District elections, Guernsey would be divided into the current 7 Electoral Districts. Each District would elect 3, 4 or 5 Deputies depending on the size of its population. Every elector would have as many votes as there are seats in his or her District. Elections would be held every 4 years. 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.

D 38 Deputies elected between 4 Districts every 4 years

There would be 4 Electoral Districts. Each District would have between 9 and 11 seats depending on the size of its population. Every elector would have as many votes as there are seats to fill in his or her District. All Deputies would be elected on the same day to serve for a term of 4 years.

E One-third of the 38 Deputies elected Island-wide every 2 years

Deputies would be elected in a single Island-wide District. One-third would be elected every 2 years. At each election, all electors would have 12 or 13 votes. Every candidate would stand for election by the whole Island. Every elector, regardless of where he or she lives, could choose from the full list of candidates. All Deputies would be elected to serve for a term of 6 years. (Some transitional arrangements would be required to introduce this system.)

HOW DO I VOTE?

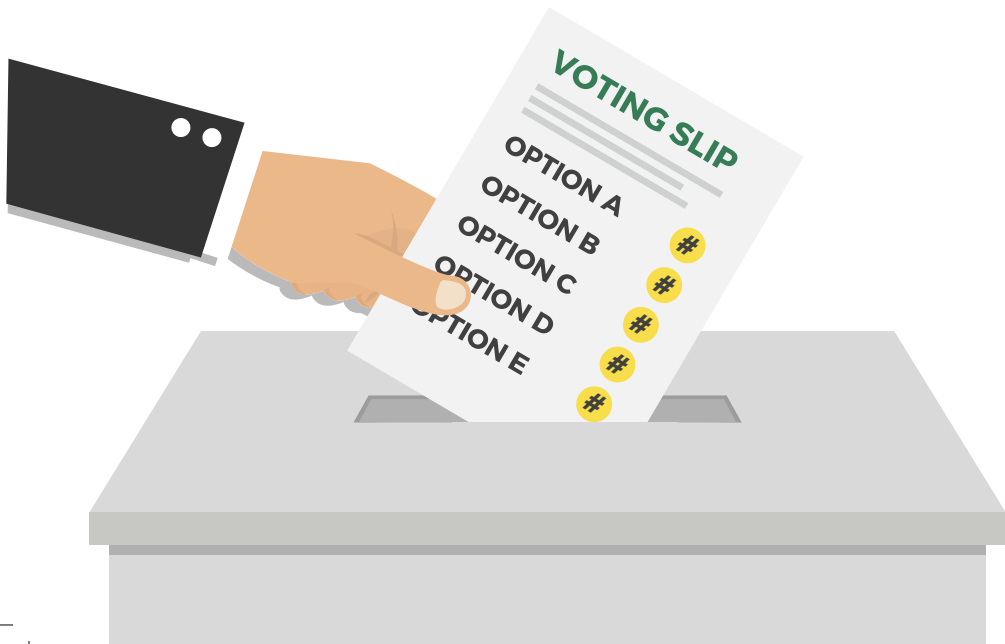
We have produced a short video explaining how to vote which is available to view at www.gov.gg/referendum.

We are using a different system of voting in the referendum, called preferential and transferable voting, to ensure the winning option has broad support.

Everyone on the Electoral Roll will have up to five votes. You need to rank the options in order of preference. Rather than voting with the more traditional 'X', you need to rank your preference with numbers, starting with the number 1.

You would mark number 1 next to your favourite option, then 2 next to your next favourite option and so on.

You don't have to use all your votes. You should only vote for the options you would like to see introduced. If you do not like an option, don't vote for it! If you really only like one option then you can just use one vote.



WHERE CAN I VOTE?

In Person

You may vote in person on Wednesday 10th October, 2018 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at any of the polling stations in the Electoral District in which you are registered to vote. See www.gov.gg/referendum for a full list of the polling stations.

By Post

Alternatively you may register for a postal vote which enables you to vote when it is convenient for you before the day of the referendum.

Applications for postal votes can be made in a number of ways:

- ✓ online using the links at www.gov.gg/referendum; or www.gov.gg/elections;
- ✓ by downloading the form available from the above webpages; or
- ✓ by picking up a form from Sir Charles Frossard House, the Guille Allès Library or the various Constables' and Parish offices.

If you are going to be away from Guernsey (e.g. if you are a student studying in the UK or elsewhere) in early October, you can request for your postal vote to be sent to the address where you will be staying. If you want your postal vote to be sent to an address outside of Guernsey, please bear in mind the time it may take for the postal vote to reach you and for your completed postal vote to arrive back in Guernsey. All postal votes must be received no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 10th October, 2018 to be included in the ballot.



You have until **Thursday 4th October, 2018** to register for a postal vote.

TOP TIPS!

- ✓ Make sure you are on the Electoral Roll and that your details (i.e. your name and address) are correct.
- ✓ If you are going to be away, unable to get to a polling station, or if you simply prefer to vote when it is convenient for you, register for a postal vote.
- ✓ You don't have to use all your votes. If you really only like one option then you can just use one vote, but if you want to have your say about which option you'd like to win if your favourite doesn't then use your next preference votes too.
- ✓ When ranking more than one option don't skip a number.
- ✓ And finally, it might seem obvious but it is important to start with number 1.

TALK TO US



Write to us

Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie,
St Peter Port, GY1 1FH



Email us

elections@gov.gg or referendum@gov.gg



Call us

01481 717353 (Electoral Roll) or 01481 717284 (Referendum)



Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m.