

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

11th December, 2019

Proposition P.2019/132

STATES' ASSEMBLY AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

GENERAL ELECTION 2020 – SECOND POLICY LETTER

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy R H Tooley

Seconded by: Deputy H L de Sausmarez

1. To delete Propositions 1 and 2 and substitute therefor:

“1. To agree that:

- a) the maximum sum a candidate in an election for the office of People's Deputy may expend in respect of such an election (subject to any assignment to a political party made pursuant to Proposition 3) shall be £2,300; and
- b) there shall be made available by the States of Guernsey a grant of up to £500 which may be claimed by a candidate for the production and distribution of campaign materials and which shall count for the purpose of the maximum permitted expenditure applicable in respect of the candidate; and
- c) a candidate may have his or her manifesto (limited to two sides of A4 sized paper) included in a manifesto booklet produced by the States of Guernsey and delivered to all homes on the Electoral Roll, subject to the reduction of the maximum permitted expenditure applicable in respect of the candidate by £800.”

2. In Proposition 3, to delete the figure “£9,000” and substitute therefor the figure “£4,600”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

These amendments significantly reduce the unfair advantage that candidates who can afford to spend £9,000 would have over other candidates under the original Propositions, whilst ensuring that even candidates of modest means would be able to reach the electorate in a variety of ways, including independently of the States of Guernsey.

Candidates would be permitted to spend up to £2,300, the limit that was set for the general election in 2016. A candidate could either spend up to £2,300 on his or her individual campaign, or he or she could opt to reduce that allowance by £800 in order that his or her

manifesto could be included in the States' booklet. A candidate spending £2,300 could, by way of example, print 4-page manifestos enough for every household on the electoral roll (estimated by SACC to cost £2,000) and spend a further £300 on posters and a website. Alternatively, a candidate could opt to include his or her manifesto in the States' booklet and spend £1,500 on flyers, posters, a website and social media promotion, for instance.

Either way, each candidate would be eligible for a grant from the States of Guernsey up to the value of £500. The estimated additional cost of this amendment compared with the original Propositions would be in the region of £50,000, based on there being around 100 candidates.

The second amendment is consequential to the amendment changing a candidate's permissible electoral expenditure. An expenditure limit of £4,600 for political parties (which is double the limit for individual candidates) would allow for the cost of printing party manifestos enough for every household in the island, which could then be distributed by party volunteers. It is important to note that even the £9,000 spending limit for parties proposed in the original Proposition 3 would not be enough to cover both the cost of printing manifestos (estimated at £4,500 for 27,000 copies of an 8-page manifesto) and the cost of postage to every household on the electoral roll (which ranges from £9,450 to £15,240).