

Ballot for the election of the Chair of the Backbench Business Committee

Introduction

- 1 The Chair of the Backbench Business Committee is elected at the start of each Session. This note describes the practical arrangements for the ballot.

Nominations

- 2 Nominations must be received in writing in the Table Office or Public Bill Office by 5pm on Monday 21 October. Nomination forms are available from the Table Office, Vote Office and Procedural Hub, but need not be used, provided that in all respects nominations meet the provisions of Standing Order No. 122D.
- 3 No Member may be a candidate for the position if his or her party is represented in Her Majesty's Government.
- 4 To be valid, nominations must contain a signed statement made by the candidate declaring their willingness to stand for election, accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than 20 nor more than 25 Members, of whom no fewer than 10 shall be members of a party represented in Her Majesty's Government and no fewer than 10 shall be members of a party not so represented or of no party.
- 5 No Member may sign the statement of more than one candidate—if any Member does so, that Member's signature will be invalidated for all nominations.
- 6 Candidates have the option of providing a 500-word statement, which will be published on the

Committee's website and in a booklet once nominations have closed.

- 7 Valid nominations received each day will be printed in the next day's House's business papers. They will also be published on the Committee's website, along with the candidate's supporting signatures, any declared interests and any supporting statement.
- 8 As soon as possible after the close of nominations, the list of candidates and their sponsors will be placed in the Vote Office in the Members' Lobby and published on the Committee's website. A booklet will also be published containing a photograph of each candidate, any declared interests and any supporting statement. If there is only one candidate, an announcement will be made that he or she has been elected unopposed.

Ballot

- 9 If there is more than one candidate, the ballot will be held in Committee Room 15 between 10am and 1.30pm on Wednesday 23 October. Members will have their names recorded at temporary division desks before being issued with a ballot paper.
- 10 The ballot paper will give the names of candidates in alphabetical order. Members should complete the ballot paper at one of the stations, and then deposit it in one of the ballot boxes at the exit. Members should vote by ranking as many candidates as they wish in order of preference, marking 1 by the name of their first preference, 2 by the name of their second preference, and so on.

- 11** At 1.30pm the ballot will be closed and the entrance to the Committee Room will be locked. All Members in the room when the doors are locked will be allowed to vote.
- 12** Any Member who is on the Parliamentary Estate but incapacitated from voting in person may ask for a Clerk to obtain a ballot paper on their behalf, bring it to the Member, and return to cast it for them in the ballot box. Members who need to use this service should make such a request in writing or by email to Joanna Dodd, Clerk of Elections, Public Bill Office (doddj@parliament.uk). Requests should arrive by 9am on Wednesday 23 October at the latest.

Count and further stages

- 13** The ballot will be counted under the Alternative Vote system. Any candidate who receives more than half the first preferences will be elected. If no candidate is so elected, the candidate or candidates with the lowest number of first preference votes is eliminated and their votes distributed among the remaining candidates according to the preferences on them. If no candidate then has more than half the votes, the process of elimination and distribution is repeated, until one candidate has more than half the votes.
- 14** As soon as practicable after the closing of the ballot, the result will be published under the direction of the Speaker. The Member so elected will take up his / her position as Chair of the committee with immediate effect.
- 15** Chairs are elected to serve until the end of the session.

Contacts

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