



Ballot for the election of Deputy Speakers

This note describes the practical arrangements for the election of the three Deputy Speakers by secret ballot on Wednesday 28 June. This procedure is set out in detail in Standing Order No. 2A.

Nominations

1. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Table Office or Procedural Hub between 10am - 5pm on Tuesday 27 June (the day before the election). Nomination forms will be available in advance from the Table Office, Vote Office and Procedural Hub but need not be used, provided that in all respects nominations meet the provisions of the Standing Order. To be valid, nominations must contain a brief signed statement made by the candidate declaring willingness to stand. This must be accompanied by the signatures of not fewer than 6 nor more than 10 Members. There are no requirements as to the party affiliations of these sponsoring Members. No Member may sign more than three such statements of nomination—and if any Member does so, that Member's signature will be invalidated for all nominations.
2. Candidates have the option of providing a 500-word supporting statement. This may be in the form of a CV but, as the Procedure Committee indicated, such a statement should not be a personal manifesto. It would assist the production of the booklet of candidates if candidates could send an electronic copy of their statements to Marek Kubala, Clerk of Elections, Public Bill Office, once it has been tabled (kubalam@parliament.uk).
3. 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 intranet. As soon as possible after that, a booklet with candidates' names, photographs and statements will be made available in the same way.

Ballot

4. The ballot will be held between 10.00 am - 1.30pm on Wednesday 28 June in Committee Room 8. Members will have their name recorded before being issued with a ballot paper.
5. Any Members on the Parliamentary Estate but incapacitated from voting in the Committee Room 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 Marek Kubala, Clerk of Elections, Public Bill Office (kubalam@parliament.uk). Requests should arrive not later than one hour before the ballot opens. As is the case with all other votes in the House, proxy voting is not possible.
6. The ballot paper will give the names of candidates in alphabetical order, the side of the House from which they come, and their gender. Members should complete the ballot paper at one of the stations erected in the committee room, and then deposit it in one of the ballot boxes at the exit from the room.
7. Members each have one vote, which is transferable. They place candidates in their preferred order using the figures '1', '2', '3', etc. The figure '1' represents the vote and is mandatory. The rest are contingency markings and are optional but allow the elector to influence the final result. Members should therefore express preferences until they are unable, or do not wish, to differentiate between any of the remaining candidates.
8. At 1.30pm the ballot will be closed and the entrance doors to the committee room will be locked. All Members in the room when the doors are locked will be allowed to vote.

Count

9. The ballot will be counted under the Single Transferable Vote system, as recommended by the Procedure Committee and agreed by the House. The votes are counted with reference to a quota, which is the number of votes a candidate requires to be elected. The quota is the number of valid votes cast divided by the number of places to be filled plus one (4 in this election).
10. Any candidate elected with more votes than the quota has surplus votes transferred to the remaining candidates in proportion to the next stated preferences on the elected candidate's ballot papers.
11. Votes cast for a candidate who is excluded from the ballot with the lowest number of votes at a stage in the count are transferred using the next stated preferences on those ballot papers.
12. The Standing Orders of the House also provide that constraints shall be applied to the count so that of those elected:
 - two candidates shall come from the opposite side of the House to that from which the Speaker was drawn, the first of which candidates will be Chairman of Ways and Means and the second, Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means;
 - one candidate shall come from the same side of the House as that from which the Speaker was drawn and shall be First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means; and
 - at least one man and at least one woman shall be elected across the four posts of Speaker and Deputy Speakers.
13. If a candidate cannot be elected because of the constraints above, then the candidate's votes are transferred according to the next stated preferences on the papers.
14. The constraints will be applied at the count, so there is no obligation on Members to vote for candidates from both sides of the House, or for both a man and a woman.
15. As soon as practicable after the votes have been counted the result will be announced by the Speaker and published.
16. The Deputy Speakers elected will serve until the end of the Parliament.

Contact

For further information please contact Marek Kubala, *Clerk of Elections*, Public Bill Office: x4921; kubalam@parliament.uk