



HOUSE OF LORDS

Liberal Democrat hereditary peers' by-election

Notice to electors

A vacancy has been created among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords. It arises from the death of Lord Avebury on 14 February 2016.

Under Standing Order 10, the vacancy is to be filled by a by-election. Those eligible to stand are all hereditary peers whose names are on the register of hereditary peers wishing to stand for election as members of the House of Lords, maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments. Those on this register are asked to indicate by 5 pm on Monday 11 April 2016 whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. The list of candidates will be published on Tuesday 12 April 2016.

Lord Avebury was one of three hereditary peers elected by the Liberal Democrat hereditary peers. Under Standing Order 10(2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Liberal Democrat group, of whom there are currently three¹ eligible to vote. A list is in Annex 1.

Votes in this by-election will be cast by post. **Ballot papers will be available to electors on Tuesday 12 April 2016. They may either be collected on 12 April by the elector from the House of Lords Journal Office (rooms 15 and 19, first floor, west front, Palace of Westminster) or they will be sent to electors at the House of Lords (unless the Journal Office is notified of an alternative address by 5 pm on Monday 11 April 2016).** A form for notifying the Journal Office of an alternative address is enclosed with this notice.

Ballot papers should be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office, either by post or in person, by 5 pm on Monday 18 April 2016. Ballot papers received after this time will not be counted.

Timetable and conduct of the by-election

Candidates will be invited, but not required, to submit statements in support of their candidature. Such statements will be circulated by the House administration to all electors. Statements must not exceed 75 words.

The Code of Conduct for the by-election is in Annex 2. Electoral Reform Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

¹ This figure comprises two hereditary peers elected by Liberal Democrat hereditary peers who currently are in the Liberal Democrat group; and one hereditary peer elected by the whole House who currently is in the Liberal Democrat group.

The timetable for the by-election is:

5 pm, Monday 11 April

Tuesday 12 April

5 pm, Monday 18 April

Tuesday 19 April

Deadline for candidate registration.

List of candidates and statements published, and ballot papers made available to electors.

Deadline for receipt of ballot papers.

Count and then result of the by-election reported to the House.

The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters place the figure 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate they most strongly support, the figure 2 against the next most favoured candidate, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish. In order to be elected, the successful candidate must receive at least as many votes as all the other candidates put together. In this instance, assuming all three electors vote, it means that any candidate receiving two first-preference votes will have won the by-election. If three candidates receive one first-preference vote, lots will be drawn to determine which candidate is eliminated; and the eliminated candidate's second-preference vote will be allocated accordingly.

Ballot papers will be invalidated if:

- any number is used more than once, or
- in the opinion of the Returning Officer (the Clerk of the Parliaments) the ballot paper is illegible or ambiguous.

The count will be conducted by Electoral Reform Services.

The result will be announced in the House of Lords chamber by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a convenient moment (likely to be after oral questions) on Tuesday 19 April 2016.

The full results, including the number of first-preference votes cast for each candidate and the position after each transfer of votes, will be available in the Printed Paper Office and the Library soon after the announcement by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The results will also be published online at www.parliament.uk

Change of address for ballot paper

Please find enclosed a form for notifying the Journal Office that you wish your ballot paper to be sent to an address other than the House of Lords.

Enquiries

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By post: The Registry, Journal Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW
- By telephone: 0207 219 5307
- By email: holjournaloffice@parliament.uk

14 March 2016

DAVID BEAMISH
Clerk of the Parliaments

Annex 1: Excepted Liberal Democrat hereditary peers on 14 March 2016

Elected by a party or group and sitting as Liberal Democrat peers

Addington, L.

Glasgow, E.

Elected by the whole House and sitting as a Liberal Democrat peer

Oxford and Asquith, E.

Annex 2: Code of Conduct

1. Ballot papers will not indicate any qualification or reason why a candidate should be elected.
2. Candidates may not offer hospitality, entertainment or financial inducements to electors intended to influence their votes or likely to have that effect.
3. Candidates may not engage in any activity intended or likely to discredit other candidates in the by-election.
4. Candidates may not solicit votes near the room where the by-election is taking place.
5. If the Clerk of the Parliaments suspects, on reasonable grounds, that some material irregularity or improper conduct may have occurred in the electoral process, he may refer the matter to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct. The committee may, if it thinks fit, recommend the disqualification of a successful candidate if their election appears to have been influenced by material irregularity or improper conduct.
6. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.