

Labour Leadership and Deputy Leadership Elections 2020 - Procedure and timetable

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. The election of the Leader and Deputy Leader will be held under the constitutional rules as detailed in Chapter 4 of the Labour Party Rule Book, 'Election of a leader and deputy leader'.
2. The National Executive Committee (NEC) has constitutional responsibility to ensure that procedures, including the length of any contest, are laid down in advance of any such contest and that these procedures are adhered to throughout the campaign. These general procedures are set out below. In addition, there shall be a Code of Conduct, including any spending cap, for Candidates. The General Secretary will issue a set of election rules, for all Labour Party Staff.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be a Procedures Committee to oversee the election process. The Procedures Committee will comprise of:
 - a. General Secretary (Returning Officer) and any Labour Party legal advisor appointed as Deputy Returning Officer by the General Secretary who shall advise on any matters of dispute in respect of eligibility or procedure
 - a. NEC Officers
2. The election will commence the day that the National Executive Committee agrees with the publication of the election timetable.
3. The Labour Party will supply to all eligible electors a candidates' statement along with a ballot at no additional cost to candidates. Candidates will need to provide a photo and a statement up to the maximum of 250 words. The distribution of the booklet and vote packs shall be by electronic means unless the Labour Party does not hold electronic contact details for the elector.
4. The national party will arrange a series of hustings which all candidates are expected to attend. The procedures committee will set out the timetable and any procedural guidelines for these hustings.

MP AND MEP NOMINATIONS

1. Nomination papers will be provided for all Members of Parliament (Westminster and European). The closing date of PLP and EPLP nominations is set out in the timetable. Nomination papers must be hand delivered by the nominating MP to the PLP Office before the deadline. In exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of and with verification by the General Secretary, nominations from members of the Commons PLP and the EPLP will be accepted in a format other than the official nomination paper.
2. Individual members of the Commons PLP may nominate themselves or one other member of the Commons PLP for each of the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader. Members of the EPLP may nominate one member of the Commons PLP for each of the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader.
3. Nominees who achieve at least 10 per cent (22 nominations) support of the combined (currently 212) Commons members (currently 202) of the PLP and members of the EPLP (currently 10) will be declared validly nominated in the first stage of nominations and go through to the second stage of nominations (CLPs / affiliated organisations).
4. All candidates successfully nominated in the first stage of nominations must inform the General Secretary of their acceptance to take the nomination and provide their 250 word statement by the date detailed in the timetable.
5. All aspiring candidates or their agents must attend the compulsory PPERA briefing organised by the Labour Party. The General Secretary will invalidate any candidate(s) who fails to attend the PPERA briefing.
6. All nominations will remain valid once submitted unless the nomination is formally withdrawn (if the nominated candidate has withdrawn in writing to the General Secretary). MPs and MEPs who nominated a candidate who withdraws or is disqualified will be entitled to submit a further nomination prior to the deadline for PLP and EPLP nominations. Nomination forms will be re-issued to affected MPs and MEPs.

7. Nominations (including the names of individual MPs and MEPs) will be recorded and published daily on the Labour Party website.

CLP AND TRADE UNIONS

1. All candidates successfully reaching the PLP threshold must also receive nominations from at least
 - a. 5% of CLPs or
 - b. At least 3 affiliates (at least 2 of which shall be trade union affiliates) comprising 5 per cent of fully paid up affiliated membership as of the 31st December 2019.
2. Each fully paid up national affiliated organisation as of the 31st December 2019 (trade union, socialist society, etc.) may submit one nomination for each of the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader, in accordance with each organisation's constitution and rules.
3. Each CLP may submit one nomination for each of the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader. CLPs must decide their nominations at an All Members Meeting. All fully paid up members shall face a membership check at the door. No registered or affiliated supporters may attend CLP nomination meetings unless they are also an eligible member. Members who are not fully paid up at the freeze date shall be notified of their right to pay the current year's subscription prior to the commencement of the meeting.
4. Membership lists for CLPs shall be produced from the Party's membership system on that basis
5. Members must vote for their preferred candidate for each of the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader. The vote will be done in rounds. The candidate with the lowest vote after each round will be eliminated with their next preference votes being transferred to the remaining candidates. The first candidate to reach 50% of the vote will receive the nomination.
6. The Procedures Committee will produce further guidance for CLP nomination meetings.
7. All nominations must be received by the General Secretary of the Labour Party by the time and date detailed in the timetable.

8. Nominations will be recorded and published on the Labour Party website daily.

ELECTOR ELIGIBILITY CHECK

1. The relevant date for eligibility will be the close of CLP and affiliate nominations. Labour Party members on the national membership system and not lapsed from membership who are and remain full members at this date set out in the timetable will be eligible to vote.
2. Affiliated supporters and Registered Supporters, as defined by the NEC, who have been registered with the Labour Party at the freeze date set on the timetable will be eligible to vote, subject to their meeting the eligibility criteria.
3. CLPs have the opportunity to check on-line through Members Centre the membership in their constituency for those that are in arrears.
4. No voter shall be issued a ballot unless their membership/supporter status is in full compliance.
5. No abuse of any kind by members or supporters shall be tolerated. All eligible members and supporters must conduct themselves in a calm and polite manner and be respectful to each other at all times. Any abusive or foul language; discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment or identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation; or behaviour at meetings, on social media or in any other context will be dealt with according to the rules and procedures of the Labour Party.
6. Any disputes as to the eligibility of individual members must be raised by the last date for ballots to be reissued as set out in the timetable. The General Secretary will rule on eligibility of individual members and their decision will be final.

BALLOT

1. The National Executive Committee has appointed an independent organisation, Civica, to conduct the One Person One Vote (OPOV) ballot. They will also be the independent scrutineer.

2. The party will conduct a ballot of all eligible electors for the contested position using the OPOV process, single round preferential voting system. This ballot will take place by electronic voting. All members with a verified email address in the system will receive an online ballot by email, all those without a verified email address in the system will receive a ballot by post. Any members whose email is not valid/bounces back will also be sent a postal vote. Details will be contained in the voting pack or voting email. Details will be sent to the address or electronic address registered on the National Membership System. Civica will provide a helpline should an individual member have a problem during the balloting period.
3. The voting pack sent to all members will consist of (or the electronic equivalent):
 - a. Covering letter
 - b. Ballot paper
 - c. Candidates' statements and lists of nominations and supporting nominations
 - d. Return envelope (for postal votes)
4. The procedure for preference voting in the ballot is shown below.
5. All validly nominated candidates may supply a photo and a statement of a maximum of 250 words to the party. This will be included in the candidates' statements which will be sent out to members. The statement must not exceed the stated word allowance.
6. Contact details for up to five channels may be supplied in addition to the 250 words.
7. The last date for reissuing ballots that have been lost or not received will be set out in the timetable.

THE COUNT

1. Will be by counting of preferential votes.
2. If no candidate receives more than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round, the result will be recalculated eliminating the candidate with the lowest number of votes and redistributing those votes according to expressed preferences until one candidate exceeds the 50 per cent threshold.

3. The result will not be published prior to its formal declaration.

REGISTERED SUPPORTERS

1. Qualifications

- a. Must be on the Electoral Register with a valid polling number
- b. Must supply a valid email address, home address and date of birth, and able to pay fee online.
- c. In all other respects must meet the qualification criteria of membership of the Labour Party. This is inclusive but not exclusive to:
 - i. Any person who has supported another political organisation other than the Labour Party within the last 2 years will not be eligible to register as a registered supporter.
 - ii. Any person who has stood as a candidate against the official Labour Candidate in an election or acted as an agent of a candidate who has stood against the official Labour Candidate will not be eligible to register as a registered supporter.
- d. Pay a fee of £25.
- e. Must be validly registered by the date shown on the timetable.
- f. Must agree the following Data Protection Statement.
 - i. By supplying personal data to register as a supporter you agree that the Labour Party, elected representatives of the Labour Party, and any candidates in internal Labour Party elections in which you are entitled to participate may contact you using any of the data supplied.
 - ii. By entering your email address and/or phone number you agree to receive communications from us, from which you can opt-out using the unsubscribe link in each email we send. Text messages can be opted out at any time using the appropriate stop message.
 - iii. We will not share your details with anyone outside the Party other than the external ballot provider.

AFFILIATED SUPPORTERS

1. Affiliated supporters already registered as such on the party's membership system will be eligible to vote, subject to affiliates reconfirming their eligibility and that:
 - a. They remain a member of the trade union or socialist society (and pay the political levy where appropriate).

- b. They remain on the electoral register at the address provided.
 - c. In all other respects must meet the qualification criteria of membership of the Labour Party. This is inclusive but not exclusive to:
 - i. Any person who has supported another political organisation other than the Labour Party within the last 2 years will not be eligible to register as an affiliated supporter.
 - ii. Any person who has stood as a candidate against the official Labour Candidate in an election or acted as an agent of a candidate who has stood against the official Labour Candidate will not be eligible to register as an affiliated supporter.
2. Affiliates will have until the date on the timetable to reconfirm these details for existing affiliate supporters.
 3. New affiliate supporters may be recruited within the deadline set out in the timetable.

TIMETABLE

DATE	EVENT
Mon 6 Jan	NEC Meeting – timetable agreed and published.
Tue 7 Jan	PLP and EPLP nominations open and Leader hustings
Wed 8 Jan	PLP and EPLP hustings – Deputy Leader
Monday 13 Jan (2.30 pm)	PLP and EPLP nominations close
Tuesday 14 Jan (1pm)	Deadline for validly nominated candidates to consent to nomination and submit statements for circulation to CLPs and affiliates
Tuesday 14 Jan (5pm)	Registered supporters applications open
Thursday 16 Jan (5pm)	Registered supporters applications close.
Wed 15 Jan	Open of CLP and affiliate nominations
Mon 20 Jan (5pm)	Freeze date for membership and supporter eligibility.
Mon 3 Feb	Last day for affiliates to send over new and updated affiliated supporter lists.
Fri 14 Feb	Close of CLP and affiliate nominations and last day for membership to be in full compliance (including full payment of arrears).

The Labour Party

Fri 21 Feb	Ballot Opens
Fri 27 March	Last date for postal ballot reissues
Mon 30 March	Last date for email ballot reissues
Thu 2 April (Noon)	Ballot Closes
Sat 4 April	Special Conference to announce results

Version 1 - Agreed by NEC 060220