



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 nomination process and election.

Nominations

- 2 **The deadline for nominations is 5pm on Tuesday 18 May.**
- 3 **Nominations must be submitted by email from the candidate's parliamentary email.** The email must be sent to Joanna Dodd, Clerk of Elections, doddj@parliament.uk and copied to pbohoc@parliament.uk. Please include a phone number with your email in case we have any queries. Nomination forms are available on the intranet, from the Vote Office and on request from Joanna, but need not be used, provided that in all respects nominations meet the provisions of Standing Order No. 122D.
- 4 No Member may be a candidate for the position if their party is represented in Her Majesty's Government.
- 5 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.
- 6 Signatures may be handwritten or electronic (i.e. scanned or photographed copies of handwritten signatures).
- 7 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.
- 8 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. This can be attached to the nomination email or sent separately, provided it is received by 5pm on 18 May.
- 9 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.
- 10 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

- 11 The arrangements for, and date of, the ballot will be announced by the Speaker once nominations have closed.

Count and further stages

- 12 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.

13 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 or her position as Chair of the committee with immediate effect.

14 Chairs are elected to serve until the end of the session.

Contacts

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