

# STANDING ORDERS FOR DÁIL SELECTION CONVENTIONS

**Agreed by the EB, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

*The Executive Board, pursuant to Article 15(1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Labour Party, hereby adopts the following standing orders.*

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**1. Application**

These standing orders shall apply to the selection of candidates for election to the Dáil Éireann whether for a general election or a bye-election.

**2. OC Recommendation**

Prior to the convening of a selection convention, the Organisation Committee (OC) shall consider the matter and shall recommend the number of candidates to be selected and (if this is more than 1) may also recommend any outcomes required in terms of gender balance. The Selection Convention shall be convened by the General Secretary under the auspices of the Executive Board. At least 14 days notice of the date, time and venue of the selection convention, and any determination of the OC regarding the number of candidates to be selected and gender balance requirements, must be given to all those entitled to vote. All branch members, irrespective of voting rights, shall be invited to attend.

**3. Chair of Convention**

The Chairperson of the Selection Convention shall be appointed by the General Secretary, under the auspices of the Executive Board and shall act as returning officer in the event of a ballot for nominations.

**4. Eligibility to Vote**

The selection of a candidate or candidates shall be in accordance with the principle of one-member-one-vote. In accordance with Article 2.14, those entitled to vote shall be members of a class (constituency member or branch member) eligible to vote at the selection convention in question, whose membership has been registered at least 6 months prior to the date of the selection convention and who were registered as paid-up members at least by the date on which the selection convention is convened by the General Secretary. In order to vote a member must be personally present at a convention, must comply with Article 2.14, must be a member of a branch within the Dáil constituency, and must have been a member of a branch within the Dáil constituency for a continuous period of 6 months prior to the date of the selection convention.

**5. Relevant Branches**

Only paid-up members in branches which are affiliated to the relevant Constituency Council on the date on which nominations open may vote.

## **6. Agents**

Candidates may appoint an election agent and such other number (being an equal number for each candidate, if any, fixed by the Returning Officer) of agents to represent them in connection with the election and the count. The Returning Officer may require an agent to produce to the Returning Officer written notice of their appointment.

## **7. Nominations**

The General Secretary shall give notice in writing of opening of nominations to the Secretary of each branch affiliated to the Constituency Council. That notice shall include a copy of these standing orders and a nomination form. Nominations shall open on the date of issue of the notice of the General Secretary under this standing order. A notice under this standing order shall also state the date and time for the closing of nominations which shall be set by the General Secretary and which shall be at least 14 days after the date of the notice.

## **8. Gender Balance**

In keeping with long-established Party policy and with the applicable legislation, not less than 40% of Party candidates at a Dáil general election shall be persons identifying as female.

In pursuance of this policy, where there are two or more candidates to be nominated, at least one shall be female. Where the OC decides it is appropriate to waive this requirement, they shall first seek the approval of the Executive Board

## **9. Procedure for the nomination of candidates**

The following procedures shall apply to the nomination of candidates:

- (a) Prior to the opening of nominations in any constituency following the adoption of these standing orders, the OC shall appoint a panel of 7 individuals from which Candidate Selection Boards (CSBs) would be constituted. Each CSB will have three members.
- (b) This panel shall consist of at least 2 male activists, two female activists, 2 former Oireachtas members or current Oireachtas members who have indicated they will not be standing in the next election and a former councillor who shall be male if both of the Oireachtas or outgoing Oireachtas members are female and who shall

be female if both Oireachtas or outgoing Oireachtas members are male.

- (c) Prior to the opening of nominations in any given constituency, the OC shall appoint a CSB from the panel established under this standing order. Each CSB shall be comprised of 1 male member, 1 female member and 1 outgoing/former Oireachtas/former councillor member drawn from the panel so established. The National Organiser or his or her nominated deputy shall have attendance rights at each CSB meeting.
- (d) The OC shall exercise its function of appointment under this standing order as far as reasonable so as to avoid any CSB member having a significant material involvement or conflict of interest in the Dáil constituency concerned.
- (e) The OC shall first draw up for each constituency a draft decision on the number of candidates to be run in each constituency.
- (f) Following the establishment of a CSB for a particular Dáil constituency and prior to the opening of nominations, each party member in the relevant constituency shall be written to by the General Secretary:-
  - (i) informing them that the candidate selection process had begun and inviting members to make written proposals regarding the draft number of candidates or other relevant submissions within 14 days.
  - (ii) inviting nominations to stand as Dáil candidates
- (g) Where as a result of the preceding processes, the number of nominations received is equal to the draft number of proposed candidates and where the nominees consist of Oireachtas members only, the CSB process will be deemed to have been completed and the CSB shall report to the OC.
- (h) Where as a result of the preceding processes,
  - (i) the number of nominees is in excess of the number of draft places,  
or
  - (ii) If the number of candidates is equal to the draft number of candidates, but the gender requirement is not met or
  - (iii) If the number of candidates presenting is less than the suggested number of candidates or consists in part or whole of non-Oireachtas members

The CSB will consult with the local organisation as to the number of candidates to be nominated and as to the suitability of nominees to contest the selection convention and make a recommendation to the OC.

- (i) In the circumstances of paragraph (h) above, the CSB shall recommend to the OC the number of candidates that should be run in the constituency and may recommend to the OC a slate of named individuals that may be nominated to a Selection Convention. PLP members who wish to be nominated shall be nominated to the Selection Convention as of right. The CSB may also recommend the number of selection conventions that should be held in a constituency. They may, for example, recommend that the constituency be divided along geographic lines and that 2 conventions be held. The CSB recommendations may be endorsed or amended by the OC.
- (j) When the OC has decided upon a recommendation from the CSB which involves a slate of candidates, excess in number of the number of candidates approved by the OC, the holding of the convention process shall commence.
- (k) Oireachtas members will have an automatic right to go before a selection convention.

#### **10. Candidate must be a paid-up member**

A person nominated must be, at the time of his or her nomination, a paid-up branch, constituency or individual member of the Labour Party.

#### **11. Candidate must consent to nomination**

A member nominated need not be present at the Convention, but in this case evidence of his or her willingness to go forward must be provided.

#### **12. Cases of urgency**

In any case, such as the dissolution of the Dáil or the moving or imminence of moving of a writ for an bye-election, where there is a greater urgency in determining the Labour candidate, the General Secretary may, after consultation with the Party Leader and Party Chairperson, alter or abridge the periods of notice provided for by these standing orders, and may provide that the OC may make any decision on the number and slate of candidates, and number of conventions, without the necessity for the appointment or

report of a CSB, provided that he or she shall inform all voting members in the Constituency of such a decision in the notice summoning the convention.

**13. Motions disagreeing with OC recommendation**

Not later than the time for closing nominations, a branch affiliated to the Constituency may propose a motion for consideration by the members at the Selection Convention that the Convention disagrees with the determination of the OC regarding the number of candidates or the gender balance or both and recommends to the Executive Board an alternative number of candidates or an alternative gender balance or both. A motion seeking to name a specific person or persons is out of order.

**14. Close of nominations**

Immediately after the closing of nominations, the General Secretary shall inform, in writing, all members entitled to vote of the names of candidates who have been duly nominated, and any motion received under Standing Order 12

**15. The Convention**

Brief speeches proposing and seconding nominations may be made by nominating members. Those nominated may address the Convention at the discretion of the Chairperson. No other person is entitled to speak except at the discretion of the Chairperson.

**16. Method of voting**

Voting on the nominations shall be by proportional representation (STV) in a secret ballot. The Chairperson shall make whatever arrangements are necessary, in her or his opinion, to ensure the secrecy of the voting procedure. Papers shall be counted in like manner to the procedures for counting votes at a Dáil Election, with the modifications set forth in this paragraph. In the event that the application of the rules for Dáil elections would result in random selection between two or more candidates to determine the final count, the convention shall stand adjourned and the Executive Board shall select which of the candidates is to be deemed selected in lieu of random selection. Where more than one candidate is to be selected and a gender quota is to apply, the votes shall be counted in the following manner. Counting shall proceed in accordance with Dáil rules, save where the elimination of a particular candidate would result in a breach of the applicable gender quota. Where such a breach would occur, the candidate in

question shall not be eliminated and the lowest candidate of the other gender shall instead be eliminated.

**17. Inadvertent spoiling**

Where a voter has inadvertently spoiled his or her ballot paper and applies to the Returning Officer for a duplicate ballot paper and returns the spoilt ballot paper in person, the Returning Officer shall issue duplicate ballot material to the voter.

**18. OC recommendation to be carried out**

The number of candidates selected shall be the number recommended by the OC under standing order 1 and the gender balance shall be as so determined.

**19. Voting on motion to disagree with OC recommendation**

Following selection of candidates in accordance with the OC recommendation the convention shall discuss any motion which is in order and has been duly notified under standing order 12. No other motion may be discussed at the selection convention. Any member of the convention may speak on this motion. The motion shall then be put to the convention by secret ballot. Only those members entitled to vote in the Selection Convention may participate in votes under this standing order. The outcome of any such vote will be communicated to the Executive Board, and shall have the standing of a recommendation only.

**20. Signature of Pledge**

Each successful candidate shall sign the Party Electoral Pledge and letter of intent immediately following the declaration of the result of the ballot, or as soon as possible thereafter, otherwise his or her selection shall be declared invalid.

**21. Notification of result**

The Chairperson shall inform the General Secretary in writing of the result of the Selection Convention within 4 days.

**22. Ratification**

The Executive Board reserves the right to ratify or not any candidate or candidates selected by a selection convention. The Executive Board shall consider any recommendation made by the selection convention under standing order 18 but is not bound to agree therewith.

**23. Addition of Candidates**

Article 15.5 and 6 shall apply to the addition of candidates for elections to which these standing orders apply.

**24. Revocation of previous standing orders**

All previous standing orders for Dáil selection conventions are revoked (other than the standing orders relating to dealing with a case where a boundary is changed, which standing orders shall continue to apply) without prejudice to any candidate already selected thereunder as of the date of adoption of these standing orders, and any step taken in respect of the process of selection of a Dáil candidate which process is incomplete as of the date of adoption of these standing orders shall be deemed to have been taken under the corresponding provision of these standing orders.

**25.**

Notices and other communications required to be given in writing under these standing orders may be by letter or other writing or by e-mail, as appropriate.”.