

# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2024

*Selection Convention Standing Orders*





## **PART 1 – CONVENING OF CONVENTION**

### **1. Steps prior to convening of convention**

- (1) Before convening a selection convention, the Organisation Committee (OC) shall decide the number of candidates to be selected and, where there is to be more than 1 candidate, the gender quota which shall apply, unless this is waived by the EB.
- (2) To ensure that at least 40% of all candidates for the 2024 local elections identify as women:
  - (a) where 1 candidate is to be selected in a local electoral area, no gender quota shall apply,
  - (b) where 2 candidates are to be selected, at least 1 shall identify as a woman,
  - (c) where 3 candidates are to be selected, at least 1 shall identify as a woman
  - (d) where 4 candidates are to be selected, at least 2 shall identify as women
  - (e) where 5 candidates are to be selected, at least 2 shall identify as women.
- (2) In cases (a) to (d) and where re-selecting sitting councillors would breach the quota, the OC may propose a waiver, but only if –
  - (a) the total number of Labour candidates for election to the local authority concerned is at least 30% of the total number of candidates for election to that local authority,or
  - (b) the waiver is approved by the Executive Board (EB), decided on a case-by-case basis.
- (3) The OC shall, at the start of the process in a local authority area, invite written submissions from party members in relation to the best candidate strategy for the area and shall provide guidelines to local members on the criteria used in evaluating its electoral politics and political situation.
- (4) The OC shall consult in good time with local Oireachtas members and councillors, officers of relevant constituency councils and branches and any other persons it deems appropriate.
- (5) The OC may invite declarations of interest from party members and from others who are not party members but are contemplating joining the party and becoming a candidate.
- (6) The OC shall decide the number of candidates to be selected in each area. It may also decide on the division of an electoral area in the selection of candidates, for the purposes of ensuring a geographical spread of candidates.
- (7) The EB may at any time require the OC to give it the reasons for a decision in relation to candidate selection.

### **2. Convening of convention**

The selection convention shall be convened by the General Secretary and at least 10 days' notice of the date, time and venue shall be given to all those entitled to vote. All branch members, irrespective of voting rights, shall be invited to attend.

Communication via electronic means (ie. email) will be deemed as valid notice for the purposes of selection conventions where a member has provided an email address for party purposes.

### **3. Returning Officer**

The chairperson of the selection convention, who shall be appointed by the General Secretary, shall act as returning officer in the event of a ballot.

## **PART 2 - ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE**

### **4. Selection procedure**

Candidate selection shall be in accordance with the principle of one-member-one-vote as set out in Article 12 of the Party Constitution.

### **5. Entitlement to vote**

As provided in Article 2 (6) and (12), those entitled to vote shall be constituency members (i.e., registered by Head Office as Party members at Dáil constituency level) –

- (a) who are members of a relevant branch as defined by SOs 6 to 8,
- (b) whose membership of that branch was registered at least 6 months prior to the date of the selection convention, and
- (c) who were registered as paid-up members at least by the date set by the General Secretary for the receipt of nominations for the convention under SO 9.

### **6. Where branch is within ward**

Where the area of one or more branches coincides with an electoral area, such branch(es) shall be the relevant branch(es) in respect of that electoral area.

### **7. Where branch covers more than one ward**

Where the area of a branch extends over more than one electoral area, and the branch is the only branch registered to that area, it shall be the relevant branch in respect of each such electoral area, each member being entitled to vote in the selection of candidates in each of those electoral areas. The selection conventions may be held on the same night and, if so, shall be held in the alphabetical order of the names of the electoral areas.

### **8. Where branch covers more than one ward and other branches in ward**

Where the area of a branch extends over more than one electoral area, and there are other branches registered within that area, the relevant branch for a given electoral area shall normally be the branch which has historically participated in selection conventions for that area. Where there is no clear historical precedent the General Secretary shall, in the first place, decide, after consultation with the branch and relevant officers, which branch shall be a relevant branch in respect of which electoral area. A branch may appeal this decision to the OC within 10 days of notification of such a decision.

Such a decision shall be binding for future selection conventions, subject only to substantial boundary changes. The OC may in deciding the matter exercise its powers under Article 4 (4) to amalgamate, divide or dissolve any branch.

## **PART 3 – NOMINATIONS**

### **9. Deadline for nominations**

A deadline for the receipt of nominations prior to the holding of the convention may be set by the General Secretary. The date and time of any such deadline shall be included in the notice of the convention and shall not be less than 10 days after the date of the notice.

### **10. Proposers**

Nominations for candidates may be proposed or seconded by any member who is entitled to vote in the selection convention, providing that that person is a member of a branch which has paid its affiliation fee for the current year.

### **11. Persons nominated**

Persons nominated must be at the time of nomination, a paid-up constituency or Head Office member, and either –

- (a) a person approved by the OC as eligible to go before a convention, or
- (b) a sitting local authority member.

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

### **12. Motion disagreeing with OC determination**

Not later than the time for close of nominations, a branch entitled to participate in the convention may propose a motion that the selection convention disagrees with the determination of the OC regarding the number of candidates or the gender balance or both and, in accordance with Article 12 (3) of the Party Constitution, recommends to the EB an alternative number of candidates or an alternative gender balance or both. A motion seeking to name a specific person or persons, or otherwise going beyond the terms of Article 12 (3), is out of order.

### **13. Notice by General Secretary following close of nominations**

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

## **PART 4 – PROCEDURE AT THE CONVENTION**

### **14. Speeches at convention**

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

### **15. Voting procedure**

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.

## **16. Rules for counting of votes**

The rules for counting the votes shall be those applicable to Dáil elections, as modified by Standing Order 17.

## **17. Applying gender quota**

Where a gender quota applies, counting shall proceed in accordance with Dáil rules save that, where the elimination of a particular candidate would result in a breach of the applicable gender quota, the candidate in question shall not be eliminated and the lowest candidate of the other gender shall instead be eliminated.

## **18. Determining motion disagreeing 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 SO 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 vote on the motion. The outcome shall be communicated to the EB, and shall have the standing of a recommendation only.

## **19. Signing Party Pledge**

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

## **20. Notification of result**

The chairperson shall inform the General Secretary in writing of the result of the selection convention within 4 days.

## **21. Ratification of candidates**

The EB reserves the right to ratify or not any candidate selected by a selection convention.

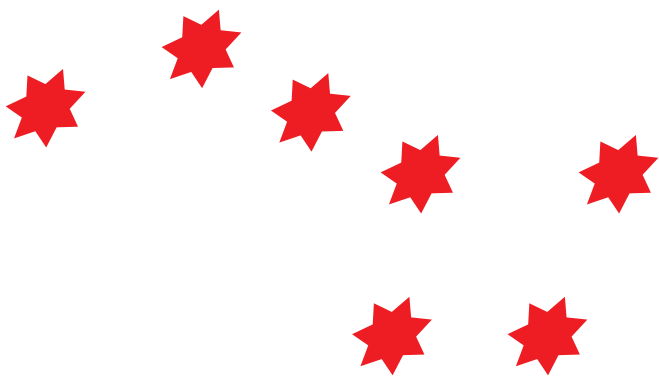
## **22. Additional candidates**

On the recommendation of the OC or EB, the Party Leader and Party chairperson, acting jointly, may add an additional candidate to the panel of candidates selected by selection convention for an electoral area.

## **23. Cases of urgency/co-option**

Where a candidate is to be selected for co-option to a local authority, and in any case of urgency in determining the party candidate, the General Secretary may, after consultation with the Party Leader and Party chairperson, alter or abridge the periods of notice provided for in these standing orders, provided that he or she shall inform all voting members of the decision in the notice summoning the convention.





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