

# A democratic selection process for the 21st century

## The Labour Party Rule Book 2018. Chapter 5 Selections, Rights, and Responsibilities of Candidates for Elected Public Office.

Replace Chapter 5, Clause IV, section 5 and 6 with the following and renumber existing section 7 accordingly:

- 5 If a CLP is represented in Parliament by a member of the PLP, that MP shall indicate, no later than 30 months after the last general election, or by an earlier specified date if the NEC believes that there is a significant prospect of an early general election, whether or not s/he wishes to stand for re-election.
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  - A If a sitting MP has not indicated by that date that s/he wishes to stand for re-election, if s/he has indicated s/he wishes to retire, or if there is no sitting Labour MP, the NEC shall agree a timetable for a selection process for that constituency, candidates shall be invited to express interest in the selection and a Shortlisting Committee shall be appointed in line with procedural guidance to be issued by the NEC.
  - B In line with that timetable, party units and affiliates may make nominations in accordance with NEC guidance, and in doing so may interview interested candidates or not as they see fit. Any decision to invite some of the interested candidates to interview by party units must be made at a meeting to which all members of that unit have been invited, in accordance with party rules and with an explanation of the decisions that will be made at it.
  - C In a constituency without members branches, the Shortlisting committee may choose either to establish temporary branches based on ward boundaries, for the sole purpose of making nominations in line with (B) above, or to hold an all-member meeting in which case any candidate receiving at least one quarter of the votes cast shall be treated as a nomination.
  - D After the closing date for nominations, the Shortlisting Committee shall present a shortlist of nominated candidates to all members of the CLP who are eligible to vote (in accordance with Clause I.1.A above). That shortlist must reflect the requirements of the NEC to ensure that candidates are representative of our society in accordance with Clause I.E.i above, and be subject to the requirement that any candidate who has received nominations from party branches representing over half of the CLP membership, or from more than half the affiliates and party units other than branches shall be included, subject to meeting eligibility criteria.
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  - A If a sitting MP has indicated by that date that s/he wishes to stand for re-election, the NEC shall agree a timetable for a selection process for that constituency, candidates shall be invited to express interest in the selection and a Shortlisting Committee shall be appointed in line with procedural guidance to be issued by the NEC.
  - B In line with that timetable, party units and affiliates may make a single nomination each

in accordance with NEC guidance, and in doing so may interview interested candidates or not as they see fit. Any decision to shortlist some of the interested candidates for consideration by party units for nomination must be made at a meeting to which all members of that unit have been invited, in accordance with party rules and with an explanation of the decisions that will be made at it. Whether party units make nominations following interviews or based on candidates' applications, the sitting MP must be considered alongside and on equal terms to other candidates. If party units choose not to invite other candidates, then the sitting MP shall not attend the nomination meeting.

- C In a constituency without members branches, the Shortlisting committee may choose either to establish temporary branches based on ward boundaries, for the sole purpose of making nominations in line with (B) above, or to hold an all-member meeting in which case any nomination receiving at least one third of the votes cast shall be treated as a nomination.
- D If the sitting MP receives both (i) nominations from party branches with a combined membership of more than two thirds of the CLP membership, and (ii) nominations submitted by more than two thirds of the affiliates and party units other than branches submitting nominations, then the sitting MP shall be automatically reselected.
- E Where the sitting MP is not automatically reselected, the Shortlisting Committee shall present to all members of the CLP who are eligible to vote in accordance with Clause I.1.A above a shortlist of nominated candidates. That shortlist must reflect the requirements of the NEC to ensure that candidates are representative of our society in accordance with Clause I.E.i above, it must include the sitting MP and it must be subject to the requirement that any candidate who has received nominations either from party branches with a combined membership of more than one half of the CLP membership or from more than half of the affiliates and party units other than branches making nominations shall be included, subject to meeting eligibility criteria.
- F If the said MP is not selected as the prospective parliamentary candidate s/he shall have the right of appeal to the NEC. The appeal can only be made on the grounds that the procedures laid down in the rules and the general provisions of the constitution, rules and standing orders have not been properly carried out. The NEC must receive the appeal by the date on which they consider endorsement of the parliamentary candidate for the constituency.

### **Supporting Argument**

The existing trigger ballot mechanism does not provide adequate accountability between sitting MPs and party members, at the same time as requiring members to organise on a solely negative basis in order to have a meaningful choice in selections in seats with a sitting MP. This state of affairs has contributed to growing mistrust and division across the party. This alternative proposal would benefit all parties, by allowing sitting MPs the opportunity to demonstrate that they have overwhelming support amongst both party members and affiliated organisations, and party members and affiliated organisations would have a meaningful choice of who represents

them once in each term of Parliament.