



Guide to Election 2016

Introduction

On 27th April 2016, there will be a General Election in Guernsey and Islanders will elect 38 States members or 'Deputies'. These Deputies will make decisions on everyone's behalf for the next four years.

Voting for your deputies is an important democratic right. Everyone's vote is equal.

This guide has been written by the [Guernsey Disability Alliance](#) (GDA) and [Access for All](#) to help our members to take part in the election.

We have worked closely with the [Election 2016](#) team from the Home Department to try to make the election accessible to everyone. After the event we would welcome your views on what worked well and what didn't work so well so we can try to get it changed it for next time.

Key Dates

- **Tues 26th April** – Last day to post your postal vote (if you have requested one). Must arrive by noon on Weds 27th April. Or deliver it to Frossard House by hand by midday.
- **Weds 27th April** – Election Day from 8am to 8pm (or 10am to 8pm in St Sampson)
- **Sun 1st May** - Successful candidates become deputies.

How to vote

1. Your voting district

The island is divided into 7 districts – Vale, St Sampson's, St Peter Port North, St Peter Port South, Castel, The South East and The West. Each district elects either 5 or 6 deputies depending how large it is. There is a map of the different districts in the Candidates section of www.election2016.gg and at the end of this Guide.

If you don't have access to the internet, you can contact your local parish hall (also known as the Douzaine Room or Constables Office). The telephone numbers are at the front of the phone book.

2. Deciding how you want to vote

- a. To vote, you must already be on the register of electors (also called 'the electoral roll'). Registration closed on 29th February 2016 so if you aren't on the register already you won't be able to take part. If you are not sure whether you are registered or not, contact the Electoral Roll Office on elections@gov.gg or 747580. Or call your parish hall.
- b. If you would like to **vote by post** registration is now closed. You need to post your vote by Tuesday 26th April or deliver it by hand to Frossard House by noon on Election Day.
- c. If you want to **vote in person**, you simply go to one of the polling stations in your district on Wednesday 27th April between 8am and 8pm (except in St Sampson where opening hours are 10am to 8pm).

3. Polling stations – location and accessibility

To find out more about the accessibility of polling stations, go to the Candidates section of www.election2016.gg or www.disabledgo.com/guernseypollingstations.

Access for All and the GDA will be at the more accessible stations from 8am-9:30am, except St Sampson's (from 10am), if you need any assistance.

Vale

The Douzaine Room.

Island Scout Headquarters, Rue Mainguy (Tony Yates)

St Sampson (from 10am)

Chambre de la Douzaine – Karen Blanchford from 10am

Church School, Le Murier Road – Shelaine Green from 10am

St Peter Port North – Richard Evans

Beau Sejour Leisure Centre.

Princess Royal Centre for Performing Arts.

St Peter Port South – Ben Jones

The Constables' Office.

St Stephen's Community Centre.

South East

La Salle Paroissiale – Karen Blanchford (8am - 8:45am only)

The Douzaine Room

Castel

La Chambre de la Douzaine.

Cobo Community Centre – Shelaine Green

West

St Saviour's Community Centre - Caroline Mullins, States Disability Officer

Evangelical Church School Hall.

La Salle Paroissiale.

La Chambre de la Douzaine, Forest.

4. Using a Polling Station

Each district has at least two different locations where you can go to vote. At least one polling station in each district should be accessible to wheelchair users. To find out where the different [polling stations](#) are, go to the Candidates section of www.election2016.gg and click on your district. Or contact your parish hall.

Tip: A company called DisabledGo has completed professional access surveys of many of Guernsey's main polling stations. So if you want to see in advance whether a particular venue will meet your needs (including photos!), go to www.disabledgo.com/guernseypollingstations

When you arrive at the polling station, you will be asked to give your name and the official will check that you are registered to vote. You will be given a voting slip which is a list of the people who are standing for election. You will go to a booth so you can have some privacy and you will mark a cross next to the names of the people you want to have as your deputies.

Tip: Some polling stations have booths that have been adapted for wheelchair users. If not, ask one of the officials if you can use a table.

If your district has **five** deputies, you will have **five** votes and can put your cross against up to five names.

If your district has **six** deputies, you will have **six** votes and can put your cross against up to six names.

Tip: You don't have to use all of your votes. The fewer votes you use, the more likely it is that the people you really want will be elected.

If you need assistance to be able to vote, you can ask a friend or family member to come with you. Or you can ask one of the officials at the polling station to help you. Name, address and assistance cards can be printed beforehand [here](#).

Tip: The voting slip only has the names of the candidates on it. If it would help to be able to see photos of the people you want to vote for, remember to take their manifestos along with you.

Once you have made your choice you will fold the piece of paper and put it in a black Ballot Box ready to be counted later in the day.

How to choose who to vote for

1. Reading the manifestos

Each person who wants to be elected produces a 'manifesto'. This is a leaflet that sets out who that person is and what their views are.

If you have registered to vote, you will receive manifestos from the candidates during the few weeks before the election, either by post or hand-delivered.

Many candidates also publish their manifesto on the internet. Often their website gives more information than is in the printed manifesto. Many also have Twitter accounts and Facebook pages.

The **Guernsey Press** printed a summary of the manifestos of all the candidates in the island on 19th April and candidates answers to specific questions on 23rd April.

BBC Radio Guernsey has broadcast "one minute manifestos" from each candidate (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03rlv8n>).

Island FM also has special election coverage, including a full set of candidates manifestos. Go to www.islandfm.com and follow the 'Election 2016' link on the Homepage.

The **Dandelion Project** has recorded candidates answering a series of 'profound' questions. These are at <http://manifesto.gg/>.

2. Questioning the candidates

On the doorstep

Most candidates spend many hours walking their parish in the run up to the election, knocking on doors and speaking to parishioners. If someone knocks on your door, there is no obligation for you to speak to them, but if you are comfortable doing so it's a really good chance to get a better understanding of what they are like. Don't expect them to come in or stay very long as they have a lot of houses to go to.

Tip: Keep a list of what you would like to ask your candidates by your front door so you can get straight to the point. Be clear about what you would like your deputies to do for you. Tell them about living life in Guernsey with a disability.

If there are particular candidates you are keen to speak to, but they haven't come to your door, or you missed them, feel free to call or email them using the contact details on their manifestos. Or you could talk to them on Facebook or Twitter.

At the parish hustings

Each voting district organises at least one 'hustings' during the weeks before the election. A parish hustings is a large public meeting where all of the local candidates sit up on stage and answer questions from their parishioners. You don't have to ask a question, you can just go along and watch.

A summary of some of the answers given to questions at the hustings have been printed in the Guernsey Press over the last week.

More information and contact details

States of Guernsey Home Department

For queries about postal votes, accessible polling stations etc.

Website: www.election2016.gg

Call: 747580

Email: elections@gov.gg.

DisabledGo (access to polling stations)

Website: www.disabledgo.com/guernseypollingstations

Guernsey Disability Alliance

Website: www.disabilityalliance.org.gg

Email: Info@disabilityalliance.org.gg

Tel: 07781 467316

Access for All

Website www.access.gg

Email: hello@access.gg

Tel: 07781 100556 Richard
07839 252266 Tony

Transport

If you are a member of a local charity, please check with them if they are providing transport for their members on Election Day.

Accessible Taxis

Ashley Lacey

Tel: 07781 178 178

Email: ashleystaxicab@icloud.com

Daniel Le Sauvage

Tel: 07781 162 662

Email: getaroundguernsey@suremail.gg

Gordon Le Prevost

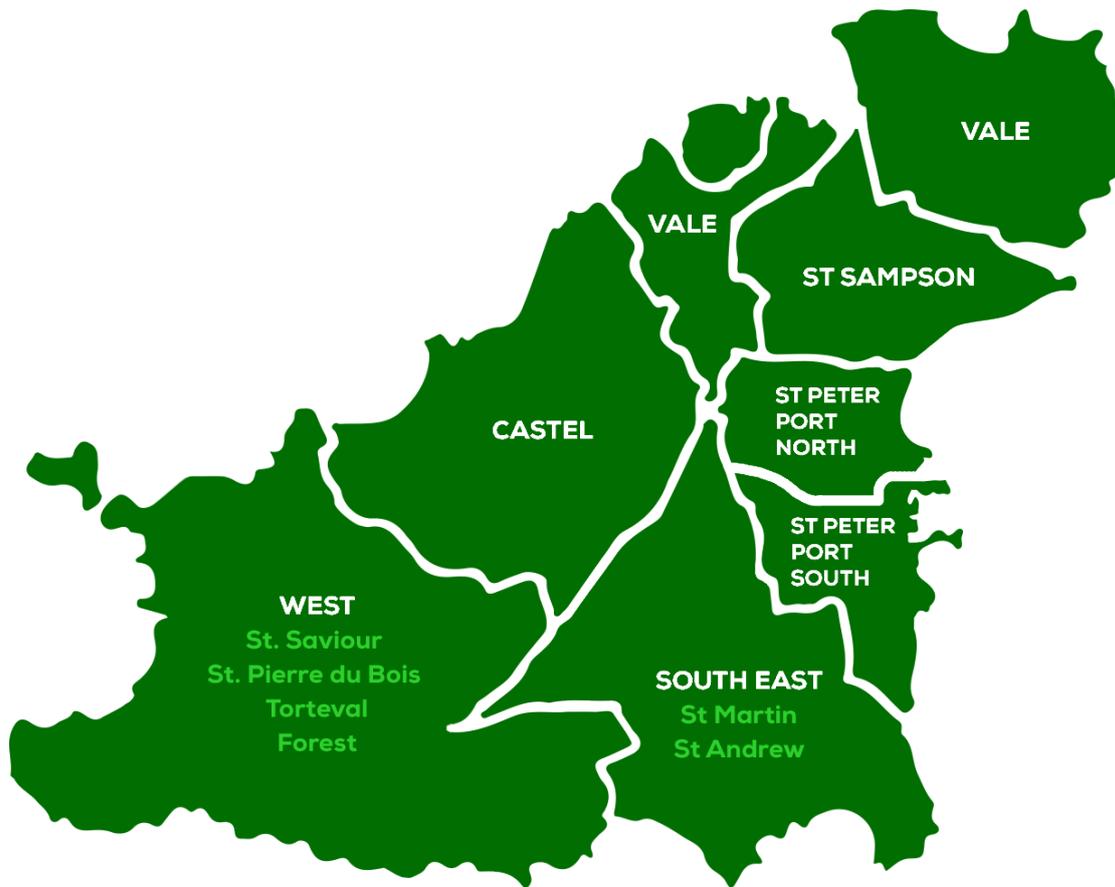
Tel: 07911 757 757

Email: glepno1@yahoo.co.uk

Guernsey Social Care

Tel: 07781 411 122

Email: taxi@care.gg



You can find an interactive version of this map at www.election2016.gg in the 'Candidates' section.

Accessibility

If you would like a Large Print version of this Guide, or you use assistive technology and need a different format, please contact info@disabilityalliance.org.gg or call 07781 467316.