

Labour party Code of Conduct for local government selections

1. No materials calling for support in the selection process will be produced or distributed by or on behalf of any individual prior to the publication of the timetable for selections in this local authority area.
2. Potential candidates who are on the approved panel of candidates are entitled to a list of ward secretaries from the secretary of the Local Government Committee. Once short-listed by a ward, potential candidates will be entitled to a list of eligible members for that ward from the Constituency Labour Party (CLP) secretary. In order to receive this list, potential candidates will have to pay the relevant CLP an administration charge of £5.
3. The list of eligible members (or list of party units and affiliates) is supplied solely for the purposes of the current selection / election campaign of the aspiring candidate to which it is supplied and is not transferable to any other campaign or person or for any other use whatsoever. Use of the list for any other purpose will lead to disqualification as an aspiring candidate and potential further disciplinary action. The selling or providing a list for commercial purposes will lead to automatic exclusion from the party for five years.
4. Following publication of the timetable for a ward, potential candidates are permitted to mail eligible members direct, as well as Labour Party units and affiliated organisations, with any canvassing / promotional material.
5. No potential candidates or persons acting on behalf of a potential candidates will use their own material or access to publicity to disparage any other potential candidate.
6. Canvassing is specifically allowed following publication of the timetable and from this period onwards potential candidates may approach members personally or by telephone to seek their support. Contact with members must not be carried out in a manner likely to cause offence or be seen as applying pressure to any member.
7. No financial inducement or inducement in kind may be offered to attempt to secure support.
8. Only designated officers will be authorised to issues statements to the media about any aspect of the selection procedure, and then only after consultation with appropriate senior party officers. This does not preclude potential candidates undertaking press, radio or TV interviews on other matters, though under no circumstances should any potential candidate disparage any other potential candidate.
9. Party staff will not use or abuse their position, party resources or time in the process of an internal selection or election so as to further the interests of themselves or their personal preferred candidate(s). This does not preclude normal contact or general conversation undertaken in their capacity as a member of the party. The General Secretary is answerable to the NEC for the conduct of staff in all internal elections.
10. Once a potential candidate has declared an interest in an elected position s/he cannot attend the part of any meeting that is dealing with selection business of the ward in question, unless specifically invited in their role as a potential candidate.
11. No potential candidate or members acting on her/his behalf will interfere with or put under duress any member in regard to how they vote at any stage during the process.
12. Potential candidates (and those making donations of money or in kind to their selection campaign) are regulated by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act and are required to comply with the provisions on accepting and reporting of donations of £200 or more.
13. Any member breaching this code of conduct or knowingly allowing others to do so on her/his behalf will be liable for disciplinary action. The NEC will not hesitate to use its powers of disqualification and suspension to impose sanctions to enforce this code.