



House of
Commons

Election of the Deputy Speakers Candidates

8 January 2020

Contents

Sir David Amess	4
Mr Peter Bone.....	5
Mr Nigel Evans.....	6
Mr Robert Goodwill	7
Dame Eleanor Laing.....	8
Dame Rosie Winterton.....	9

Introduction

This booklet lists all the candidates for the election of the three Deputy Speakers.

The election will take place on Wednesday 8 January 2020 between 10am and 1.30pm in Committee Room 8. The election is governed by Standing Order No. 2A.

The candidates are listed in alphabetical order. Each entry gives the candidate's name and the side of the House they come from.

All candidates are required to sign a statement indicating willingness to stand for election. Each candidate's entry in the booklet prints any further personal statement that has been submitted by that candidate.

Constraints will be applied to the count so that of those elected:

- two candidates shall come from the opposite side of the House to that from which the Speaker was drawn. So the first candidate from the present Government side will be Chairman of Ways and Means and the second, Second Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means;
- one candidate shall come from the same side of the House as that from which the Speaker was drawn and shall be First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means; and
- at least one man and at least one woman shall be elected across the four posts of Speaker and Deputy Speakers.

Dame Rosie Winterton is the sole candidate from the same side of the House as that from which the Speaker was drawn, and, having been duly nominated, will be elected First Deputy Chairman of Ways and Means. Her name will not appear on the ballot paper on 8 January.



Sir David Amess

Southend West, Government side

Sponsored by

Sarah Champion, Rehman Chishti,
Rosie Cooper, Martyn Day,
Jackie Doyle-Price, Mr Mark Francois,
Mary Glindon, Gillian Keegan,
Dr Julian Lewis, Andrew Rosindell

Statement

I am asking colleagues if they would give me their first preference vote in this election for Deputy Speakers. I'll not bore people by setting out my journey to Westminster other than to say I was first elected to Parliament in 1983. During that time, I have enjoyed being a servant of the House and I have demonstrated this through my previous service on the Backbench Business Committee, Health Select Committee and Broadcasting Committee and now the Administration Committee. I now offer my service to the House and colleagues in something that I thoroughly enjoy doing and that is chairing proceedings. If you elect me as one of your Deputy Speakers this is what I would bring to the position.

- **Compassion** Throughout the time I have been a Member I have witnessed colleagues having to cope with difficult and personal challenges. It is sometimes forgotten that in what is a very tough and challenging job, Members of Parliament experience happiness and sadness in full measure like anyone else. In that regard, I would offer encouragement, support and, dare I say, advice.
- **Humour** I hope I have proved to colleagues that in tense situations I am able to defuse possible conflict by adding an element of self-deprecation or humour to our proceedings. To survive in politics you really do need a sense of humour and it helps to keep stress levels down!
- **Experience** Not only have I been an MP for a long time, but I have been on the Speaker's Panel since 2001. During that time, I have helped chair proceedings in the main Chamber at the start of a new Parliament following a General Election and

also chaired the Committee Stage of Bills in the main Chamber. In Committee Rooms I have chaired countless sessions of the Committee Stage of Bills and of Delegated Legislation. I have also chaired many sessions in Westminster Hall. During these sessions I hope I have proved myself to be firm, fair and non-partisan. I know how frustrating it is when the Chair refuses to give some indication of when you might be called to speak in a debate. Subject to the Speaker's ruling, that would not happen whilst I was chairing proceedings. I also place great store on the experience and wisdom of the Clerks, from whose good offices I would be more than happy to take advice and guidance.

As a Deputy Speaker I would see my role to support the Speaker and follow his leadership. I would have time for everyone. Finally, I don't just speak to people when I want something but am genuinely interested in colleagues. Courtesy and respect for each other is what I would uphold.



Mr Peter Bone

Wellingborough, Government side

Sponsored by

Chris Heaton-Harris,
Philip Davies, Tom Pursglove,
Tom Hunt, Mr Philip Hollobone,
Mr David Jones, Mr William Wragg,
Sir Christopher Chope, Mr Marcus Fysh,
Richard Fuller

Statement

- I was first elected in 2005 and have never sought ministerial or shadow ministerial office. My aim has always been to be a parliamentarian and to constructively scrutinise the government of the day.
- For the last ten years I have been a member of the Panel of Chairs. As such, I have regularly chaired Westminster Hall Debates, Bill Committees and Delegated Legislation Committees. I have also chaired the Commons when there has been a Committee of the Whole House. During my chairmanship, I have always been scrupulously fair to members on both sides and nobody would know my own personal views on any particular issue.
- I was a founder member of the Backbench Business Committee, which has so successfully championed the role of backbench MPs, and helped to shape its ethos.
- I was a member of the All-Party Group, Parliament First, which sought to strengthen the ability of Parliament to scrutinise government and to restore trust in this place after the expenses scandal.
- I am a senior member of the Procedure Committee, which has steered a course of parliamentary reform, which has neither favoured the government or shadow government, but has improved the working of Parliament for everyone.
- If elected, I will seek to support the excellent new Speaker in rebuilding the standing of Parliament in the country, following the events of last year.
- Like many colleagues, I have had to deal with death threats, threats to my family and children and vile abuse. No colleague, on any side, and regardless of their views, should have to put up with this. I will use this experience to help put an end to this unacceptable behaviour and make sure all colleagues get the help and support they need, tailored to their specific circumstances.
- In my view, Members of Parliament have a vital role in scrutinising the Government and dealing with their constituents' problems and the challenges facing their communities. I do not believe that the House should be reduced in size. It should stay at 650 members - a view I have always expressed.

As someone who is regarded as having a detailed knowledge of parliamentary procedure, and has used many of the legitimate tricks of the book over the years, no doubt some will ask is this not the poacher turning gamekeeper? My answer would be who is in a better position to uphold the standing orders and conventions of the House than a former poacher, who knows every legitimate trick in the book.

I believe that all Members of Parliament are equal. It doesn't matter what their background is, where their constituencies are, what their majorities stand at, or how long they have been in Parliament. We are all equal. If elected, I will treat all colleagues both fairly and equally and uphold the best traditions of the House.



Mr Nigel Evans

Ribble Valley, Government side

Sponsored by

Mr David Davis, Joanna Cherry,
Caroline Nokes, Nicola Richards,
Kate Griffiths, Andy Carter,
Rehman Chishti, Carolyn Harris,
Tracey Crouch, Eddie Hughes

Statement

I was thrilled to be elected Deputy Speaker for the only Conservative vacancy back in 2010. I campaigned with and then worked very closely with Sir Lindsay Hoyle as we both became Deputies, along with Dawn Primarolo – the other Deputy chair. I want to re-establish the close working relationship with Sir Lindsay and I was doubly honoured when he asked me to “drag” him to the Chair last year. He has already made his mark as a great Speaker.

It is in that light that I ask for your support to bring that team together. Sir Lindsay has demonstrated that his no nonsense and totally impartial approach is one that is both popular in Parliament and in the country. I am standing for this position with the intention of strengthening that sound and proper approach to the work of conducting our business. I will work particularly closely with Lindsay in ensuring the safety and security of all MPs as they go about their business in the House and in their constituencies and also work to ensure that IPSA work well with MPs in order that they can carry out their work with peace of mind.

I know that the amount of pressure and stress has grown exponentially in the post social media world. Nobody should have to face the torrent of personal abuse meted out by keyboard warriors. The pressure on staff must equally be recognised.

I have taken on the role of pastoral care to many members who have faced personal problems in their lives, especially with the full glare of publicity. My unique experience in this field will be available to anyone needing it. My door will always be open for advice I can give new MPs about procedure where the business of the House can seem at times like gobbledygook.

I will champion the rights of backbenchers to have their voices heard. Having never been a Minister I come at this as someone who understands the role of backbencher well since my election 27 years ago. I also know with Brexit that the workload, especially committee work upstairs will grow dramatically, and supporting MPs in their diverse role is vital.

I have the experience of having held this position before, and I’m delighted by the support I’ve received from so many MPs who remember me in that role. If you wish to know first-hand about my competence for this vacancy, then please ask any MP elected prior to 2015.

I am an existing member of Sir Lindsay’s panel of chairs and have had the pleasure of chairing countless Westminster Hall sessions, and many other Statutory Instruments.

I’m grateful for your time in reading this and thank all those who have already pledged me your support as number 1 in this election. I also want to thank the MPs who were elected less than a month ago for your support. It means a lot. Thank you and please, if you are able, support my return to the Chair.



Mr Robert Goodwill

Scarborough and Whitby, Government side

Sponsored by

Jeremy Hunt, Dan Jarvis,
Tim Farron, Jacob Young,
Mrs Helen Grant, Luke Pollard,
Dr Lisa Cameron, Anna McMorrin,
Scott Benton, Dame Eleanor Laing

Statement

I was elected to the House for Scarborough and Whitby in 2005, having previously been Deputy Leader of the Conservative Delegation in the European Parliament. After a short initial spell on the Transport Select Committee, I have served on the front bench for most of my time in the House. I had experience in the Opposition Whips' Office before moving on to the Shadow Transport team.

After the 2010 election I again served as a Whip in the coalition covering Defra, Northern Ireland and the Treasury. I took several Finance Bills through the House. I then spent two years as Government Pairing Whip, working very closely with our coalition partners and the Labour Whips' Office through the "usual channels".

I have been Minister of State in four departments, Transport, The Home Office as Immigration Minister, Education as Minister for Children and Families and Defra as Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. As such I have learnt a lot about how Ministers interact with Parliament, particularly when looking down the other end of the gun barrel when it came to Urgent Questions – a almost daily occurrence at the Home Office! During a break in service, I was a member of both the Environmental Audit and Northern Ireland Select Committees.

I am a North Yorkshire farmer in real life and read Agriculture at Newcastle University. Married to policeman's daughter, Maureen, we have three grown up children who all attended local state schools. In my spare time I work on my steam traction engines and London Brighton Veteran Car as well as being an enthusiastic cyclist.

Mr Speaker Hoyle is a refreshing change from his predecessor, and I relish being part of what will be, once again, a genuine Speaker's team. The person in the chair should facilitate the functioning of the chamber and not seek to grab the headlines. It is important that the voices of newly elected Members, smaller parties and the nations and regions are heard.

We need to continue to modernise our approach to bullying and sexual abuse, particularly when those in authority may exploit their position. I look forward to taking the Valuing Everyone Training and will seek to ensure that enough places are available for new Members and staff. We also need to continue to make sure all those connected with our Parliament are safe from both physical and online threats.

I hope you will agree that, during my time in the House, I have always treated colleagues and staff with respect and courtesy. I understand the importance of the impartiality of the chair and will do everything I can to support Lindsay - apart from perhaps during Roses Cricket Matches!



Dame Eleanor Laing

Epping Forest, Government side

Sponsored by

Gagan Mohindra, Dr Liam Fox,
Chris Bryant, Mr Alistair Carmichael,
Stewart Malcolm McDonald,
Sir Charles Walker, Virginia Crosbie,
Mr Robert Goodwill,
Martin Docherty-Hughes,
Dame Rosie Winterton

Statement

After the turmoil of the last few years, this new Parliament gives us all the opportunity to restore trust in the House of Commons and confidence in our democratic system. I have long been an advocate for change in our culture. We now have the chance to make a real difference.

EXPERIENCE – Having served for the last 6 years as Deputy Speaker, and 22 years in Parliament, I understand our rules, our procedures and our precious conventions.

RESPECT – The occupant of the Chair can only earn respect by showing respect – for other MPs, for the rules of the House and for the people who elect us.

DECENCY – I have always exerted authority with dignity, with courtesy and with kindness.

EFFICIENCY – The Speaker’s team have to make the House run smoothly. For example, we must get the Panel of Chairs, and Westminster Hall up and running immediately.

IMPARTIALITY – Standing up for, and protecting, minority views in the Chamber, whatever subject we are debating, is essential. I have always ensured – and pledge to continue to ensure – that speaking time is allocated to MPs in a fair, equal and consistent manner.

HUMOUR – our proceedings are always important, and sometimes serious and sombre, but a tense situation can often be diffused with a touch of humour.

UNITY – sitting on the green benches it is easy to see the Chamber as being divided into “us” and “them”. But from the Chair, the view is only of “us”. That is the way I have seen things for the last six years. Working together we can achieve so much more.

HONOUR - The House of Commons is full of good people who genuinely want to make the world a better place. We all have different ideas about how to do that, but our intentions are truly honourable. The occupant of the Chair should stand up for the reputation of the House.

EQUALITY – I hate old-fashioned entitlement. Every member of this House, regardless of age, position or length of service, is equal. We need to escape from the overbearing hierarchical structures that have allowed a culture of bullying and predatory behaviour to take root.

This is a new beginning, a time for change. I have been greatly encouraged by the kind words of very many colleagues, from all parties, who have pledged me their support. As it happens, no woman has ever held the position of Chairman of Ways and Means. Being a woman is not what qualifies me for the job but wouldn’t it be a powerful signal that the House really intends to change if it were to break the mould by making me the senior Deputy Speaker?



Dame Rosie Winterton

Doncaster Central, Opposition side

Sponsored by

Margaret Beckett, Sir Bernard Jenkin,
Marsha de Cordova, Christine Jardine,
Claire Hanna, Kevin Brennan,
Joanna Cherry, Sir Jeffrey M. Donaldson,
Liz Saville Roberts, Dame Eleanor Laing

Statement

I was elected to Parliament in 1997 and between then and 2017 I served as a backbencher, a government minister, Shadow Leader of the House and Opposition Chief Whip.

In 2017 I had the privilege of being elected as Deputy Speaker and held that position until the last general election. I am asking for your support to continue in the Deputy Speaker role during the new Parliament.

I hope that colleagues will feel that during my time as Deputy Speaker I have been fair and impartial in the chair. I know there are huge pressures on Members of Parliament and how important it is for those on the backbenches and those on the frontbenches to have the opportunity to reflect their views, the views of their party and the views of their constituents in Parliament. However, I am also aware that speaking in the Chamber can be daunting, especially for new Members and I have always tried to encourage colleagues to show respect for each other. We all know that Parliament has been through turbulent times recently and it is more important than ever for the public to see our debates being conducted in a way which reflects deeply held views but also conducted with courtesy.

A crucial part of our democracy is for government to be able to present its legislation and for that legislation to be properly scrutinised. The Speaker and the Deputy Speakers are central to making that happen. It has been a great privilege to be part of the Speaker's team in the last Parliament and I would continue to adopt a collegiate style with Speaker Hoyle and other Deputies to facilitate debate and scrutiny of the government.

In summary, I offer you:

- Experience of Parliamentary and legislative procedure having being a Deputy Speaker for two years
- A record of being fair, impartial and supportive of colleagues when in the chair
- An open door to all colleagues outside of the Chair – as a long serving Member I understand the pressures of being a Parliamentarian
- Effectiveness as a member of the House of Commons Commission in continuing modernisation of the House and dealing with IPSA
- Understanding of the needs of backbenchers and frontbenchers from both majority and minority parties

I hope you will give me the opportunity to continue to serve the House as Deputy Speaker.

