

3 May 2016

## Election of the Lord Speaker

### Introduction

This notice sets out the arrangements for the election of a Lord Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 19.

The present Lord Speaker, Baroness D'Souza, announced on 11 February 2016 that she would not seek re-election.

The Code of Conduct for the election is in Annex 1 to this notice. A description of the role of the Lord Speaker is in Annex 2. A candidature form is attached to this notice, as is a form to request a postal vote.

### Timetable

Thursday 19 May, 5pm	Deadline for candidatures to be registered. Each candidate requires a proposer and a seconder. Deadline for election addresses of up to 75 words.
Monday 23 May	List of candidates published and sent to all members of the House, together with a statement of each candidate's parliamentary service, their entry in the Register of Lords' Interests, and election addresses of up to 75 words.
Monday 23 May	Ballot papers sent to those requesting a postal vote.
Wednesday 8 June, 10am to 8pm	Voting to take place in the Queen's Robing Room.
Wednesday 8 June, 5pm	Deadline for postal votes to be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office.
Monday 13 June	The Clerk of the Parliaments to report the result of the election to the House at the start of business. Her Majesty the Queen's approval of the House's choice of Lord Speaker to be notified.  Full election results available online and in the Printed Paper Office.
Thursday 1 September	The new Lord Speaker takes office.
Monday 5 September	The new Lord Speaker sits on the Woolsack for the first time at the start of business.

### Candidatures

All members of the House who have taken the oath are eligible to be candidates, except those who are:

- subject to statutory disqualification;
- suspended from the service of the House; or
- on leave of absence.



In accordance with Standing Order 19(4) candidates are to be proposed and seconded by two other members of the House who are eligible to stand. Candidates must return the enclosed candidature form to the Journal Office by 5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016. That is also be the deadline for withdrawing candidatures previously submitted.

Candidates are invited, but not required, to submit an election address of up to 75 words in support of the candidature. Such election addresses must be received by the Journal Office by 5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016.

The Clerk of the Parliaments will then circulate the list of candidates, along with their election addresses and a statement of each candidate's parliamentary service, covering length of service, membership of select committees, experience as an office-holder in either House, and their entry in the Register of Lords' Interests.

The Hansard Society plans to organise a "hustings" event in respect of this election, similar to that held in 2011, on Wednesday 25 May 2016 at 5pm in the Queen's Robing Room. For further information candidates are invited to contact Ruth Fox or Joel Blackwell at the Hansard Society: [ruth.fox@hansardsociety.org.uk](mailto:ruth.fox@hansardsociety.org.uk), [joel.blackwell@hansardsociety.org.uk](mailto:joel.blackwell@hansardsociety.org.uk).

### **Eligibility to vote**

All members of the House who have taken the oath in this Parliament are eligible to vote, with the exception of those who are:

- subject to statutory disqualification;
- suspended from the service of the House; or
- on leave of absence.

Voting will take place on Wednesday 8 June 2016 from 10am to 8pm in the Queen's Robing Room.

### **Postal votes**

Members wishing to vote but unable to attend the House on Wednesday 8 June 2016 may request a postal vote using the attached form. The Journal Office should receive requests for postal votes by **5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016**. Ballot papers will be posted on Monday 23 May 2016 to those whose applications have been received by 19 May 2016. Late applications will be accepted until Thursday 26 May 2016.

Members requesting a postal vote should inform the Journal Office of the address to which the ballot paper should be sent. If no address is supplied, the ballot paper will be sent to the House of Lords. The ballot paper may be returned by post (a prepaid addressed envelope will be provided) or returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office by hand (to room 24, principal floor, west front, Palace of Westminster).

**Postal votes must be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office by 5pm on Wednesday 8 June. Postal ballot papers arriving after this time will not be counted.**



## **Voting system**

The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters place the figure 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate they most strongly support, the figure 2 against the next most favoured candidate, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish. In order to be elected, the successful candidate must receive at least as many votes as all the other candidates put together. In the event of this not happening after first-preference votes have been allocated, the votes of the candidates receiving the lowest number of first-preference votes will be shared out according to the second preference marked on them. This will be repeated until one candidate has at least half of the total valid vote.

Ballot papers will be invalidated if:

- any number is used more than once, or
- in the opinion of the Returning Officer (the Clerk of the Parliaments) the ballot paper is illegible or ambiguous.

Electoral Reform Services are assisting the Returning Officer with the organisation and running of this election.

## **Code of Conduct**

The Code of Conduct for the election, which is the same as for the Lord Speaker elections in 2006 and 2011, is set out in Annex 1.

## **The role of the Lord Speaker**

A summary of the role of the Lord Speaker is in Annex 2.

DAVID BEAMISH  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*



## **Annex 1: Code of Conduct**

1. Ballot papers will not indicate any qualification or reason why a candidate should be elected.
2. Candidates may not offer hospitality, entertainment or financial inducements to electors intended to influence their votes or likely to have that effect.
3. Candidates may not engage in any activity intended or likely to discredit other candidates in the election.
4. Candidates may not solicit votes near the room where the election is taking place.
5. If the Clerk of the Parliaments suspects, on reasonable grounds, that some material irregularity or improper conduct may have occurred in the electoral process, he may refer the matter to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct. The Committee may, if it thinks fit, recommend the disqualification of a successful candidate if their election appears to have been influenced by material irregularity or improper conduct.
6. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.



## Annex 2: The role of the Lord Speaker

The role of the Lord Speaker is described in the *Companion to the Standing Orders* (2015 edition) as follows:

### *Role of the Lord Speaker*

1.51. The primary role of the Lord Speaker is to preside over proceedings in the Chamber, including Committees of the whole House.<sup>1</sup> She takes the oath first at the opening of a new Parliament; her role in the ceremonies accompanying oath-taking, the State Opening of Parliament, and royal commissions, are described in the appendices.<sup>2</sup> The Lord Speaker seeks the leave of the House for any necessary absence of a full sitting day or more.

1.52. The Lord Speaker has no power to act in the House without the consent of the House. She observes the same formalities as any other member of the House, addressing the House as a whole, and not an individual member, and not intervening when a member is on their feet. The Speaker's function is to assist, and not to rule. The House does not recognise points of order.

1.53. Any advice or assistance given by the Lord Speaker is subject to the view of the House as a whole.<sup>3</sup> The Lord Speaker has specific responsibilities with regard to private notice questions and the application of the *sub judice* rule; these are described below (paragraphs 6.36 and 4.63).

1.54. Outside the Chamber, the Lord Speaker chairs the House Committee, which oversees the administration of the House (see paragraph 11.66). She is a member of the Procedure Committee; has formal responsibility for the security of the Lords part of the parliamentary estate; is one of the three “keyholders” of Westminster Hall; and has a wide role representing the House at home and overseas.<sup>4</sup>

1.55. The Lord Speaker may, after consultation with the Government, recall the House whenever it stands adjourned.<sup>5</sup>

1.56. The Lord Speaker is a salaried office-holder, and is required to lay aside outside financial interests falling into specific categories, including remunerated directorships and other employment.<sup>6</sup> The Lord Speaker is also expected to lay aside any party or group affiliation on appointment, and to refrain from political activity, including voting in the House.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> SO 62.

<sup>2</sup> Appendices C–G.

<sup>3</sup> Procedure 3rd Rpt 2005–06.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Select Committee on the Speakership of the House of Lords, HL Paper 92, 2005–06.

<sup>5</sup> SO 17(1). See also paragraph 2.21.

<sup>6</sup> Privileges 2nd Rpt 2009–10.

<sup>7</sup> Procedure 4th Rpt 2005–06.



## **Term of office**

The Lord Speaker is elected for five years. No Lord Speaker may serve for more than two terms.

## **Salary and expenses**

The Lord Speaker's annual salary will be £101,664. In addition, the Lord Speaker will be entitled to a Lords' office-holder's allowance. For Lords' office-holders whose main home is outside Greater London the allowance is £36,366 per year; those whose main home is within Greater London may claim the reduced rate of £3,760. The allowance is paid monthly along with salary and is taxable but does not reckon for pension purposes.

The Lord Speaker may recover the same expenses as other Lords' office-holders, namely:

- secretarial expenses incurred in respect of parliamentary duties (subject to an annual limit of £6,858);
- travelling expenses from home to the House of Lords;
- travel expenses for journeys undertaken by their spouse or civil partner (and named dependent children) between their registered address and Westminster (subject to a maximum of 15 return journeys per calendar year).

A former minister or MP in receipt of a parliamentary pension could have their pension fully or partially abated while holding office. For further detail, prospective candidates with such pensions should contact the House of Commons Pension Unit. It is expected that other public-service pensions would not be affected, but prospective candidates should consult their pension provider.

## **Political activity and outside interests**

Paragraph 1.56 of the *Companion*, quoted above, summarises the following rules, agreed by the House on 16 March 2010:

“The Lord Speaker is subject to the Code of Conduct in the same way as all other members of the House and, in order to avoid any perception of conflict of interest, is also subject to additional requirements. The Lord Speaker is expected, during his or her period in office, to lay aside any financial interests falling within categories 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8, as defined in the Guide to the Code of Conduct.

Interests held by the Lord Speaker's spouse or partner are subject to the same requirements as interests held by the spouse or partner of any other member of the House.

The Lord Speaker is also expected to lay aside any political party or group affiliation upon appointment, and to refrain from political activity, including voting in the House.” (Committee for Privileges, 2nd report, 2009–10)

## **Accommodation and support**

The Lord Speaker occupies an office on the principal floor and is supported by a private office. The Reading Clerk occupies an office close to the Lord Speaker's and manages the private office.



## **Dress**

The Lord Speaker wears a gown when in the chamber, like that worn by clerks at the Table and QCs. Under the gown, and for other official duties outside the chamber when a gown would not be suitable, the Lord Speaker wears court dress.

For state occasions and similar ceremonies outside the chamber, when parliamentary robes might be unsuitable, the Lord Speaker wears a black and gold robe (without a train).

## **Statutory functions**

Schedule 6 to the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 conferred on the Lord Speaker the following functions (previously undertaken by the Lord Chancellor):

- under the Clerk of the Parliaments Act 1824, the power to appoint, subject to approval by the House, clerks officiating at the Table other than the Clerk of the Parliaments;
- under the Parliamentary Papers Act 1840, the role (held concurrently with the Clerk of the Parliaments) of certifying that papers have been published by order of the House;
- under the Church of England (Assembly) Powers Act 1919, the appointment of the Lords members of the Ecclesiastical Committee;
- under the Statutory Instruments Act 1946 and the Laying of Documents before Parliament (Interpretation) Act 1948, the role of receiving notifications in cases where a statutory instrument comes into operation before being laid;
- under the Consolidation of Enactments (Procedure) Act 1949, certain functions in relation to the parliamentary scrutiny of consolidation bills which incorporate “corrections and minor improvements”;
- under the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1957, the giving of authority for an authorised officer to perform functions of the Comptroller and Auditor General;
- under the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975, the power to determine who is the Leader of the Opposition in the House;
- under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the duty of recalling the House if emergency regulations are made during an adjournment ending more than five days later;
- under the Statutory Instruments Regulations 1947, the function, jointly with the Speaker of the House of Commons, of nominating the members, and establishing the quorum, of the Statutory Instruments Reference Committee;
- under the Church Commissioners Measure 1947, the role of Church Commissioner.

Under the Planning Acts, various functions relating to Westminster Hall and the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft are conferred on the Lord Speaker and exercisable jointly with the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Under the House of Lords Reform Act 2014, the Lord Speaker issues certificates if a peer has not attended the House during a session lasting six months or more; and if a member of the House is convicted of a serious criminal offence.







## **Election of the Lord Speaker**

### **CANDIDATURE FORM**



I wish to be a candidate in this election.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Proposer**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Secunder**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to arrive by 5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016 to:

Journal Office  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

Candidates are invited, but not required, to submit an election address of up to 75 words for circulation with the list of candidates. These must be received by the Journal Office by 5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016. Candidature forms and election addresses received after the deadline will not be accepted. If submitting an election address please ensure it does not exceed 75 words.





## **Election of the Lord Speaker**

### **APPLICATION FOR POSTAL VOTE**

I wish to apply for a postal vote in this election.

I understand that the ballot paper will be posted on Monday 23 May 2016, and that it will be sent to me at the House of Lords, unless I provide an alternative address in the box below.

I would like the ballot paper to be sent to me at the following address:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to arrive by 5pm on Thursday 19 May 2016 to:

Journal Office  
House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW

Or scan and email it to: [holjournaloffice@parliament.uk](mailto:holjournaloffice@parliament.uk)



