
24 July 2023

Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election

Notice to electors

Following the death of Lord Palmer on 10 July and the forthcoming retirement of Lord Hylton on 27 July, there will be two vacancies among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords.

Under Standing Order 9, the vacancies are to be filled by means of a by-election. Those eligible to stand are all hereditary peers whose names are on the register of hereditary peers wishing to stand for election as members of the House of Lords, maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments. All those on this register are asked to indicate by 12 noon on Thursday 24 August whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. A notice of candidates and statements will be sent out on Monday 4 September.

Lord Palmer and Lord Hylton were two of the 28 hereditary peers elected by the Crossbench hereditary peers in 1999. Under Standing Order 9(2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, of whom on 27 July there will be 32 eligible to vote.¹ A projected list is given in Annex 1.

Timetable and conduct of the by-election

Candidates will be invited, but not required, to submit statements in support of their candidature. Such statements will be circulated by the House Administration to all electors. Statements must not exceed 75 words.

The Code of Conduct for the by-election is in Annex 2. Civica Election Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

¹ This figure comprises 28 hereditary peers elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers; three hereditary peers elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers; and the Earl Marshal, who sits as a Crossbencher.

The timetable for the by-election is:

Thursday 24 August, 12 noon	Deadline for candidate registration and deadline for members to register for a postal vote (only members with accessibility requirements or members without a parliamentary email address may request a postal vote).
Monday 4 September	Ballot papers sent by Civica Election Services to those requesting a postal vote.
Monday 4 September	List of candidates and statements issued to electors.
Tuesday 12 September	Hustings (arranged by the Crossbench Convenors Office).
Tuesday 19 September	Voting to take place electronically from 10am until 5pm on Tuesday 19 September. 5pm on 19 September is also the deadline for receipt of postal ballot papers.
Wednesday 20 September	Result of the by-election reported to the House.

Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. One election, with one digital ‘ballot paper’, will be held to elect two hereditary peers. The Single Transferable Vote system will be used. Voters will place the name of the candidate they most strongly support at the top of the digital ballot paper, then place their next most favoured candidate below, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish.

In order to be elected, a successful candidate must achieve the number of votes required for election. The number of votes required for election at each stage is calculated by dividing the total number of valid votes by one more than the number to be elected.

Even though two candidates are being elected, the digital ballot paper should be marked with only one “1”, one “2”, etc.

The results of the by-election will be announced in the House of Lords Chamber by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a convenient moment (likely to be after oral questions) on Wednesday 20 September.

The full result, including the number of first preference votes cast for each candidate and the position after each transfer of votes, will be available in the Printed Paper Office soon after the announcement by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The result will also be published online at www.parliament.uk.

Postal ballots

Members who have accessibility needs which mean they cannot use the online voting system or who do not have a parliamentary email address may request a postal vote. Such requests for postal votes must be received by 12 noon on Thursday 24 August by returning the form below. Members should specify the address to which the ballot paper should be posted. Ballot papers will be posted on Monday 4 September. The ballot papers for postal votes will be sent by Civica Election Services. The ballot papers must be returned by post to Civica Election Services (a prepaid addressed envelope will be provided). Postal votes must be returned to Civica Election Services by 5pm on Tuesday 19 September. Postal ballot papers arriving after the deadline will not be counted.

Data sharing

Electors should note that their name, parliamentary email address and, if they wish to request a postal ballot, their postal address will be shared with Civica Election Services for the purposes of the administration of the by-election. The lawful basis for processing this information is Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018.

Enquiries

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By email: hlbyelections@parliament.uk
- By telephone: 0207 219 4808/2257

24 July 2023

SIMON BURTON
Clerk of the Parliaments

Annex I: Excepted Crossbench hereditary peers projected for 27 July 2023

Elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers:

Aberdare, L.	Mountevans, L.
Brookeborough, V.	Peel, E.
Carrington, L.	Ravensdale, L.
Clancarty, E.	Rosslyn, E.
Cork and Orrery, E.	Russell of Liverpool, L.
Craigavon, V.	St John of Bletso, L.
Cromwell, L.	Sandwich, E.
Devon, E.	Somerset, D.
Erroll, E.	Stair, E.
Freyberg, L.	Thurlow, L.
Greenway, L.	Trevethin and Oaksey, L.
Hampton, L.	Vaux of Harrowden, L.
Kinnoull, E.	Waverley, V.
Lytton, E.	Wellington, D.

Elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers:

Colville of Culross, V.
Londesborough, L.
Oxford and Asquith, E.

Other excepted Crossbench hereditary peer:

Norfolk, D.

Annex 2: 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 by-election.
4. Candidates may not solicit votes near the room where the by-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.

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APPLICATION FOR POSTAL VOTE

I wish to apply for a postal vote in this election. I have accessibility needs which mean I cannot use the online voting system or I do not have a parliamentary email address.

I understand that the ballot paper will be posted on Monday 4 September to the address I have provided in the box below.

Electors should note that their name, parliamentary email address and the postal address provided below will be shared with Civica Election Services for the purposes of the administration of the by-election. The lawful basis for processing this information is Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018.

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 12 noon on Thursday 24 August to:

Journal Office
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

Or scan and email it to: hlbyelections@parliament.uk