

GUIDANCE FOR HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

Qualifications of candidates

1. A candidate must be a lay person who:
 - a) has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the General Synod;
 - b) either is confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);
 - c) is aged 18 or over on the date of dissolution of the General Synod; and
 - d) satisfies one of the following conditions:
 - i. is on the church electoral roll of a parish in the diocese or, in the case of a cathedral in the diocese, if not a parish church, on the community roll;
 - ii. is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.
2. Unlike electors, candidates need not be members of a deanery synod.
3. Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 14th July 2026 (the date of the dissolution of the 2021-2026 General Synod).
4. However, the leader of a mission initiative may declare a person to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative, at any time from Monday 15th June to 12th August 2026 inclusive.
5. A candidate must **not** be the holder of a paid office or employment to which one of the following central bodies may make or confirm an appointment:
 - the General Synod
 - the Convocations
 - the Church Commissioners (but a Church Commissioner in receipt of a salary or other emolument is not disqualified)
 - the Church of England Pensions Board
 - the Archbishops' Council
 - the Corporation of the Church House
6. A person is also disqualified if the person is included in a barred list under the [Safeguarding and Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#) or the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in [Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933](#)

7. A candidate may not stand for more than one diocese or electoral area simultaneously but may stand for an electoral area other than that in which the candidate is on an electoral roll or, if entered on the community roll of a cathedral that is not a parish church, may stand for an area other than that in which the cathedral is situated.

Qualifications of nominators

8. Nominators must be diocesan electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Tuesday 14th July 2026. The diocesan electors are the members of the house of laity of each deanery synod in the diocese, other than the co-opted members and the members of a religious community with representation in the General Synod.
9. If a poll is held, the name of each nominator of a candidate will be published alongside the name of the candidate.

Election addresses

Every candidate is entitled to ask the presiding officer to circulate an election address to the electors. The address is to be prepared at the candidate's own expense.

In a laity election, the address must be either in that electronic form or in hard copy on either or both sides of a single sheet of A4 paper.

Election addresses will be sent by the presiding officer to the electors with the invitations to vote on Monday 21st September 2026. They must be uploaded via the Elections portal run by Civica Election Services or given to the presiding officer, by e-mail to: Presiding.Officer@bathwells.anglican.org or by post or in person at Flourish House, Cathedral Park, Wells, Somerset BA5 1FD, so as to be received by the presiding officer by 5 p.m. on Monday 7th September 2026. The presiding officer is under no obligation to circulate addresses received after that or which are not in the required form.

The election address of each elected candidate will be displayed on the diocesan website until the end of the quinquennium (or, if the elected person ceases to be a member at some earlier date, until that date).

Those wishing to stand for election may wish to know that Synod members will be reimbursed for travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses for meetings held in London, and travel for meetings held in York (as the diocese will be billed directly for your accommodation and meals). If you are not able to pay up front for these things, we will work with you to ensure this is not a barrier to you serving on General Synod.

Potential candidates may also wish to know that the 2026/27 rate of compensation set by the Archbishops' Council for loss of earnings due to attendance at General Synod or at meetings of the Synod's or Council's subordinate bodies is the actual loss up to £220 per day of absence.