

GUIDANCE FOR PROCTORIAL ELECTIONS

Qualifications of candidates

1. A candidate must be an ordained priest or deacon who is one of the following:
 - a) a qualified elector (see paragraphs 3 and 4 below) in the diocese (excluding all assistant bishops);
 - b) a person who has written permission from the bishop to officiate in the diocese and who would be a qualified elector in the diocese if the person was a member of a deanery synod in the diocese (or in the diocese in Europe, a member of a deanery or archdeaconry synod, or in the diocese of Sodor and Man, a member of the diocesan synod).
 - c) a person qualified to vote in the Universities and TEl constituency who:
 - i. would be qualified as a diocesan elector (see paragraphs 3 and 4 below) but for the fact that he or she is qualified to vote in that constituency,
 - ii. is beneficed in, or licensed to, any parish in the diocese or is licensed to serve as a vicar in a team ministry in any benefice in the diocese; and
 - iii. has chosen to stand in the diocesan election rather than in the election to the universities and TEl constituency
2. 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
3. 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](#).

Qualification of nominators

4. Nominators must be electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 14th July 2026 (the date of dissolution of the 2021-2026 Convocations and General Synod). A bishop, priest or deacon is a qualified elector (subject to the exceptions in paragraph 4 below) if in one of the following categories:
 - a) assistant bishops in the diocese (but *not* members of the house of bishops of the diocesan synod);
 - b) archdeacons of the diocese;
 - c) beneficed clergy of the diocese;
 - d) clergy holding office in a cathedral in the diocese (including residentiary canons and other cathedral clergy who are appointed to work at the cathedral but not non-residentiary/honorary canons);
 - e) in the diocese of London and Oxford respectively: clergy holding office at Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Windsor (but *not* the deans of those collegiate churches);
 - f) clergy licensed under seal by the bishop of the diocese (including any clergy resident outside the diocese but holding licence of the bishop of that diocese); and
 - g) clergy with permission to officiate who are members of a deanery synod of the diocese (in the diocese in Europe, of a deanery or archdeaconry synod; in the diocese of Sodor and Man, of the diocesan synod).
5. The following are *not* qualified electors:
 - a) suffragan and other bishops who are members of the house of bishops of the diocesan synod;
 - b) the dean of any cathedral in the diocese and the dean of Jersey and the dean of Guernsey;
 - c) the dean of Westminster and the dean of St. George's Chapel, Windsor;
 - d) Forces chaplains who participate in the election of representatives held by the Armed Forces Synod;
 - e) the Chaplain-General of Prisons;
 - f) electors in the universities and TEs constituency; and
 - g) members of religious communities.

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 proctorial election, the address must be in electronic form capable of being printed 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.