

# Open Labour National Committee 2021 Elections

## Code of conduct for Candidates

Past elections have been undertaken in a good natured and comradely way and our constitution doesn't have strict rules or codes of conduct in place in keeping with the spirit of the organisation.

Again, this year our elections are being overseen by our Returning Officer, Charlie Mansell, who has many years' experience of running and adjudicating elections in Labour Movement organisations. Charlie will adjudicate on any complaints and if you have a complaint please contact Charlie on [returningofficer@openlabour.org](mailto:returningofficer@openlabour.org) with the email subject line "Open Labour Elections".

The timetable for elections is as follows:

- Nominations Open: Monday 5th July 2021
- Nominations Close: Monday 19th July 2021 (Start of campaign period)
- Ballots Open: Friday 23rd July 2021
- Ballots Close: Friday 6th August 2021 (End of the campaign period)

Following the close of nominations all prospective candidates will be asked to accept their nomination and will be official able to begin campaigning. All candidates are asked to refrain from campaigning until the close of nominations.

Many of those standing for election will have experience and hold data from Open Labour National or Regional activity whether in terms of membership lists, google forms, whatsapp groups etc. You need to be mindful of GDPR rules and any data obtained through these activities which isn't available to all candidates is a breach of GDPR as its data not being used for its intended purpose. Charlie has ruled that any such breach will result in the candidacy being ruled out of order, if the ballots have already been sent then your result will be declared invalid. This will be subject to consultation with Committee Members not contesting the Election.

It has been welcome to see the level of innovative campaigning on people's social media platforms and this is to be encouraged. Please promote your own candidatures and do not denigrate other candidates. Negative campaigning is not in the spirit of the organisation.

The Returning Officer may use any of the following sanctions as they see fit, in any order, as outlined below:

- Written Warning
- Campaigning Bans
- Final Written Warning
- Exclusion from elections

The Returning Officer may consult with National Committee Members not in contested elections to consider exclusion without delay and using whatever means are appropriate and fair to the parties concerned. The decision shall be final.