

Can you stand for election?

This document is for

Prospective candidates and election agents who want to know the rules on standing in the National Assembly for Wales elections. Throughout this document we use 'you' to refer to the candidate.

The document covers

- Qualifications required to stand for election
- Disqualifications

Related documents

- [Getting nominated](#)

Forms

- [Nomination papers](#)

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Types of candidates

The National Assembly for Wales election is made up of two contests: a constituency election and a regional election. You may stand as:

- a constituency candidate
- a candidate named on a party list at the regional election
- an individual candidate at the regional election

You cannot stand for election in a constituency and a region at the same time, or in more than one constituency or region.

Do I qualify for standing for election?

To qualify as a constituency or regional candidate you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an **eligible** Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union

This must be true on the day you are nominated **and** on polling day.

Disqualifications

Apart from meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified from standing. There are certain people who are disqualified from being elected to the National Assembly for Wales. You cannot be a candidate if at the time of your nomination or election you:

- are a judge
- are a civil servant
- are a member of the armed forces
- are a member of a police force

An **eligible** Commonwealth citizen is a person who either:

- does not need leave to remain in the United Kingdom, or
- has indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom

- are a member of a legislature of any country or territory outside the Commonwealth (other than Ireland)
- are employed as a member of staff of the Assembly
- hold an office that is mentioned in [The National Assembly for Wales \(Disqualification\) Order 2010](#)
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order

A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been convicted or reported guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.

What to do if in doubt

If you are in any doubt about whether or not you are disqualified from standing for election, you must take action to be sure you are not disqualified. If you do not, you could be found guilty of making a false statement on the Consent to nomination form, which is a criminal offence. You should consult the legislation or, if necessary, take independent legal advice. The Returning Officer will not be able to confirm whether or not you are disqualified.

The full range of disqualifications is complex and exceptions may apply. You should consult the relevant legislation to ensure that none of the disqualifications apply and, if in doubt, seek your own legal advice.

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How we can help

You can view our full range of guidance and up-to-date resources on our website. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Call us on: 029 2034 6800

Email us at: infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk

Visit us at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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