

# Dealing with doubtful ballot papers

Supporting the Senedd election

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# 1 Introduction

1.1 This booklet is designed to assist Returning Officers (ROs) in adjudicating doubtful ballot papers at Senedd Cymru elections.

This booklet should also be read in conjunction with our general guidance on managing the verification and count which can be found on [our website](#).

1.2 The RO may delegate the final decision on adjudication to one or more deputies, but this should be done explicitly in writing.

1.3 Because the RO discharges a statutory function in adjudicating doubtful votes, the RO or your authorised Deputy RO, and not any other staff employed by the RO at the count, should carry out this function.

1.4 One of the aims of this booklet is to help to ensure consistency of approach across Wales.

1.5 The booklet is based on existing doubtful ballot paper guidance for other elections, which has been developed in consultation with representatives from across the electoral community, including members of the Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group. The Electoral Commission is grateful for their assistance throughout this process.

1.6 When undertaking the adjudication of ballot papers it is important to ensure that the process is carried out in full view of all candidates and agents present at the count, as well as in the presence of any Commission representatives and accredited observers in attendance.

## Managing the adjudication at Senedd elections

1.7 ROs should not wait until towards the end before starting the adjudication process; this should be carried out regularly throughout the count process in clear view of those entitled to be present.

1.8 Those ballot papers that have been rejected should be stamped with the word 'rejected' or 'gwrthodwyd', or both and placed in the appropriate package.<sup>1</sup> All other ballot papers must be counted.

1.9 A statement must be prepared showing the number of ballot papers rejected under each of the following headings:<sup>2</sup>

- does not bear the official mark
- more than one vote given
- writing or mark by which the voter could be identified
- unmarked or void for uncertainty

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 60(5) Schedule 5, The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025

<sup>2</sup> Rule 60(7) Schedule 5, The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025

## 2 Principles of adjudication

2.1 Any doubtful ballot papers should be placed in a tray for the supervisor to take to the RO for adjudication. The whole of the ballot paper needs to be considered when adjudicating doubtful in case the voter has made any marks outside of the voting boxes.

2.2 The RO may only reject a ballot paper on the following grounds:

- that it does not bear an official mark
- more than one vote is given
- anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified (except the printed ballot paper number or other unique identifying mark)
- that it is unmarked or void for uncertainty

2.3 A ballot paper must not be rejected because the vote is marked<sup>3</sup>

- elsewhere than in the proper place
- otherwise than by means of a cross, or
- by more than one mark,

if the voter's intention clearly appears on the ballot paper.

2.4 Therefore, the following ballot papers will need to be passed to the RO for adjudication:

- those that appear to have no official mark
- those appearing to contain more than one vote
- those with any writing or mark by which the voter may be identified
- those where there is no mark or uncertainty as to the vote

2.5 In addition, in order to help maintain the integrity of the election, the following ballot papers should be passed to the RO for further consideration:

- any paper torn or damaged in any way
- any paper with anything unusual about it (for example, any paper that appears to have been altered, either with a clearly different writing instrument or with correction fluid).

2.6 In the case of ballot papers that appear to have been altered, ROs may consider packaging them separately in case of later challenge of investigation.

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<sup>3</sup> Rule 60(2), Schedule 5, The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025

## Want of official mark

2.7 Absence of the official mark must lead to an automatic rejection. The RO has no discretion in this regard.

2.8 However, where instead of a pre-printed official mark a stamping instrument has been used, a partial piercing or embossing of the ballot paper should not in itself result in a rejection.<sup>4</sup> As long as it is clear that the ballot paper has been stamped by polling station staff, the fact that not all the pins have stamped through the ballot paper or that the perforation is not wholly on the paper is immaterial.

## Ballot papers with more than one mark

2.9 This is a matter for the RO's judgement.

2.10 Additional marks must not lead to a rejection if it is clear that those marks were not intended as a vote.<sup>5</sup>

## Writing or mark by which voter can be identified

2.11 There are two aspects to this:

- either any writing or mark on the ballot paper which, of itself, identifies the voter, or
- the voter can be identified by such writing or mark

2.12 It is important to bear in mind that the legislation states that the voter **can be**, not may be or might possibly be, identified (which does not include the ballot paper number and unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper).

### Writing or mark which, of itself, identifies the voter

2.13 A ballot paper must be rejected if:

- the electoral number of the voter written on the ballot paper unequivocally identifies the voter
- it may reasonably be held to bear the name (or signature) or unique address of the voter on its front.

### The voter can be indirectly identified by any writing or mark on the ballot paper

2.14 The RO is not required to investigate the matter or require evidence to be produced to identify the writing or mark. But the RO should consider any evidence that is given to them at the time.

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<sup>4</sup> Cirencester case, *Lawson v. Chester-Master* (1893) 4 O'M & H 194 and *Newington case*, *Lewis v. Shepperdson* (1948) 2 All ER 503.

<sup>5</sup> *Woodward v Sarsons* (1875), LR 10, CP74 and *Cirencester case* (1893).

2.15 Where there is doubt about the identity of the person who marked the ballot paper, the RO should allow rather than reject the ballot paper.

## Unmarked ballot papers

2.16 Unmarked ballot papers must be rejected.

2.17 A ballot paper marked by means other than a ballot pencil should not be rejected simply because of that.

2.18 Marks other than a cross, however faint, may still be valid.

## Decisions on ballot papers

2.19 The decision of the RO is final, but may be subject to review on an election petition.

## Void for uncertainty

2.20 Establishing voter intention is crucial when determining doubtful ballot papers.

2.21 The key phrase in the Rules is: 'The ballot paper is not [...] to be treated as void, either wholly or as respect of that vote if it is clear from the ballot paper that the voter intended to vote for one or other of the candidates<sup>6</sup>'.

2.22 Each ballot paper should be considered on its own merits and decisions should be taken on a case-by-case basis.

2.23 The key question you should ask is whether the voter has, on the face of the paper, indicated a reasonably clear intention to vote for a candidate or party.

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<sup>6</sup> Rule 60(3) Schedule 5 Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025

# 3 Summary

3.1 The principles to be applied are set out above. In practical terms, the general approach can be summarised as follows:

- always be clear and consistent
- take time to ensure that a considered decision is given in every case
- determine whether the intention of the voter clearly appears on the ballot paper. As part of this, ROs will need to:
  - consider the whole of the ballot paper
  - consider whether the way a ballot paper has been marked means that a vote for one candidate or party is clearly apparent

# 4 Examples

4.1 The examples provided here under 'allowed' and 'rejected' headings are based on previous case law or taken from the specific rules for the elections.

4.2 Ultimately, the decision on any particular ballot paper, including the question as to whether an intention to vote for a particular candidate or party appears, rests with the RO.

## Case law references

4.3 Abbreviated case law references have been used throughout this booklet. The following table lists the full case law references.

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full reference</b>
Berwick-upon-Tweed case	Berwick-upon-Tweed case [1880] 3O'M&H 178
Buckrose case	Buckrose case, Sykes v. McArthur[1886] 5 O'M&H 110
Cirencester case	Lawson v. Chester Master [1893]
Cornwell v Marshall	Cornwell v. Marshall [1977] 75 LGR 676 DC
Eley v Durant	Eley v. Durant [1900] 4SJ 430
Levers v Morris	Levers v. Morris [1971] 3 All ER QBD
Rowe v Cox M/294/01	Rowe v. Cox [2001] QBD, Case
Ruffle v Rogers	Ruffle v. Rogers [1982] QB 1220
South Newington case	South Newington case, Lewis v. Shepperdson [1948] 2 All ER 503
West Bromwich case	West Bromwich case, Hazel v. Viscount Lewisham [1911] 6 O'M&H 256
Woodward v Sarsons 733	Woodward v. Sarsons [1875] LR10 CP

## Examples of allowed votes

<p><b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency</p>	<p><b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....</p>
<p>Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice</p>	<p>Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis</p>

### Bloggs Party

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar




### Cromwell Party

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire




### Nightingale Party

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm




### Pelican Party

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore




### Tudor Party

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto




### Baker, Cupcake

Independent

Allow for Bloggs party – vote marked for a particular candidate on a party list.  
Rule 60(4)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....Constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth.....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <b>X</b> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <b>X</b> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

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**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar





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**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire





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**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm





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**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore





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**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto





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**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent



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Allow for Tudor Party – vote marked elsewhere than in the proper place and otherwise than means of a cross. Rule 60(2)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar




**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Bluu Sapphire




**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm




**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore




**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto




**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent

Allow for Nightingale party – vote for a particular candidate on a party list.  
 Rule 60(4)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b>	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b>
Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth.....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar



**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire



**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm



**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore



**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto



**Baker, Cupcake**



Independent



Allow for Bloggs Party – Berwick-upon-Tweed case and Rule 60(2)(a)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b>	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b>
Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth.....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis


**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber	6. Blossom Tree		
2. Dusty Boots	7. Roger James		
3. Earl Grey	8. August Ceasar		
4. Robin Hood			
5. Mary Contrary			


**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller	6. Orion Belt		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Jane Doe	7. Anita Patel		
3. John Smith	8. Blu Sapphire		
4. Harper Graham			
5. Benedict Eggs			


**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket	6. Basil Brush		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Kris Kringle	7. Sunny Day		
3. Hamish Scot	8. Rain Storm		
4. Pepper Pott			
5. Susannah Salt			

**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos	6. Victoria Line		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Suki Moon	7. Briana Spers		
3. May Day	8. Sandy Shore		
4. River Deep			
5. Dallas Cowboy			

**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall	6. Jemima Duck		<input type="checkbox"/>
2. William Shakes	7. Lincoln President		
3. Grace Period	8. Satsuma Kyoto		
4. Coral Reef			
5. Vincent Flowers			

**Baker, Cupcake**  
Independent

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Allow for Baker – Cirencester case, Eley v Durant and Rule 60(2)(c)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b>	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b>
Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote only once by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch unwaith yn unig drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a'ch dewis

### Bloggs Party

1. All Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Caesar



2

### Cromwell Party

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire



4

### Nightingale Party

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringie
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm



1

### Pelican Party

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore



3

### Tudor Party

1. Lelf Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto



6

### Baker, Cupcake Independent

5

Allow for Nightingale Party – Rule 60(2)(b)

## Examples of rejected votes

<p><b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency</p>	<p><b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....</p>
<p>Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice</p>	<p>Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis</p>

### Bloggs Party

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Caesar




### Cromwell Party

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire




### Nightingale Party

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm




### Pelican Party

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore




### Tudor Party

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto




### Baker, Cupcake Independent

F Brown  
77 Poppy Drive

Reject – voter can be identified. *Woodward v Sarsons*, South Newington case, and Rule 60(1)(c)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

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**Bloggs Party**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ali Barber    | 6. Blossom Tree  |
| 2. Dusty Boots   | 7. Roger James   |
| 3. Earl Grey     | 8. August Ceasar |
| 4. Robin Hood    |                  |
| 5. Mary Contrary |                  |





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**Cromwell Party**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Terry Teller  | 6. Orion Belt   |
| 2. Jane Doe      | 7. Anita Patel  |
| 3. John Smith    | 8. Blu Sapphire |
| 4. Harper Graham |                 |
| 5. Benedict Eggs |                 |





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**Nightingale Party**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Charles Bucket | 6. Basil Brush |
| 2. Kris Kringle   | 7. Sunny Day   |
| 3. Hamish Scot    | 8. Rain Storm  |
| 4. Pepper Pott    |                |
| 5. Susannah Salt  |                |





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**Pelican Party**

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Michael Angelos | 6. Victoria Line |
| 2. Suki Moon       | 7. Briana Spers  |
| 3. May Day         | 8. Sandy Shore   |
| 4. River Deep      |                  |
| 5. Dallas Cowboy   |                  |





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**Tudor Party**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Leif Fall       | 6. Jemima Duck       |
| 2. William Shakes  | 7. Lincoln President |
| 3. Grace Period    | 8. Satsuma Kyoto     |
| 4. Coral Reef      |                      |
| 5. Vincent Flowers |                      |





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**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent



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Reject – voter’s intention uncertain. Buckrose case and Rule 60(1)(d)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....Constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

### Bloggs Party

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar




### Cromwell Party

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire




### Nightingale Party

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm




### Pelican Party

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore




### Tudor Party

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto




### Baker, Cupcake

Independent

none of the above ✓

Reject – voter's intention uncertain. Rule 60(1)(d)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth.....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a'ch dewis

**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar



**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire



**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm



**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Spers
8. Sandy Shore



**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto



**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent



Reject – voting for more than one registered party or individual candidate.  
 Rule 60(1)(b)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

**Bloggs Party**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ali Barber    | 6. Blossom Tree  |
| 2. Dusty Boots   | 7. Roger James   |
| 3. Earl Grey     | 8. August Ceasar |
| 4. Robin Hood    |                  |
| 5. Mary Contrary |                  |




**Cromwell Party**

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Terry Teller  | 6. Orion Belt   |
| 2. Jane Doe      | 7. Anita Patel  |
| 3. John Smith    | 8. Blu Sapphire |
| 4. Harper Graham |                 |
| 5. Benedict Eggs |                 |




**Nightingale Party**

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Charles Bucket | 6. Basil Brush |
| 2. Kris Kringle   | 7. Sunny Day   |
| 3. Hamish Scot    | 8. Rain Storm  |
| 4. Pepper Pott    |                |
| 5. Susannah Salt  |                |




**Pelican Party**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Michael Angelos | 6. Victoria Line <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Suki Moon       | 7. Briana Spers                                      |
| 3. May Day         | 8. Sandy Shore                                       |
| 4. River Deep      |  |
| 5. Dallas Cowboy   |  |




**Tudor Party**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Leif Fall       | 6. Jemima Duck       |
| 2. William Shakes  | 7. Lincoln President |
| 3. Grace Period    | 8. Satsuma Kyoto     |
| 4. Coral Reef      |                      |
| 5. Vincent Flowers |                      |




**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent

Reject – voting for more than one registered party or individual candidate.  
 Rule 60(1)(b)

<b>Senedd Cymru election</b> Ballot paper to elect the Senedd Cymru members for the .....constituency	<b>Etholiad i Senedd Cymru</b> Papur pleidleisio ar gyfer ethol Aelodau Senedd Cymru ar gyfer etholaeth .....
Vote <b>only once</b> by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	Pleidleiswch <b>unwaith yn unig</b> drwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y bocs pleidleisio gyferbyn a ch dewis

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**Bloggs Party**

1. Ali Barber
2. Dusty Boots
3. Earl Grey
4. Robin Hood
5. Mary Contrary

6. Blossom Tree
7. Roger James
8. August Ceasar





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**Cromwell Party**

1. Terry Teller
2. Jane Doe
3. John Smith
4. Harper Graham
5. Benedict Eggs

6. Orion Belt
7. Anita Patel
8. Blu Sapphire





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**Nightingale Party**

1. Charles Bucket
2. Kris Kringle
3. Hamish Scot
4. Pepper Pott
5. Susannah Salt

6. Basil Brush
7. Sunny Day
8. Rain Storm





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**Pelican Party**

1. Michael Angelos
2. Suki Moon
3. May Day
4. River Deep
5. Dallas Cowboy

6. Victoria Line
7. Briana Opers
8. Sandy Shore





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**Tudor Party**

1. Leif Fall
2. William Shakes
3. Grace Period
4. Coral Reef
5. Vincent Flowers

6. Jemima Duck
7. Lincoln President
8. Satsuma Kyoto





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**Baker, Cupcake**

Independent



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Reject – voting for more than one registered party or individual candidate.  
 Rule 60(1)(b)

# Annex - Legislation

## Senedd Cymru election rules

The relevant rules on adjudicating doubtful ballot papers are contained in Schedule 5 of The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) Order 2025 and are as follows:

### Rejected ballot papers

- (60)** (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (4), the following ballot papers are void and must not be counted
- (a) a ballot paper that does not bear the official mark;
  - (b) ballot paper on which more than one vote is given;
  - (c) a ballot paper on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number or other unique identifying mark on the back;
  - (d) a ballot paper that is unmarked or void for uncertainty,
- (2) Paragraphs (3) and (4) apply to a ballot paper on which a vote is marked—
- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place;
  - (b) otherwise than by means of a cross; or
  - (c) by more than one mark.
- (3) The ballot paper is not, by reason only of how the vote is marked, to be treated as void, either wholly or as respects of that vote if –
- (a) it is clear from the ballot paper that the voter intended to vote for one or other of the candidates
  - (b) the way the ballot paper does not identify the voter
  - (c) the Returning Officer is satisfied that the voter cannot be identified from the ballot paper.
- (4) A ballot paper on which a vote is marked for a particular party list candidate on the party list of a registered political party is, if otherwise valid, to be treated as a vote for that party, whether or not there is also a vote marked for that party
- (5) The Returning Officer must endorse the word “gwrthodwyd” or the word “rejected” or both on any ballot paper which, in accordance with this rule is not to be counted.
- (6) If a counting agent objects to the Returning Officer’s decision, the Returning Officer must add the words “gwrthwynebwyd y gwrthodiad” or the words “rejection objected to” or both, to the endorsement.
- (7) The Returning Officer must prepare a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected.
- (8) The statement must set out the number rejected under each of the headings in paragraph (1)

## **Decisions on ballot papers**

**62.** The decision of the returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper is final, but may be reviewed on an Senedd election petition.