

Referendum on the UK Parliamentary voting system: Campaigner update March 2011

We issue updates to campaigners at the referendum on 5 May when we consider it helpful to do so.

This update covers:

- 'Yes' and 'No' lead campaigners appointed
- Working with lead campaign groups
- Reminder: deadlines for appointing referendum agents
- Sign up to our postal voting code of conduct!

'Yes' and 'No' lead campaigners appointed

Following the deadline for applications on 15 March, we have now appointed the official lead campaign groups at the referendum:

- **Yes in May 2011 Limited** for the 'Yes' side of the debate. They campaign as Yes to Fairer Votes.
- **No Campaign Limited** for the 'No' side of the debate. They campaign as No to AV.

They now have the following benefits:

- A spending limit of £5 million
- A free mail delivery to voters
- Referendum broadcasts
- A publicly funded grant of up to £380,000, administered by us, the Electoral Commission
- Free use of certain public rooms

You can see their applications, and how the Commission Board reached its decision, on [our website page for this referendum](#).

Working with lead campaign groups

There are special rules on donating or lending to lead campaign groups, and on working with them.

- Political parties can make donations and loans to lead campaign groups. They are not allowed to do so to other campaigners.
- If a group is working with the lead campaign group, all spending on joint activity counts only towards the lead campaign group's spending limit, and not towards the other group's. This means that the rules on 'working together' do not apply.

You can find out more about the rules on 'working together' in our [Overview of Referendum Spending](#).

Reminder: Deadlines for appointing referendum agents

If you are registered with us as a referendum campaigner, you may wish to attend some or all local referendum counts. If so, you **must** appoint a referendum agent for each local area where you want to attend the count.

You must notify the appointment to the local counting officer for each area by **midday on Thursday 7 April**.

You can find guidance and a form for notification on [our guidance page](#).

Sign up to our postal voting code of conduct!

Our code of conduct for the handling of postal vote applications and ballot papers has been updated to cover referendum campaigners.

Voters often ask campaigners for help with information and forms about postal voting, and we encourage campaigners to assist voters where appropriate.

However, when campaigners handle application forms and ballot packs, this can lead to their honesty and integrity being questioned, even if they are acting in good faith.

If you and your team follow the good practice in our code, it will help you to avoid situations where questions could arise.

You can find the code on [our guidance page](#).

Many large political parties have signed up to the code. If you would like to do so, please get in touch with us on 020 7271 0616 or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

Where you can find more information

We are always happy to give campaigners advice on how to comply with the rules.

For advice, or to sign up to receive these updates, please contact us on 020 7271 0616, or pef@electoralcommission.org.uk, or at:

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