

## HOUSE OF LAITY ELECTIONS

### Qualifications of candidates

1. A candidate must be a lay person who:
  - (a) has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or a Church in communion with it at least three times in the twelve months before the date of the dissolution of the General Synod;
  - (b) either is confirmed (or ready and desirous of being confirmed) or comes within paragraph 1(b) of Canon B 15A (i.e. is a communicant member of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity);
  - (c) is aged 18 or over on the date of dissolution of the General Synod; and
  - (d) satisfies one of the following conditions:
    - (i) is on the electoral roll of a chaplaincy of the diocese (which includes the cathedral and pro-cathedral chaplaincies);
    - (ii) is declared by the leader of a mission initiative in the diocese to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative.
2. A candidate need not be a diocesan elector.
3. Candidates must normally be qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (the date of the dissolution of the 2021-2026 General Synod).
4. However, the leader of a mission initiative may declare a person to be part of the worshipping community involved in the initiative, at any time from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2026 inclusive.
5. 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
6. 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](#).

7. A candidate may not stand for more than one diocese or electoral area simultaneously but may stand for an electoral area other than that in which the candidate is on an electoral roll or, if entered on the community roll of a cathedral that is not a parish church, may stand for an area other than that in which the cathedral is situated.

### **Qualifications of nominators**

8. Nominators must be diocesan electors qualified as such at 6.00 a.m. on the date of the dissolution, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026. The diocesan electors are the persons elected to act as such by the annual meetings of the chaplaincies (i.e. the lay representatives directly elected by chaplaincies to the archdeaconry or deanery synod) and the qualifications required of a diocesan elector are the same as for a candidate for election by the diocese to the General Synod under paragraph 1 above.
9. If a poll is held, the name of each nominator of a candidate will be published alongside the name of the candidate.

### **See also notes relating to:**

Election Addresses

Travel and Expenses Policy

Meetings of the General Synod, Committees and Commissions