

Below are a number of Constitutional amendments which I plan submitting to the conference myself, all of which I at least would like feedback from the exec on and some would strongly want them to be submitted as the Executive.

Further Education Working Group

In Section 7 remove clauses 7.1.e., 7.7. and 7.19. and renumber accordingly

Legal Compliance Clarification

In Section 4 add new clause 4.8. "If any provision of this constitution is found or suspected to be in breach of UK law, it may be amended at any time in consultation with the Honorary President, or in the case of elections with both the Honorary President and Returning Officer."

In Conference Standing Orders add

"3.4 Constitutional amendments may be rejected if they would conflict with the Constitution of the Liberal Democrats or the Law.

3.4.1 Members who's amendments have been rejected under these grounds may appeal to the Honorary President under the Appeals and Disputes system in Section 12 of the Constitution"

Executive Representation on Committees

In Section 7 clause 7.3. add "d. The Policy Officer (non-voting)" and "e. The Membership Development Officer (non-voting)"

In Section 7 clause 7.6.d after "The Campaigns Officer" add "(non-voting)"

Executive Age

In Section 9 replace clause 9.6 with "All those wishing to stand for any Executive position must be 18 or over on the day their term starts"

Election Regulations and Cooptions

Rename "Election Regulations" Appendix to "Election and Co-option Regulations"

Replace any mention of "Elections Regulations" with "Election and Co-Option Regulations"

Remove content of Election Regulations and replace with:

Section 1: Elections

1. The Returning Officer shall publish a timetable for the receipt of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each election covered by these regulations.
 - a. The election timetable shall allow a one-week nomination period and a two-week voting period, with a week-long gap in between.
 - b. Campaigning may occur from the opening of nominations until the close of voting.
2. Any eligible individual may nominate themselves to be a candidate. Nominations must include the following details:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Membership number;
 - c. The post to which election is sought;
 - d. Date of Birth;
 - e. Place of education and course end dates, in the case of those whose membership stems from being a student;
 - f. Email address;
 - g. A statement of consent to nomination, which shall constitute specific agreement to abide by these regulations.
3. Candidates shall be entitled to supply an election address to be circulated by the Returning Officer when voting opens. Election addresses must reach the Returning Officer by a date and in a format specified by the Returning Officer.
 - a. Candidates shall be responsible for supplying material to verify, to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer, any statement in their election address that claims endorsement by any individual or organisation. If this supporting material is not provided, the election address shall not be circulated.
4. Candidates shall conduct their campaigns in a manner respectful of other candidates, of members and of the law.
 - a. No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorise or cause to be incurred, any further expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations. Candidates may make use of free social media.
 - b. Candidates must not engage in treating.
 - c. Candidates who hold such information must not make use of membership lists and other information covered by the Data Protection Act in order to promote their campaigns.
 - d. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate may defame explicitly or implicitly any other candidate, and no candidate may so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
5. All elections shall be conducted under the Single Transferable Vote system
 - a. Ballots shall be sent to all full members of the organisation
 - b. All ballots shall include an option to 'Re-Open Nominations (RON)'. If this option wins then all existing nominations will be discounted and the position will be considered vacant.
 - c. All ballots shall be electronic unless the Returning Officer and Executive agree otherwise.
 - d. In the case of an electronic ballot sent by email, if two members share an email address then the Returning Officer may determine that only one ballot

should be sent. The member whose ballot is not sent may require that a ballot be sent to another email address not shared with another member.

Section 2: Co-options

1. Co-options shall be run via a two round voting process.
 - a. The first round shall be a “blind” election, whereby members of the executive will not be told the identity of the candidates but only shown their election address. The Executive shall vote to select the candidates to progress to the second round.
 - b. The top 25% of the candidates chosen in the first rounds voting shall progress to the second round. At this stage the identity of the candidates shall be given to the Executive.
 - i. If there are four candidates or fewer then the first round shall be discarded, and all candidates will progress to the second round.
 - ii. When calculating the 25% the number should be rounded up in all cases.
 - c. The Executive shall then deliberate and vote on the remaining candidates, the winner of which shall be declared the winner.
2. The Returning Officer shall publish a timetable for the receipt of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each round of a co-option
 - a. The election timetable shall allow a one-week nomination period and a period of no longer than two-weeks in which both rounds shall take place.
 - b. The voting period for each stage shall be a minimum of three days.
3. Any eligible individual may nominate themselves to be a candidate. Nominations must include the following details:
 - a. Name;
 - b. Membership number;
 - c. Date of Birth;
 - d. Place of education and course end dates, in the case of those whose membership stems from being a student;
 - e. Email address;
 - f. A statement of consent to nomination, which shall constitute specific agreement to abide by these regulations.
4. Candidates shall be entitled to supply an election address to be circulated by the Returning Officer when voting opens. Election addresses must reach the Returning Officer by a date and in a format specified by the Returning Officer.
 - a. Candidates shall be responsible for supplying material to verify, to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer, any statement in their election address that claims endorsement by any individual or organisation. If this supporting material is not provided, the election address shall not be circulated.
5. Candidates and the Executive shall conduct their campaigns in a manner respectful of all candidates, of members and of the law.

- a. No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorise or cause to be incurred, any further expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations.
- b. Candidates must not engage in treating.
- c. Candidates should not seek to identify themselves to members of the Executive during the first round.
- d. Executive members should keep the identity of candidates and of the results of the election secret until the winner is announced.
- e. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate may defame explicitly or implicitly any other candidate, and no candidate may so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.

Section 3: Complaints, disputes and appeals

1. Any member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election and co-option regulations upon becoming aware of such infringement.
 - a. The complaint should be addressed to the Returning Officer and should specify the nature of the infringement and must be received before the expiration of 21 days after the declaration.
 - b. The Returning Officer shall decide whether there is sufficient evidence to uphold the complaint but shall not do so without offering any candidate concerned the right to make representations.
 - c. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before or after the declaration of the result any candidate who is found to be in breach of these regulations.
 - d. Appeals against the decision of the Returning Officer should be directed to the Appeals Panel.