



# WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

**Title:** Branch leadership

**Proposed by:** WE Hackney Branch

**Proposer:** Rebecca Lammers

**Co-proposers:** WE Lambeth Branch

Amanda Carter-Philpott

Linda Forbes

Annie Rose

Jane Whild

Julz Valentine

Claire Empson

**Type of motion:** Policy motion

**Motion Text:**

1 We recommend the following changes to the constitution: (N.B. New text is underlined  
2 and deleted text is ~~struck through~~.)

3 In Article 7.8.4:

4 “At such open meetings Branches shall select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of  
5 nine (9) three Appointed Officers to form the branch leadership team, ~~which shall include:~~  
6 ~~a Branch Leader; a Data Manager, who shall be responsible for operating the local WE~~  
7 ~~Membership database; and a~~ All candidates must be Party Members. One person must  
8 be appointed as Registered Treasurer ~~who shall be the registered treasurer of the Local~~  
9 ~~Party in to fulfil the~~ terms of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000  
10 and any subsequent legislation. ~~The Branch may select a Branch Secretary, or may~~  
11 ~~determine that that role shall also be carried out by the Data Manager.~~ The Branch may  
12 appoint other officers, ~~including temporarily~~, for specific tasks related to the Branch’s  
13 development and may have role titles but role titles are not required. ~~Branch Members~~  
14 ~~may insist on a secret ballot to elect candidates. All candidates must be Party Members.~~  
15 All Appointed Officers and other Branch roles shall be open to roleco-sharing  
16 arrangements, with the exception of ~~the role of~~ Treasurer. ~~People who share an~~  
17 ~~Appointed Officer role shall each be Appointed Officers.~~ Branch Officers can be appointed  
18 on a temporary basis.”

19 to read:

20 “At such open meetings Branches shall select a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of  
21 nine (9) Appointed Officers to form the branch leadership team. All candidates must be  
22 Party Members. One person must be appointed as Registered Treasurer to fulfil the terms  
23



24 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and any subsequent  
25 legislation. The Branch may appoint officers for specific tasks related to the Branch's  
26 development and may have role titles but role titles are not required. All Appointed  
27 Officers shall be open to co-sharing arrangements with the exception of Treasurer.  
28 Branch Officers can be appointed on a temporary basis."

**Motion rationale:**

29 Overall, this motion's aim is to redress leadership structure at the branch level.

30 Those of us that have taken up branch officer roles during the first 5 years of the party's  
31 existence have many learnings, experience in branch development and have seen how  
32 branch leadership structure can both positively and negatively impact the ongoing  
33 business and development of a branch overall.

34 Just as the Leader of the Party has introduced Deputy Leaders to assist in running the  
35 Party, branches should also be allowed to have a collective leadership model. By allowing  
36 the Party to embrace this collective model at branch level, it is taking a step closer to  
37 accomplishing our objectives and achieving gender equality.

38 Changing the branch leadership structure in the way as suggested accomplishes a  
39 number of goals:

- 40 • It will make it easier and encourage more people to join a branch leadership team.
- 41 • It will encourage a collective branch leadership structure rather than a hierarchical  
42 structure.
- 43 • It creates a better pathway to engaging volunteers and activism at branch level.
- 44 • It allows the branch to self-organize and decide for themselves what works best for  
45 that branch leadership team rather than having to fit into pre-existing roles.
- 46 • It gives branches autonomy so they can decide if they do or don't want role titles  
47 and what titles to give if they want to (with the exception of Treasurer).
- 48 • It makes branch leadership more accessible for people who are already busy in their  
49 daily lives but want to get involved one way or another.
- 50 • As stated in the wording, co-sharing is and should remain a viable option for branch  
51 leadership.
- 52 • By increasing the pipeline of people in leadership positions in branches it enables  
53 us to stand more candidates in more elections across the country.
- 54 • We recognize the work of branches where the bulk of the workload falls on 1 - 2  
55 dedicated individuals, and this motion will enable those people to gain additional  
56 Branch Officers to spread the workload and grow branches even more.
- 57 • Sometimes role titles can put individuals off from taking a step forward to get more  
58 involved in a branch. By removing the pre-existing role titles, it makes entry to  
59 branch leadership easier.



60 Changing the Constitution to this wording does not:

- 61 • Stop branches from having roles if they want them, but it gives the option for branches  
62 to not have them too. It gives them this autonomy.
- 63 • Prevent co-sharing arrangements. It actually emphasizes it.
- 64 • Create more work for existing branch officers. It helps to spread the work required in  
65 branch development across more people.
- 66 • Make it confusing for branch members. All branch members will still be able to contact  
67 a branch in the ways they currently do, this motion would not change how members  
68 contact a branch (e.g. official branch emails will still exist).

69 Prevent someone from managing the membership database. Regardless of whatever  
70 tech platform we use for managing members, it should and will serve the party, not the  
71 other way around.