

Branch Nominations & Support for Candidates for Council Election 2020

Background

Following a referendum of the membership in early 2017, Equity's branches are able to nominate candidates for election to the Council, the union's governing body.

This facility is enshrined in the union's Rules 14 and 15.

The Council then updated the branch rules in September 2017 to define the process branches must undertake if they wish to nominate or support candidates in the election – Rule 14 for General Branches, Rule 12 for Variety Branches and Rule 12 for the Online Branch.

Nomination

Nomination is the process by which a candidate qualifies to stand in the election for Council. Candidates can be proposed and seconded by fellow members OR nominated by a branch OR nominated by a national committee (for the national councillor seats only).

Candidates, other than those standing for a General List seat, will also need to qualify for the election under Rule 15.4.

Candidates may approach more than one branch for nomination for the election, but only one branch will be listed on the ballot paper as the nominating branch. In the event of a candidate securing the agreement of more than one branch to nominate them, the candidate can choose which branch appears on their nomination.

Branches can nominate more than one candidate.

Nominations by branches must take place after nominations open on 11 March 2020 and before the close of nominations on 29 April 2020. It is the candidate's responsibility to submit their nomination before the close of nominations.

Support

Support is the process that allows branches to back a candidate who has already been nominated for the election.

A candidate can be supported by more than one branch. A decision by a branch to support a candidate can be made at any time until the ballot closes on 8 July. Branches can support more than one candidate.

What Does My Branch Need To Do Before Nominations Open?

1. Ensure that the Equity website contains an up to date list of your branch's meeting dates (particularly between 11 March and 8 July 2018);
2. Ensure that the Equity website contains up to date contact details for branch officials (particularly the branch chair and secretary);
3. Branches can decide that they do not wish to consider any candidates for nomination and/or support. This should be done by a motion at a quorate branch meeting by a simple majority. This decision should then be clearly shown on the branch's page on the Equity website.

How Does My Branch Nominate A Candidate or Candidates?

1. Candidates are free to approach any branch or branches to be nominated to run for Council. Branches cannot restrict consideration only to members of their own branch, and must ensure that the branch meeting and contact information detailed above is available to all members.
2. Any proposal for nomination must appear on the agenda circulated in advance of the branch meeting not later than seven days before the meeting.
3. This meeting must take place after the opening and before the close of nominations.
4. The decision must be made at a quorate meeting of the branch by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote and must be recorded in the minutes. Abstentions do not count either way.
5. An officer of the branch must complete and sign the relevant section of the candidate's nomination form stating clearly the name of the nominating branch.
6. Upon receipt of the nomination, Equity staff will contact the branch officer to confirm that the agenda contained the candidate's name, that

the meeting was quorate, that the nomination received a majority vote and that it was recorded in the minutes.

How Does My Branch Support a Candidate or Candidates?

1. Candidates are free to approach any branch or branches for support for their candidacy, once their nomination is confirmed. Branches cannot restrict consideration only to members of their own branch, and must ensure that the branch meeting and contact information detailed above is available to all members.
2. A candidate is only entitled to seek support for the candidacy once their nomination has been confirmed by the union.
3. Any proposal for support must appear on the agenda circulated in advance of the branch meeting not later than seven days before the meeting.
4. The meeting must take place before the close of ballot.
5. The decision must be made at a quorate meeting of the branch by a simple majority vote of those present and entitled to vote and must be recorded in the minutes. Abstentions do not count either way.

What Happens After The Meeting?

1. The candidate is responsible for submitting their nomination papers before the close of nominations.
2. The branch may report the fact of their decision to nominate or support a candidate through their newsletter, but nothing further.
3. The branch may report the fact of their decision to nominate or support a candidate, and any reasons for that decision, on their section of the Equity website or on branch social media (including social media broadcast during the meeting).
4. If a member is nominated or supported by a branch they are entitled to make that support known in any election materials they produce themselves which do not use union resources. If a candidate is supported by more than one branch they are entitled to list any or all of them in their own materials, including their election statement or video.