



St Helena  
Government



## General Election 2021

# Voting: Your questions answered

Form B	
ELECTIONS ORDINANCE, 2009	
ELECTIONS REGULATIONS	
BALLOT PAPER	
(Regulation 5)	
ADAMS, Eric	
ALLEN, Arthur	
BROWN, Mary	
BENSON, Jeremiah	
BUTTON, Benjamin	
DUDLEY, Sarah	
DIAZ, Sheri	
DOBSON, David	
EARNES, Johnathan	
EASTWOOD, Earnest	
FORBES, Matthew	
FORSTER, Ben	
JONES, Joseph	
JOHN, Wesley	
JACKSON, J. Miria	
MORRIS, Lillian	
MCDONALD, Casey	
OGBOURNE, Kyle	
PATTON, Anthony	
PANASER, Perry	
ROGERS, Edward	
SMITH, John	
STRIDER, Walter	
TERRY, Tim	
UMBRIDGE, Una	
WALKER, Terry	
WALTERS, Marianne	
YALE, Peter	

Polling Day is on Wednesday, 13 October 2021, and in this paper we provide information on all you need to know about voting, along with an example of a ballot paper.

Polling Stations will be set up in each of the eight electoral districts. Each station will be manned by a Presiding Officer and an Assistant Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer will provide each voter with a ballot paper which will have a unique number printed on the back and an official mark on both sides.

You must put an 'X' in the box alongside the names of **no more than 12 candidates** you want to vote for. You don't have to vote for 12 candidates but if you vote for more than 12 then your votes **will not** be counted.

All you need to know about voting, including voting by proxy.

Questions and Answers

# General Election 2021 - Questions & Answers

**Q. I want to vote in the General Election but I am not registered. Is it too late to get my name on the Register?**

**A.** Whilst you can make application at any time to get on the Register, applications received after a Writ of Election has been issued cannot be processed until after the election. So, if your name is not already on the Register as published in the St Helena Government Extraordinary Gazette number 94, dated 27 August 2021, you cannot vote in this year's General Election on 13 October.

**Q. I can't remember which polling district I am registered under. Where can I view this information?**

**A.** This information is printed in the Register of Electors; this can be inspected at the office of the Registration Officer in the Castle or you can check with any of the Assistant Registration Officers. Copies are also available at the Customer Services Centre, the Public Library and on the SHG Website.

**Q. Where can I cast my vote?**

**A.** There will be one polling station in each electoral district. The venues are as follows: Blue Hill Community Centre, Sandy Bay Community Centre, Kingshurst Community Centre, Half Tree Hollow Community Centre, Jamestown Community Centre, Harford Community Centre, Levelwood Clinic and Judges Lodge, Alarm Forest. You must vote in the polling district you are registered under on the Register of Electors published on 27 August 2021.

**Q. When will the Polling Stations open and close?**

**A.** Polling Stations will open at 10am and will close at 7pm on Wednesday, 13 October 2021.

**Q. If I am working in Jamestown on Polling Day, can I vote at the Jamestown Community Centre?**

**A.** You can only do so if you are registered in the Jamestown Polling District. If, for example, you are registered in Levelwood, you will have to vote at the Levelwood Clinic.

**Q. Will I be allowed to have time off work to cast my vote?**

**A.** Polling Stations will still be open after normal working hours and will not close until 7pm. However, the Elections Ordinance states that employers must allow their employees reasonable time to vote on Polling Day. The employer cannot deduct this time from the employee's pay. If an employer refuses to grant a reasonable period for the employee to vote, then the employer will commit an offence (maximum penalty fine of £1000, six months imprisonment or both). This applies to all employers, including the private sector.

**Q. I hear that there are 29 candidates. Can I vote for all of them?**

**A.** No. You can only vote for no more than 12 candidates to fill the seats on Legislative Council.

**Q. Can I vote for fewer than 12 candidates?**

**A.** Yes. If you don't wish to vote for 12 candidates, you can vote for fewer than 12 out of the 29 candidates - that decision is entirely up to you.

**Q. Will candidates be allowed to vote?**

**A.** Yes, candidates can vote in the polling district in which they are registered.

**Q. Who will I find at the Polling Station?**

**A.** At the Polling Station you will find a Presiding Officer and an Assistant Presiding Officer. You may also find candidates and their Polling Agents since they are allowed to be at the Polling Stations. The Returning Officer or one of the Assistant Returning Officers and a Police Officer might also be present.

**Q. How will the names of the candidates be listed on my ballot paper?**

**A.** Names will be listed alphabetically with the surname appearing first. There are a number of candidates with the same surname. Those candidates will be listed in alphabetical order of their surname, followed by their first and any other names. It is important to take time to read the ballot paper carefully and ensure you mark an 'X' against the candidate you wish to vote for.

**Q. Why will my ballot paper be numbered?**

**A.** Each ballot paper has a unique number. In addition, the Presiding Officer will write your serial number as in the Register of Electors effective from 27 August 2021 on your ballot paper counterfoil before you vote. This is needed in case anyone challenges the elections before the Supreme Court. The election papers are sealed up in separate packages in such a way that an individual ballot paper cannot be linked to its voter unless the Supreme Court orders the opening of the packages; this would only be done if there was good reason to suspect some kind of electoral fraud.

**More Q&As on the next page**



# General Election 2021 - Questions & Answers Continued

**Q. When I select my candidates, should I use a tick or an 'X'?**

**A.** You should put an 'X' alongside the name of the candidates you want to represent you on Legislative Council.

**Q. What should I do if I mark the wrong box on my ballot paper by mistake?**

**A.** If you mark the wrong box, take your ballot paper to the Presiding Officer, explain your mistake and if the Presiding Officer is content that you made a mistake he or she will take your ballot paper and will provide you with a new one.

**Q. What happens if I vote for more than 12 candidates?**

**A.** If you vote for more than 12 candidates, none of your votes will be counted. If you notice you have marked an 'X' against more than 12 candidates before you place your ballot paper into the ballot box, explain this to the Presiding Officer who will give you a new ballot paper.

**Q. If I am incapacitated, can I arrange for someone to accompany me to the Polling Station?**

**A.** Yes, this is allowed but they cannot help you to vote. Your helper can take you to the Presiding Officer who will help you to cast your vote if necessary. As an alternative, you can choose to vote by Proxy.

**Q. Are candidates allowed inside of the Polling Station?**

**A.** Yes, candidates are allowed inside, along with one of their Polling Agents. However, they are not

allowed to communicate with voters. Candidates must inform the Returning Officer of the names and addresses of their Polling Agents at least 48 hours before the poll.

**Q. Will I be allowed to witness the counting of votes on Polling Day?**

**A.** Generally, 'No'. The law restricts access to the count, so that the count can proceed efficiently without unnecessary distraction. However, the candidates and their Counting Agents are entitled to attend.

**Q. When the votes have been counted, can a candidate or a Counting Agent demand a recount?**

**A.** Candidates and Counting Agents, who are present when the count is complete, can ask for a recount. The Returning Officer can refuse if she considers the request to be unreasonable.

**Q. How can Assistant Registration Officers help me?**

**A.** Assistant Registration Officers hold copies of the current Register of Electors so if you want to check whether you are entitled to vote, Assistant Registration Officers can let you look at the Register.

**Q. How can I get additional information?**

**A.** If you need more information, please contact the Returning Officer, Carol George, on tel: 22470 or via email: [carol.george@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:carol.george@sainthelena.gov.sh) or Assistant Returning Officers, Gillian Francis, on tel: 22314 or via email: [gillian.francis@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gillian.francis@sainthelena.gov.sh) and Connie Johnson on tel: 22470 or via email: [connie.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:connie.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh)

## Voting By Proxy

**Q. If I can't make it to the Polling Station, can someone else vote on my behalf?**

**A.** Yes. Those on the Register of Electors effective from 27 August 2021 should know that if they are ill, physically incapacitated, or off-Island and cannot make it to the Polling Station on Polling Day, there is provision to vote by Proxy. **This includes Saints overseas whose names are included on this Register.**

However, you must get permission from the Returning Officer before this can happen. To get permission, you need to complete the relevant form and this must be handed in by **no later than 10am on Monday, 11 October 2021**. Forms are available from the office of the Returning Officer, the Public Library, Customer Services Centre, the SHG website and from Assistant Returning Officers, Gillian Francis and Connie Johnson.

**Q. Can I ask anyone to be my Proxy?**

**A.** No. Your Proxy must be registered in the same electoral district that you are registered in. An elector can only act as a Proxy for one person and should vote for the candidates requested by the person, which should be no more than 12.

**Q. How will my Proxy prove to the Presiding Officer that they are my Proxy?**

**A.** The Returning Officer will have informed the Presiding Officer in advance. In addition, the Returning Officer will provide your Proxy with a form certifying that he or she can vote on your behalf. Your Proxy must present this form to the Presiding Officer on the day and will need to sign it in the presence of the Presiding Officer.

**Full list of candidates standing in the election:**

Leslie Paul Baldwin  
Rosemary June Bargo  
Clint Richard Beard  
Keith Gordon Brinsden  
Gillian Ann Brooks  
Mark Alan Brooks  
Cruyff Gerard Buckley  
Ronald Arthur Coleman  
Gavin George Ellick  
Jeffrey Robert Ellick  
Corinda Sebastiana Stuart Essex  
Julie Christine Fowler  
Melissa Kim Fowler  
Martin Dave Henry  
Elizabeth Knipe  
Paul Laban  
Robert Charles Midwinter  
Christine Lilian Scipio  
Damien Shaun Thomas  
Derek Franklin Thomas  
Donald Eric Thomas  
Julie Dorne Thomas  
Karl Gavin Thrower  
Andrew James Turner  
Helene Virginia Williams  
Lionel George Williams  
Patrick Arthur Williams  
Russell Keith Yon  
Peter Anthony Young

To inspect the current Register of Electors, contact any of the following Assistant Registration Officers:

Mr Robert Essex  
Mrs Olive Williams  
Mr Douglas Bennett  
Miss Jane Augustus  
Mrs Michelle Yon  
Mrs Connie Johnson  
Mrs Brenda Thomas  
Miss Paula Moyce  
Miss Christina Henry  
Mrs Pamela Joshua  
Miss Anita Legg  
Mrs Phyllis Coleman  
Mrs Georgina Young  
Mrs Elizabeth March  
Miss Alfreda Yon  
Mr Stedson Francis  
Mrs Gerrilyn Crowie (Ascension)

**Polling Day is on  
Wednesday, 13 October  
2021**

**Exercise your right to  
vote!**

