



**St Helena  
Government**



# Your Guide to Becoming a Councillor



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## WHO CAN STAND FOR ELECTION?

We have a single constituency on St Helena with a total of 12 Councillors to represent the whole Island.

Save for some exceptions that are listed on page 8, anyone can stand for election provided they are on the Register of Electors for the year commencing 1 July 2025 and are at least 21 years of age.

## THE MINISTERIAL SYSTEM

Since October 2021, St Helena has a Ministerial system of governance. Once elected, you will become a member of the Legislative Council.

Members of the Legislative Council are required to abide by the Legislative Council Code of Conduct, which provides guidance as to the standard of conduct expected of a member when carrying out their duties as a Member of the Legislative Council. The general principles of conduct to be observed are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Upon election to Council you will be required to complete a form registering any financial or other material benefit interest which others might reasonably consider to influence what you say or do as an Elected Member.

You could also be elected at the Inaugural meeting of the Legislative Council by your fellow Councillors to serve as Chief Minister, or chosen by the Chief Minister as one of the other four Ministers who will each be assigned responsibility for one of the five Portfolios. If you do not serve as a Minister, you will, as a Councillor, serve on one of the two Select Committees (also referred to as Scrutiny Committees); you may also be appointed as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee.

Download the Legislative Council Code of Conduct via this [link](#) or scan the QR code:



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Councillors who are not appointed to Ministerial positions will each represent one of the eight electoral districts (one Councillor will represent two districts).

## WHAT DO COUNCILLORS DO?

- Councillors who are not Ministers are responsible for representing constituents in their respective district.
- There are eight districts and so one Councillor will represent two districts.
- The districts that each will represent will be decided by the seven Councillors themselves.
- At meetings of the Legislative Council, you will, as a member of the Legislative Council:
  - be involved in making laws for the good governance of St Helena;
  - consider Bills for Ordinances for approval which are then sent to the Governor for assent on behalf of His Majesty; and
  - vote on Motions presented, ask questions of Ministers and participate in an adjournment debate where you can freely voice opinions on topical issues.
- The Constitution prescribes that there should be at least one meeting of the Legislative Council held every quarter but meetings can be called by the Speaker at any time on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- Councillors who are not Ministers will also be appointed as members of Select Committees which are responsible for after-the-fact review of decisions and activities of the Government.

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- Three Councillors will be appointed as Members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the role of which is to scrutinise how Government and other public monies are spent.
- The functions and activities of the PAC help ensure good standards of fiscal management and accountability, as well as compliance with Ordinances and financial reporting Standards.
- In your role as a Councillor, you will have to consider how best to engage with your constituents. You might consider hosting drop-in surgeries where you provide an opportunity for constituents to meet you and discuss their problems or concerns. You could hold public meetings or make use of social media. You may also need to spend time visiting constituents in their homes. On top of this you will be dealing with letters, emails and phone calls from constituents.
- Councillors may also sit on Statutory Boards and Committees, for example the Employment Rights Committee, or you might be asked to take on a role such as Children's Champion.
- All Elected Members will automatically become members of the local Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) branch. The CPA hosts conferences, seminars etc and the opportunity will arise from time to time to travel overseas to participate in a CPA hosted event

## THE CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister will be elected by the 12 Councillors at the inaugural meeting of the Legislative Council after the General Election. The 12 Councillors vote for a Chief Minister from amongst themselves by secret ballot. The Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor. The Chief Minister then recommends to the Governor the appointment of four Ministers to work with the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister will have direct responsibility for the strategic policy and services of the portfolio they are allocated. The Chief Minister is ultimately responsible to the Legislative Council.

## WHAT DO MINISTERS DO?

The role of a Councillor who is appointed as a Minister is different.

If selected by the Chief Minister for appointment to a Ministerial role, you will be responsible for the general direction and policy control of one of the five Government portfolios, subject to the policies of Government in place at the time. Ministers need to report to the Chief Minister on their Portfolios and are responsible to the Legislative Council for their portfolios including taking financial responsibility. Ministers are accountable to the Chief Minister for their decisions but are also held to account by the Select Committees, Public Accounts Committee, the Legislative Council, debates and the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

The Portfolio Directors will act as chief policy advisors to Ministers and so need to have a productive relationship with each other to develop policy, legislation and services.

Ministers may from time to time be required to travel overseas to attend political events and build relationships with their overseas peers.

Download the Ministerial Code of Conduct via this [link](#) or scan the QR code:



## DO I NEED ANY SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE TO BE A COUNCILLOR?

A Council made up of individuals who can relate to and represent different segments of the community tends to make better informed decisions. Ideally Councillors should have a broad range of skills and life experience. You don't have to be highly educated or have a profession.

Skills gained through raising a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups can be just as valuable.

While you don't need any special qualifications to be a Councillor, having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role:

### **Communication skills**

These include listening and interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.

### **Problem solving & analytical skills**

This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

### **Team working**

Being able to work with others in meetings and being able to complete any tasks that you agree to do on time.

### **Organisational skills**

Being able to plan and manage your time, keep appointments and meet deadlines.

### **Ability to engage with the community**

You may have to make yourself available through meetings, the media (including social media), public forums, debates and on the telephone.

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You may have gained skills and knowledge through professional, personal or community experience. These could include:

- knowledge of the needs of specific groups such as children and young people, older people or people with health problems
- an understanding of financial management and reporting processes
- legal and regulatory systems or procedures
- housing, regeneration or environmental issues
- any other skills that relate to the work or facilities provided by SHG.

*Don't worry if you feel that you don't have all of these skills or confidence to be a Councillor. The LegCo office staff will provide support and guidance during your term in office and you will also have the benefit of an induction programme immediately after election to office.*

## WHO CAN BECOME A COUNCILLOR?

The easy answer is almost anyone, as long as you are:

- on the Register of Electors for the year commencing 1 July 2025, and
- at least 21 years old.

However, there are some exceptions. You can't be a Councillor if you:

- are by virtue of your own act, under acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state
- are an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or declared bankrupt under any law in force in any country
- are mentally ill within the meaning of any law
- have been sentenced to prison for twelve months or more (including suspended sentences but excluding sentences in lieu of fines) as imposed by a court of law in any country
- are disqualified for membership of Legislative Council in connection with election offences
- hold an office within SHG and do not have the necessary approval to stand for election
- hold an office as a judge or judicial officer (including Justice of the Peace).

## WILL I GET PAID FOR BEING A COUNCILLOR?

Yes, Councillors are paid £20,000 per annum. If you are appointed to a Ministerial position you will be paid:

- Chief Minister - £50,000 per annum
- Ministers - £35,000 per annum

In addition, a contributory pension will be paid on your behalf in line with the St Helena Government staff policy and the pension rules as applicable at the time you are elected to Council.

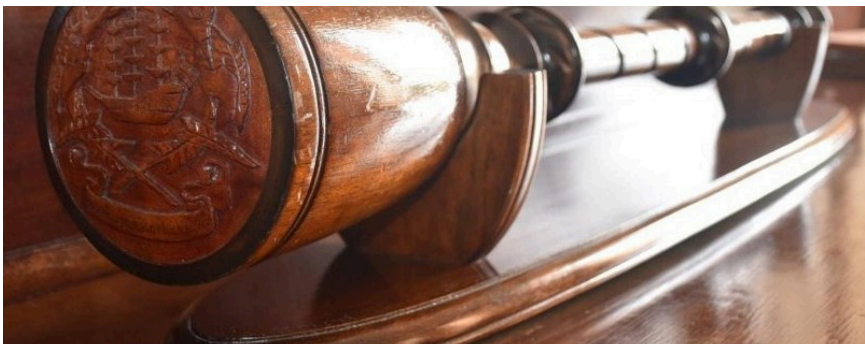
You will also be eligible to claim a mileage allowance of 77p per mile for official duties or meetings other than those from home to office and return.

Councillors are provided with computer equipment ie laptop, printer and consumables.

When travelling overseas on official business, Councillors are entitled to subsistence payments for meals and local travel.

## THE TIMESCALE

If elected, you will have the opportunity to serve on Legislative Council for four years, although the Constitution allows the Governor to dissolve Council before the four year period expires.



## NEXT STEPS

Once you decide you want to take it further and put yourself forward as a candidate:

- You must make sure that you are officially nominated as the election date draws nearer. This means completing the prescribed nomination form. You will need to have two sponsors (who have to sign at the same time in the presence of the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, or a Justice of the Peace); and five supporters whose signatures will need to be witnessed.
- Sponsors and witnesses will need to be on the Register of Electors. Supporters must also be on the Register of Electors but persons witnessing their signatures do not have to have their names on the register. A person should not sponsor or support more than twelve candidates.

*Nomination forms can be obtained from the following venues, and Assistant Registration Officers in the different electoral districts as follows:*

### **Half Tree Hollow**

Mrs Karen Yon  
Mrs Michelle Yon  
Mrs Connie Johnson

### **Jamestown**

Mr Robert Essex  
Mrs Alicia Tainton  
Mrs Olive Williams

### **Alarm Forest**

Mrs Jane Augustus  
Mrs Brenda Thomas

### **Longwood**

Miss Paula Moyce  
Miss Christina Henry

### **Levelwood**

Mrs Pamela Joshua

### **Sandy Bay**

Miss Anita Legg  
Mrs Phyllis Coleman

### **Blue Hill**

Mrs Elizabeth March  
Mrs Georgina Young

### **St Pauls**

Miss Alfreda Yon  
Mrs Jackie Moyce

Hardcopies of Nominations Forms are also available from:  
Customer Services Centre, The Post Office Building  
The Public Library

Download the form via this [link](#) or scan the QR code:



**Forms must be returned to the Returning Officer at the Castle by no later than noon on Wednesday, 20 August 2025.**

## WHAT NEXT?

If there are more than 12 candidates then a Poll will be taken on Wednesday, 3 September 2025. Polling stations will be set up in all eight electoral districts as per normal practice. Candidates can witness the Poll in all its stages and be present when the votes are counted. Further details will be provided to candidates after nomination day.

## CAMPAIGNING

Candidates are at liberty to promote their candidature in the lead up to the General Election. However, they or anyone else taking part in the election process, should conduct themselves in a manner that does not contravene the provisions of the Elections legislation. For example, it is an offence to influence the outcome of the election through acts of bribery.



**If you are intending to stand for Council, please note that Nomination Forms must be completed and returned to the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officers at the Castle, by no later than noon on Wednesday, 20 August 2025**

**For further information about the elections process, please contact any of the following:**

Returning Officer, Carol Henry, on tel: 22470 or email:  
[carol.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:carol.henry@sainthelena.gov.sh)

or

Assistant Returning Officers, Gillian Francis, Anita Legg or Connie Johnson on tel: 22470 or emails:  
[gillian.francis@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:gillian.francis@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
[anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:anita.legg@sainthelena.gov.sh)  
[connie.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh](mailto:connie.johnson@sainthelena.gov.sh)



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