

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

11th December, 2019

Proposition No. P.2019/132

States' Assembly & Constitution Committee

General Election 2020 – Second Policy Letter

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy C P Meerveld
Seconded by: Deputy M Leadbeater

To delete Proposition 3 and to replace it with the following proposition: -

3A. To agree that expenditure by a political party on promotion of the party and its policies in an election for the office of People's Deputy is only permissible by virtue of candidates affiliated to that party assigning a maximum of 50% of their permitted electoral expenditure to the party, and that such expenditure by a political party in any election may not exceed five times a single candidate's "permitted electoral expenditure" in total pursuant to Proposition 2.

OR, only if 3A shall have fallen,

3B. To agree that expenditure by a political party on promotion of the party and its policies in an election for the office of People's Deputy is only permissible by virtue of candidates affiliated to that party assigning a maximum of 50% of their permitted electoral expenditure to the party, and that such expenditure by a political party in any election may not exceed four times a single candidate's "permitted electoral expenditure" in total pursuant to Proposition 2.

OR, only if 3B shall have fallen,

3C. To agree that expenditure by a political party on promotion of the party and its policies in an election for the office of People's Deputy is only permissible by virtue of candidates affiliated to that party assigning a maximum of 50% of their permitted electoral expenditure to the party, and that such expenditure by a political party in any election may not exceed three times a single candidate's "permitted electoral expenditure" in total pursuant to Proposition 2.

OR, only if 3C shall have fallen,

3D. To agree that expenditure by a political party on promotion of the party and its policies in an election for the office of People's Deputy is only permissible by virtue of candidates affiliated to that party assigning a maximum of 50% of their permitted electoral expenditure to the party, and that such expenditure by a political party in any election may not exceed two times a single candidate's "permitted electoral expenditure" in total pursuant to Proposition 2.

OR, only if 3D shall have fallen,

3E. To agree that expenditure by a political party on promotion of the party and its policies in an election for the office of People's Deputy is only permissible by virtue of candidates affiliated to that party assigning a maximum of 50% of their permitted electoral expenditure to the party, and that such expenditure by a political party in any election may not exceed one times a single candidate's "permitted electoral expenditure" in total pursuant to Proposition 2.

Explanatory note

"As a specific type of "free association of persons", political parties are central to the functioning of democracy. They are essential to a pluralist political society, and their role in the formation of the will of the people is fundamental." **Venice Commission**

In the 2020 election a political association or party can field thirty-eight candidates. It is manifestly unreasonable to restrict the expenditure of a large group to that for a single candidate, especially when a large groups' expenditure is assignment from individual candidates' permitted expenditure.

This amendment would allow groups of affiliated candidates to assign up to 50% from their permitted electoral expenditure to an association or party to enable it to spend a multiple the total expenditure permitted for an individual. This still significantly restricts the expenditure of groups of affiliated candidate's, but to a lesser onerous extent.

The proposers of this amendment believe it is unreasonable to limit the expenditure of large groups to the same level as an individual as this unduly limits the ability of associations or parties to promote the benefits of their policies in accordance with the guidelines and principles laid down by the Venice Commission and the accepted norms in other democracies.