
Committee Stage: Friday 15 October 2021

Elections Bill (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Elections Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

★ New Amendments.

☆ Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance.

New amendments: 60 to 77 and NC2 to NC13

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

54

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a poll card.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would enable someone to vote by presenting their poll card as an alternative to photo ID.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

55

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a utility bill dated within 3 months of the date of the poll.”

Cat Smith 56
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a valid bank or building society debit card or credit card.”

Cat Smith 57
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means a birth certificate.”

Cat Smith 58
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

Schedule 1, page 75, line 9, at end insert—

“(1HA) In this rule a “specified document” also means any of the following documents (in whatever form issued to the holder)—

- (a) a driving licence;
- (b) a birth certificate;
- (c) a marriage or civil partnership certificate;
- (d) an adoption certificate;
- (e) the record of a decision on bail made in respect of the voter in accordance with section 5(1) of the Bail Act 1976;
- (f) a bank or building society cheque book;
- (g) a mortgage statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (h) a bank or building society statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (i) a credit card statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
- (j) a council tax demand letter or statement dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- (k) a P45 or P60 form dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
- (l) a standard acknowledgement letter (SAL) issued by the Home Office for asylum seekers;
- (m) a trade union membership card;
- (n) a library card;
- (o) a pre-payment meter card;

- (p) a National Insurance card;
- (q) a workplace ID Card."

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

62

- ★ Schedule 1, page 82, line 4, at end insert—

"Reports on voter identification and turnout

35A The Secretary of State must prepare and publish reports on the effect of the voter identification requirements in this Schedule on turnout—

- (a) across the electorate,
- (b) in minority groups,
- (c) among disabled people,
- (d) among young people.

35B The Secretary of State must publish a report under paragraph (35B)—

- (a) no later than 31 July each year, and
- (b) in the 90 days following a general election."

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

67

- ★ Page 1, line 8, leave out Clause 2

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment would remove the requirements for re-application for postal voting every 3 years and return to the status quo of postal vote applications lasting an indefinite period.

Cat Smith 68
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

★ Page 82, line 7, leave out Schedule 2

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment is connected with leaving out Clause 2 and would remove the requirements for re-application for postal voting every 3 years and return to the status quo of postal vote applications lasting an indefinite period.

Cat Smith 69
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

★ Clause 4, page 8, line 27, at end insert—

“(6) The Secretary of State may not make any regulations using powers under this section unless they have first undertaken a public consultation on a draft of those regulations for a period of not shorter than 28 days.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to conduct a public consultation for at least 28 days before making regulations by virtue of Clause 4 of the Bill.

Cat Smith 70
 Gill Furniss
 Nick Smith
 Fleur Anderson
 Kate Hollern

★ Page 8, line 28, leave out Clause 5

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the proposed changes to proxy voting rules.

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

60

★ Clause 8, page 11, leave out lines 16 to 27 and insert—

- “(a) in paragraph (3A)(b), for “a device” substitute “equipment”;
- (b) after paragraph (3A)(b) insert—
 - “(c) such equipment as it is reasonable to provide for the purposes of enabling, or making it easier for, relevant persons to vote in the manner directed by rule 37.”;
- (c) after paragraph (3A) insert—
 - “(3B) In paragraph (3A)(c), “relevant persons” means persons who find it difficult or impossible to vote in the manner directed by rule 37 because of a disability.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would retain the requirement for returning officers to make specific provision at polling stations to enable voters who are blind or partially-sighted to vote without any need for assistance from the presiding officer or any companion and change the nature of that provision from “a device” to “equipment”.

Kemi Badenoch

8

Schedule 7, page 122, line 8, leave out sub-paragraphs (1) to (7) and insert—

- “(1) In section 2 of RPA 1983 (local government electors), in subsection (1)(c), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—
 - (i) in relation to a local government election in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to a local government election in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen; and”.
- (2) In section 4 of that Act (entitlement to be registered as local government elector), in subsection (3)(c), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—
 - (i) in relation to a local government election in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to a local government election in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen; and”.
- (3) In section 7B of that Act (notional residence: declarations of local connection)—

- (a) in subsection (3)(e), for the words from “Ireland” to the end substitute “Ireland or—
 - (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen;”;
 - (b) in subsection (7)(a), for “by a relevant citizen of the Union; and” substitute “—
 - (i) in relation to local government elections in England, by a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to local government elections in Wales, by a relevant citizen of the Union; and”.
- (4) In section 15 of that Act (service declaration), in subsection (5)(a), for “, or by a relevant citizen of the Union; and” substitute “or—
 - (i) in relation to local government elections in England, by a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) in relation to local government elections in Wales, by a relevant citizen of the Union; and”.
- (5) In section 16 of that Act (contents of service declaration), as it extends to England and Wales, in subsection (1)(e) for the words from “a relevant” to the end substitute “—
 - (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen,”.
- (6) In section 16 of that Act (contents of service declaration), as it extends to Northern Ireland, in paragraph (e) for “or a relevant citizen of the Union” substitute “or a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights”.
- (7) In section 17 of that Act (effect of service declaration), in subsection (1)(c), for the words from “a relevant” to the end substitute “—
 - (i) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in England, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights, or
 - (ii) if the declaration is made for the purposes only of the registration of local government electors in Wales, a relevant citizen of the Union or a qualifying foreign citizen,

of the age appearing from the declaration and as not being subject to any legal incapacity except as so appearing.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment makes technical amendments to provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983, to clarify that changes affecting the rights of EU citizens to vote in local government elections in England do not affect the position in relation to local government elections in Wales.

Kemi Badenoch

9

Schedule 7, page 123, line 6, after “elector” insert “in England”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment clarifies that section 49(5)(b)(iiia) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (inserted by paragraph 1(8)(a) of Schedule 7) will apply to England only.

Kemi Badenoch

10

Schedule 7, page 123, line 11, leave out paragraph (b) and insert—

“(b) in sub-paragraph (iv), after “elector” insert “in Wales”.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment clarifies that section 49(5)(b)(iv) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 will continue to apply, but to Wales only.

Kemi Badenoch

11

Schedule 7, page 124, line 38, leave out “(5)” and insert “(4)”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 14.

Kemi Badenoch

12

Schedule 7, page 125, line 1, leave out from “has” to “granted” in line 2 and insert “UK or Islands leave”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment and Amendment 16 introduce the term “UK or Islands leave” to mean leave under the Immigration Act 1971 to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Kemi Badenoch

13

Schedule 7, page 125, line 4, leave out from “with” to end of line 7 and insert “provision in residence scheme immigration rules for joining family members”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment expands subsection (2)(b) of inserted section 203B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to cover provision in residence scheme immigration rules for the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in relation to joining family members.

Kemi Badenoch

14

Schedule 7, page 125, line 8, leave out from beginning to end of line 2 on page 126 and insert—

“(3) A person falls within this subsection if—

- (a) the person has UK or Islands leave but does not fall within subsection (2), and
- (b) the requirements of subsection (5) are met in relation to the person.

(4) A person falls within this subsection if—

- (a) the person does not require UK or Islands leave,
- (b) the person is resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands, and
- (c) the requirements of subsection (5) are met in relation to the person.

(5) The requirements referred to in subsections (3)(b) and (4)(c) are that—

- (a) at all times since the relevant date, the person has either had UK or Islands leave or not required UK or Islands leave, and
- (b) the person was resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands at all times after the relevant date when the person did not require UK or Islands leave.

(6) In determining whether the requirement in subsection (5)(a) is met in relation to a person, any period to which subsection (6A) applies is to be disregarded if the person was resident in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands during the period.

(6A) This subsection applies to any period after the relevant date during which the person required UK or Islands leave but did not have it, if at the end of the period the person was granted UK or Islands leave—

- (a) in pursuance of an application made before the end of the relevant date, or
- (b) in pursuance of an application made after the relevant date, where the leave was granted—
 - (i) by virtue of residence scheme immigration rules, and

- (ii) otherwise than in accordance with provision in such rules for joining family members.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment replaces subsections (3) to (6) of inserted section 203B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 with two categories of “EU citizens with retained rights”: those with immigration leave who are not caught by subsection (2), and those who do not require immigration leave but are resident in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

Kemi Badenoch

15

Schedule 7, page 126, line 11, leave out from “having” to “includes” in line 13 and insert “UK or Islands leave”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 12.

Kemi Badenoch

16

Schedule 7, page 126, line 28, at end insert—

““UK or Islands leave” means leave under the 1971 Act to enter or remain in the United Kingdom or any of the Islands.”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 12.

Kemi Badenoch

17

Schedule 7, page 126, leave out lines 29 and 30 and insert “In this section—”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 13.

Kemi Badenoch

18

Schedule 7, page 126, line 40, at end insert—

“(11)References in this section to provision in residence scheme immigration rules for joining family members are references to—

- (a) paragraph EU11A or EU14A of Appendix EU to the immigration rules or provision replacing either of those paragraphs, or
- (b) provision corresponding to provision within paragraph (a) in the Guernsey immigration rules, the Isle of Man immigration rules or the Jersey immigration rules.”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 13.

Kemi Badenoch

19

Schedule 7, page 130, line 1, leave out sub-paragraph (5) and insert—

“(5) In Part 2 of Schedule 1 (modifications of provisions of RPA 1983 applied to local elections)—

(a) in paragraph 7, before sub-paragraph (2) insert—

“(1A) In section 4(3)(c)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in relation to a local government election in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(b) for paragraph 7A substitute—

“7A In section 7B—

(a) references to the United Kingdom are to be read as references to Northern Ireland;

(b) in subsection (3)(e)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(ii) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it);

(c) in subsection (7)(a)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(ii) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(c) before paragraph 12 insert—

“11A In section 15(5)(a)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).

11B In section 17(1)(c)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (i), omit “in England,”, and

(b) omit sub-paragraph (ii) (and the “or” preceding it).”;

(d) in paragraph 12, for paragraph (b) substitute—

“(b) in subsection (5)—

(i) in the first sentence, omit “, or entered in the list of proxies,”,

(ii) in paragraph (b)(iiia), omit “in England or entered in the list of proxies”, and

(iii) omit paragraph (b)(iv).””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the amendments made by Part 1 of Schedule 7 to the Bill apply correctly for the purposes of local elections in Northern Ireland.

Kemi Badenoch

20

Schedule 7, page 130, line 22, at end insert—

“Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001

9A (1) In Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 (S.I. 2001/2599) (application with modifications of RPA 1983 etc), the table is amended as follows.

- (2) In the right-hand column of the entry for section 49 of RPA 1983 (effect of registers), for the existing text substitute “In subsection (5)(b)(iii), for “a local government elector in England” substitute “an elector””.
- (3) After the entry for section 202 of RPA 1983 insert—

“Section 203A (meaning of “qualifying EU citizen”)	
Section 203B (meaning of “EU citizen with retained rights”)”.	

- (4) After the entry for Schedule 4A to RPA 1983 insert—

“Schedule 6A (list of countries for purposes of section 203A)”.	
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Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment makes changes, in consequence of Schedule 7 to the Bill, to the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) Order 2001 (Schedule 1 of which applies provisions of RPA 1983 in relation to elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly).

Brendan O’Hara
Patrick Grady

61

- ★ Clause 12, page 20, line 42, at end insert—

“(4A)The Secretary of State may not designate the statement under section 4A unless the Scottish Parliament has, before the end of the 40-day period, passed a motion of the form “That the Parliament approves the draft Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved Scottish functions”.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Scottish Parliament to approve an Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved Scottish functions before the strategy could have effect.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

75

- ★ Clause 12, page 20, line 42, at end insert—

“(4A)The Secretary of State may not designate the statement under section 4A unless the Scottish Parliament and Senedd Cymru have each, before the end of the 40-day period, passed a motion in the form “That this

Parliament approves the draft Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved functions.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Scottish Parliament and Senedd Cymru each to approve an Electoral Commission strategy and policy statement so far as it relates to the Commission’s devolved functions before the strategy could have effect.

Kemi Badenoch

1

Clause 12, page 23, line 13, leave out “and (3) (consultation requirements) do” and insert “(consultation requirements) does”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment makes it clear that only the consultation requirements under new section 4C(2) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 may be disapplied under new section 4E(4) (and not the requirement to lay a draft strategy and policy statement before Parliament).

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

63

★ Page 19, line 4, leave out Clause 12

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

64

★ Page 24, line 3, leave out Clause 13

Cat Smith 66
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 14, page 25, line 12, at the beginning insert—

“(A1) In section 2 of PPERA (Speaker’s Committee), after subsection (2)(d) insert—

“(e) two lay members appointed to membership of the Committee by the Speaker of the House of Commons.””

Cat Smith 65
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 14, page 25, line 20, at end insert—

“(1A) In section 2 of PPERA (Speaker’s Committee), at the end of subsection (4) insert—

“and the Speaker shall ensure that the governing party does not have a majority on the Committee.””

Cat Smith 71
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 23, page 33, leave out lines 6 to 10

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would leave out the powers for ministers to remove categories of permitted campaigner while leaving in place their power to add new categories of campaigner.

Cat Smith 72
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 23, page 33, line 10, at end insert—

“(11)The power to make provision by virtue of paragraph (9)(b) or (c) is exercisable only on, and in accordance with, a recommendation of the Electoral Commission.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Government to obtain the recommendation of the Electoral Commission before removing or varying categories of permitted campaigner.

Cat Smith 76
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 24, page 33, line 23, at end insert—

“(5C) Registered charities and Community Interest Companies may act as a recognised third party subject to the lower-tier expenditure limits without the requirement to give the Electoral Commission notification under section 88 of PPERA.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would exempt registered charities and Community Interest Companies from the notification and registration requirements of Clause 24, which introduces a new lower tier registration for third party campaigners who spend more than £10,000 on controlled expenditure anywhere in the UK.

Cat Smith 77
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

★ Clause 24, page 33, line 23, at end insert—

“(5C) Registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) which intend to incur election expenditure within the lower-tier expenditure limits may provide the Electoral Commission with their charity or CIC registration number, and the Commission—

- (a) shall treat that information as sufficient for the charity's or CIC's notification and registration for electoral purposes under section 88 of PPERA, and
- (b) may collect any information the Commission requires about the charity or CIC from the Charities Commission or Companies House respectively."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks allow charities or Community Interest Companies who wish to campaign at elections within the lower tier of expenditure and which are already subject to transparency requirements to avoid the additional compliance burden arising from Clause 24.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

74

★ Clause 25, page 36, line 19, at end insert—

“(2A)In section 85(2) of PPERA, after “incurred”, insert “(in the case of a parliamentary election only after the date of the election has been set or fixed)”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would limit regulated periods for UK Parliamentary General Elections to the period between the announcement of the election and the close of polls.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

73

★ Page 35, line 23, leave out Clause 25

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the provisions in the bill which include political parties as being classified within joint campaigning.

Kemi Badenoch

2

Clause 40, page 49, line 23, after "Part" insert "1A or"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment expands the definition of "relevant election" in clause 40(8) to cover elections under Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 for the return of an elected mayor.

Kemi Badenoch

21

Schedule 10, page 145, line 28, after "Part" insert "1A or"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and Amendment 22 expand the references in paragraph 1(1)(b)(iv) and (4)(b) to an election for the return of an elected mayor to cover elections under Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000.

Kemi Badenoch

22

Schedule 10, page 146, line 10, after "Part" insert "1A or"

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 21.

Kemi Badenoch

3

Clause 47, page 54, line 12, leave out "sent" and insert "given"

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment means that the period for representations in response to a notice under clause 47(1) must be at least 14 days beginning with the day the notice is given rather than the day it is sent.

Kemi Badenoch

4

Clause 51, page 56, line 34, at end insert—

- “(za) by delivering it to the person,
- (zb) by leaving it at the person’s proper address,”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment and Amendments 5 and 6 make further provision about the giving of notices under Part 6 by the Electoral Commission or the police.

Kemi Badenoch

5

Clause 51, page 56, line 35, leave out “to the person by post” and insert “by post to the person at that address”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 4.

Kemi Badenoch

6

Clause 51, page 56, line 36, at end insert—

- “(2) A notice to a body corporate may be given to an officer of that body.
- (3) A notice to a partnership may be given to a partner or a person who has the control or management of the partnership business.
- (4) A notice to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) may be given to a member of the governing body of the association.
- (5) For the purposes of this section and of section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 (service of documents by post) in its application to this section, the proper address of a person is the person’s last known address (whether of the person’s residence or of a place where the person carries on business or is employed) and also—
 - (a) in the case of a body corporate or an officer of the body, the address of the body’s registered or principal office in the United Kingdom;
 - (b) in the case of a partnership, a partner or a person having the control or management of the partnership business, the address of the principal office of the partnership in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) in the case of an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) or a member of its governing body, the principal office of the association in the United Kingdom.
- (6) If a person has specified an address in the United Kingdom, other than the person’s proper address within the meaning of subsection (5), as the one at which the person or someone on the person’s behalf will accept notices of the same description as a notice under this Part, that address is also treated for the purposes of this section and section 7 of the Interpretation Act 1978 as the person’s proper address.

(7) A notice sent to a person by electronic means is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been given on the working day immediately following the day on which it was sent.

(8) In this section—

“officer”, in relation to a body corporate, means a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body;

“working day” means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in any part of the United Kingdom.”

Member’s explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for Amendment 4.

Kemi Badenoch

7

Clause 60, page 61, line 36, leave out paragraphs (a) and (b) and insert—

- “(a) the amendments made by paragraph 1(1) and (5) extend to England and Wales only;
- (b) the amendments made by paragraph 1(2) to (4) and (7) to (12) extend to England and Wales and Northern Ireland only;”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on Amendment 8.

Kemi Badenoch

NC1

☆ To move the following Clause—

“Simple majority system to be used in elections for certain offices

Elections for Mayor of London

- (1) The Greater London Authority Act 1999 is amended in accordance with subsections (2) to (5).
- (2) In section 4 (voting at ordinary elections)—
 - (a) in subsection (1)(a), omit “(referred to in this Part as a mayoral vote)”;
 - (b) in subsection (2), omit “, unless there are three or more candidates”;
 - (c) omit subsection (3).

- (3) In section 16 (filling a vacancy)—
 - (a) in subsection (3), for “a mayoral vote” substitute “one vote which may be given for a candidate to be the Mayor”;
 - (b) for subsection (4) substitute—
- “(4) Section 4(2) (simple majority system) applies in relation to the election as it applies in relation to the election of the Mayor at an ordinary election.”
- (4) In section 29 (interpretation of Part 1), omit the definition of “mayoral vote”.
- (5) In Schedule 2 (voting at elections), omit Part 1.
- (6) In section 165 of RPA 1983 (avoidance of election for employing corrupt agent), omit subsection (4).

Elections for elected mayors of local authorities in England

- (7) The Local Government Act 2000 is amended as follows.
- (8) In section 9HC (voting at elections of elected mayors)—
 - (a) for subsection (1) substitute—
- “(1) Each person entitled to vote as an elector at an election for the return of an elected mayor is to have one vote which may be given for a candidate to be the elected mayor.”;
- (b) in subsection (2), omit “, unless there are three or more candidates”;
- (c) omit subsection (3).
- (9) In section 9HD (entitlement to vote), in subsection (2), for “first preference vote, or more than one second preference vote,” substitute “vote”.
- (10) In section 9R (interpretation of Part 1A), in subsection (1), omit the definitions of “first preference vote” and “second preference vote”.
- (11) In Schedule 2 (election of elected mayor), in paragraph 1, after “authority” insert “in Wales”.

Elections for mayors of combined authority areas

- (12) Schedule 5B to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (mayors for combined authority areas: further provision about elections) is amended as follows.
- (13) In paragraph 4 (voting at elections of mayors)—
 - (a) for sub-paragraph (1) substitute—
- “(1) Each person entitled to vote as an elector at an election for the return of a mayor is to have one vote which may be given for a candidate to be the mayor.”;
- (b) in sub-paragraph (2), omit “, unless there are three or more candidates”;
- (c) omit sub-paragraph (3).
- (14) Omit paragraph 5.

- (15) In paragraph 6 (entitlement to vote), in sub-paragraph (2), for “first preference vote, or more than one second preference vote,” substitute “vote”.

Elections for police and crime commissioners

- (16) The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 is amended as follows.
- (17) In section 57 (voting at elections of police and crime commissioners)—
- (a) in subsection (2), omit “, unless there are three or more candidates”;
 - (b) omit subsections (3) to (5).
- (18) Omit Schedule 9.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause makes provision for the simple majority system to be used in elections for the Mayor of London, mayors of local authorities in England, mayors of combined authority areas and police and crime commissioners.

—
Brendan O’Hara
Patrick Grady

NC2

★ To move the following Clause—

“Citizens’ assembly on electoral systems

- (1) The Secretary of State must establish a citizens’ assembly representative of the population aged 16 and over to consider electoral systems in the United Kingdom.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, for each category of election reformed by section (Simple majority system to be used in elections for certain offices), provide to the assembly a report assessing the effects of the reforms on the matters in subsection (3).
- (3) The matters are—
 - (a) voter engagement and understanding,
 - (b) electoral integrity,
 - (c) fairness and proportionality.
- (4) A report under subsection (2) must be provided to the assembly no later than three months after the first election in each category of election after this section comes into force.
- (5) The assembly must—
 - (a) consider the reports under subsection (2),
 - (b) consider other evidence relating to the matters in subsection (3).
- (6) The assembly may make recommendations for legislative or policy change, including for parliamentary elections.”

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

NC3

★ To move the following Clause—

“Automatic Voter Registration

- (1) It is a duty of—
 - (a) the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) registration officersto take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons eligible to register to vote in elections in the United Kingdom are so registered.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations require public bodies to provide information to registration officers in accordance with the duty under subsection (1).
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) must apply to public bodies including but not limited to—
 - (a) HM Revenue and Customs;
 - (b) the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency;
 - (c) the National Health Service;
 - (d) NHS Scotland;
 - (e) all types of state funded schools;
 - (f) local authorities;
 - (g) the Department for Work and Pensions;
 - (h) HM Passport Office;
 - (i) police forces;
 - (j) the TV Licensing Authority.
- (4) Registration officers must—
 - (a) use the information provided under regulations under subsection (2) to register otherwise unregistered persons on the appropriate electoral register or registers, or
 - (b) if the information provided does not contain all information necessary to register a person who may be eligible, contact that person for the purpose of obtaining the required information to establish whether they are eligible to register and, if so, register them on the appropriate electoral register or registers.
- (5) If a registration officer has registered a person under subsection (4), the officer must notify that person within 30 days and give that person an opportunity to correct any mistaken information.
- (6) The Secretary of State may issue guidance to registration officers on fulfilling their duties under this section.
- (7) Where a person is registered under subsection (4), that person shall be omitted from the edited register unless that person notifies the registration officer to the contrary.
- (8) Nothing in this section affects entitlement to register to vote anonymously.”

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

NC4

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voting age for parliamentary elections to be 16

In section 1(1)(d) (definition of voting age for parliamentary elections) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, for “18” substitute “16”.

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

NC5

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voting by convicted persons sentenced to terms of 12 months or less

In section 3(1A) (exceptions to the disenfranchisement of prisoners) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, after “Scotland” insert “or a parliamentary election”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would allow prisoners serving a sentence of 12 months or less to vote in UK parliamentary elections.

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

NC6

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voting by qualifying foreign nationals

In section 1(1) (entitlement to vote in parliamentary elections) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, for paragraph (c) substitute—

“(c) is a Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a qualifying foreign national; and”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would allow foreign nationals who either do not need leave to remain in the UK or have been granted such leave to vote in UK parliamentary elections.

Brendan O'Hara
Patrick Grady

NC7

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voting by EU nationals

In section 1(1) (entitlement to vote in parliamentary elections) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, for paragraph (c) substitute—

“(c) is a Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a relevant citizen of the Union; and”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would allow EU citizens to vote in UK parliamentary elections.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC8

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voting from age 16 in parliamentary elections

In section 1(1)(d) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (definition of voting age for parliamentary elections), for “18” substitute “16”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would lower the voting age to 16 in UK parliamentary elections.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC9

★ To move the following Clause—

“Online applications for absent votes

- (1) Schedule 4 to the Representation of the People Act 2000 (absent voting in Great Britain) is amended as follows.
- (2) After sub-paragraph 3(2)(c) insert—

“(2A) An application to the registration officer under sub-paragraphs 3(1)(b) or 3(2)(c) may be made online using an electronic signature.”
- (3) After sub-paragraph 3(3A) insert—

“(3B) A registration officer shall verify the authenticity of applications made online using an electronic signature by virtue of sub-paragraph (2A) in

accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be made by the Secretary of State.”

(4) After sub-paragraph 4(2)(c) insert—

“(2ZA) An application to the registration officer under sub-paragraphs 4(1)(b) or 4(2)(c) may be made online using an electronic signature.”

(5) After sub-paragraph 4(4)(b) insert—

“(4A) A registration officer shall verify the authenticity of applications made online using an electronic signature by virtue of sub-paragraph 4(2ZA) in accordance with any regulations which may from time to time be made by the Secretary of State.””

Member’s explanatory statement

While currently absent vote applications need to be printed out, this new clause would allow applications to be fully digital.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC10

★ To move the following Clause—

“Emergency appointment of proxy

- (1) The Secretary of State must make regulations enabling voters on a relevant electoral register to apply to appoint a proxy on grounds of a personal emergency.
- (2) Such applications shall be granted by the relevant registration officer provided that the officer—
 - (a) is satisfied that the reason for the application is such that it would be unreasonable for the applicant to vote in person,
 - (b) has no reasonable grounds to believe that the stated basis for the application is untrue, and
 - (c) has received the application not later than 5 pm on the day of the poll at that election.
- (3) The Secretary of State may issue guidance to registration officers on fulfilling their duties under this section.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would allow voters to make applications for proxy votes on grounds of personal emergency up to the day of the poll.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC11

★ To move the following Clause—

“Automatic Voter Registration

- (1) Registration officers must take all reasonable steps to ensure that all persons eligible to register to vote in elections in the United Kingdom are so registered.
- (2) The Secretary of State must by regulations require public bodies to provide information to registration officers to enable them to fulfil their duty under subsection (1).
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) must apply to the following public bodies—
 - (a) HM Revenue and Customs;
 - (b) the Department for Work and Pensions;
 - (c) the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency;
 - (d) the National Health Service, NHS Wales and NHS Scotland;
 - (e) schools and further and higher education institutions;
 - (f) local authorities;
 - (g) HM Passport Office;
 - (h) police forces;
 - (i) the TV Licensing Authority;
 - (j) Job Centre Plus;
 - (k) the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Local Communities;
 - (l) the Department for Transport;
 - (m) the Department for Health and Social Care;
 - (n) the Home Office; and
 - (o) the Ministry of Justice.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (2) may also apply to other public bodies.
- (5) Registration officers must—
 - (a) use the information provided by the public bodies listed in regulations under subsection (3) to register otherwise unregistered persons on the appropriate electoral register or registers, or
 - (b) if the information provided does not contain all information necessary to register a person who may be eligible, contact that person for the purpose of obtaining the required information to establish whether they are eligible to register and, if so, register them on the appropriate electoral register or registers.
- (6) If a registration officer has registered a person under subsection (5), the officer must notify that person within 30 days and give that person an opportunity to correct any incorrect information.

- (7) Where a person is registered under subsection (5), that person shall be omitted from the edited register unless that person notifies the registration officer to the contrary.
- (8) Nothing in this section affects entitlement to register to vote anonymously.
- (9) The Secretary of State may issue guidance to registration officers on fulfilling their duties under this section."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require registration officers to enter eligible voters on the register, and provide for them to receive the necessary information from a number of public bodies.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC12

★ To move the following Clause—

"Same Day Voter Registration

- (1) Registration officers must make provisions to allow electors to register to vote up to and including polling day.
- (2) In order to register on polling day prospective electors must present proof of residency at the time of registration.
- (3) Proof of residency can include but is not limited to—
 - (a) a utility bill;
 - (b) a driving licence;
 - (c) a mortgage statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
 - (d) a bank or building society statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
 - (e) a credit card statement dated within 3 months of the date of the poll;
 - (f) a council tax demand letter or statement dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
 - (g) a P45 or P60 form dated within 12 months of the date of the poll;
or
 - (h) a standard acknowledgement letter (SAL) issued by the Home Office for asylum seekers.
- (4) Nothing in this section affects entitlement to register to vote anonymously."

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require registration officers to make provision for voter registration up to and including polling day.

Cat Smith
Gill Furniss
Nick Smith
Fleur Anderson
Kate Hollern

NC13

★ To move the following Clause—

“Voter registration at universities and colleges

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations require universities and colleges to provide to registration officers the information they hold that is required for the officers to register their students to vote.
- (2) Universities and colleges must share with each student the information relating to the student that the university or college proposes to provide to the relevant registration officer, and must give students the opportunity to withhold consent to the provision of the information.
- (3) If a student withholds consent under subsection (2), the university or college must not send their information to the registration officer.
- (4) Nothing in this section affects entitlement to register to vote anonymously.
- (5) The Secretary of State may issue guidance to registration officers, universities and colleges on fulfilling their functions under this section.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would require universities and colleges to submit to registration officers the information necessary to register their students to vote.

Kemi Badenoch

59

- ☆ Title, line 2, after “electoral process” insert “and provision about the use of the simple majority system in elections for certain offices”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment amends the long title in consequence of the new clause inserted by NC1.

Order of the House

[7 September 2021]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Elections Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Wednesday 3 November 2021.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which proceedings on Consideration are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.

Order of the Committee

[15 September 2021]

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Wednesday 15 September) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 15 September;
 - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 16 September;
 - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Wednesday 22 September;
 - (d) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 19 October;
 - (e) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 21 October;
 - (f) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 26 October;
 - (g) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 28 October;
 - (h) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Wednesday 3 November;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Date	Time	Witness
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 10.25 am	The Rt Hon Lord Pickles; Henderson Chambers
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 11.25 am	Councillor Peter Golds; National Police Chiefs' Council; Gillian Beasley, Peterborough City Council

Date	Time	Witness
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 2.30 pm	Professor David Howarth, Professor of Law and Public Policy, University of Cambridge; Blackstone Chambers
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 3.15 pm	The Electoral Office of Northern Ireland; The Electoral Commission; Association of Electoral Administrators
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 4.00 pm	SOLACE; Birmingham City Council
Wednesday 15 September	Until no later than 5.00 pm	Dr Kate Dommett, Department of Politics and International Relations, The University of Sheffield; Professor Justin Fisher, Director of Public Policy, Brunel University London; Darren Grimes
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 12.15 pm	Conservatives Abroad; Liberal Democrats Overseas; Labour International
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 1.00 pm	Race on the Agenda
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 2.45 pm	Matrix Chambers
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Disability Rights UK
Thursday 16 September	Until no later than 4.30 pm	Dr Alan Renwick, Deputy Director of the University College London Constitution Unit

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clause 1; Schedule 1; Clause 2; Schedule 2; Clauses 3 to 5; Schedule 3; Clauses 6 and 7; Schedule 4; Clauses 8 and 9; Schedule 5; Clause 10; Schedule 6; Clause 11; Schedule 7; Clauses 12 to 26; Schedule 8; Clauses 27 to 34; Schedule 9; Clauses 35 to 43; Schedule 10; Clauses 44 to 48; Schedule 11; Clauses 49 to 62; new Clauses; new Schedules; remaining proceedings on the Bill;
- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 3 November.