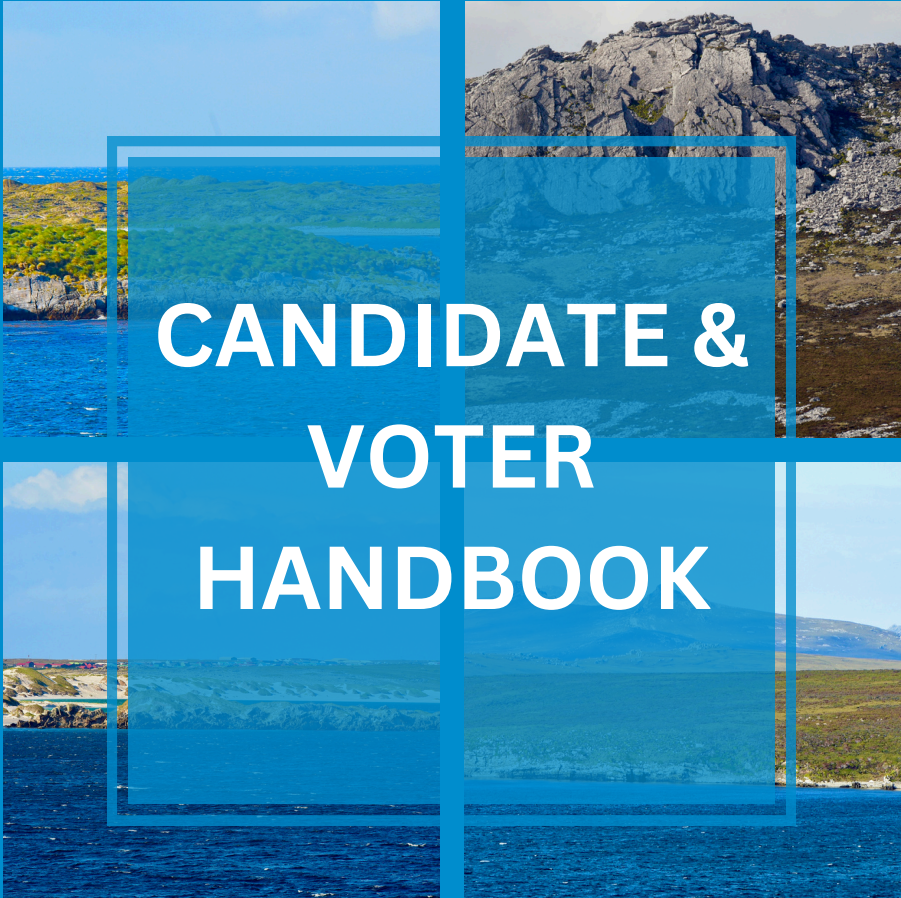




FALKLAND ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
General Election Supporting Materials
Booklet produced and distributed by
the Office of the Legislative Assembly

THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTION



CANDIDATE & VOTER HANDBOOK

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION

Elections are at the heart of democracy, giving people the power to shape the future of their community and country. In the Falkland Islands, our General Election is more than just a vote—it is a vital expression of self-determination, a principle that allows us to govern ourselves and make decisions that reflect the will of the people who live here.

SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

As a self-governing British Overseas Territory, the Falkland Islands elects its own representatives to lead and make decisions on behalf of the people. By voting in a General Election, Islanders actively participate in shaping policies, laws, and the future direction of the Islands. Every vote cast strengthens our right to self-determination and demonstrates our commitment to democratic governance.

THE ROLE OF MLAS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are elected to represent the people of the Falklands. Their responsibilities go beyond making laws—they advocate for the Islands internationally, set budgets, and in Executive Council make key decisions on budgets. MLAs are accountable to the public, meaning they must listen to and act in the best interests of the people they serve.

For more in depth information on the political structure of the Falkland Islands pick up the Political System Guidebook.

WHY EVERY VOICE MATTERS

Even if you cannot vote—whether due to age, residency status, or other reasons—you can still be part of the democratic process. Elections are not just about marking a ballot; they are about discussion, debate, and engagement. You can:

- ✓ Attend public meetings to hear from candidates and ask them questions.
- ✓ Engage with MLAs and candidates about issues that matter to you.
- ✓ Encourage others to vote and participate in civic discussions.
- ✓ Stay informed about policies and decisions that affect the Islands.

A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Democracy thrives when people engage with it. By voting, standing as a candidate, or simply taking part in discussions, Islanders contribute to a stronger, more representative government. Elections are not just about the present—they shape the future for generations to come.

Your participation—whether as a voter, candidate, or engaged citizen—helps ensure the Falkland Islands remains a fair, democratic, and self-determined society.

THE ELECTION YEAR

AT A GLANCE

PROCLAMATION & NOTICE OF ELECTION

Friday, 31 October

Following the notice of election nomination packs will be made available, and candidates will have roughly two weeks to get the information required and submitted. After which candidates will be announced and campaigning will properly begin.

ELECTION DAY

Thursday, 11 December

Polling takes place across the Islands, mobile polling stations driving and flying across the Falklands collecting votes to be counted later on.

For more information on your vote turn to page 05.

MLA oaths sworn

First week in office

During their first week as MLAs they will visit Government House, making their oaths and affirmations.

For more on what happens after MLAs are elected turn to page 09.

WORKSHOPS

July-October

Throughout the year there will be various Pre-Election Workshops, giving opportunity for voters and potential candidates to learn more about the FIG and the role of MLAs.

For more information on the Pre-Election Workshops turn to page 10.

CAMPAIGNING

Second half of November

Candidates will share manifestos, speak to the press, and attend debates. This is the opportunity for voters to make up their minds on who to support.

For more on the election and campaigning process turn to page 07.

ELECTION NIGHT

Thursday, 11 December

Votes are counted in the Town Hall in Stanley, usually the same day as polling. Members of the public and candidates can usually attend to observe the vote counting. Usually before 11pm the successful candidates are announced.

KNOWING YOUR **VOTER ELIGIBILITY** FOR FALKLANDS ELECTIONS

To be eligible to vote in the Falkland Islands you must meet the following criteria:

- Be over the age of 18.
- Have Falkland Islands status.
- Have filled out and submitted your electoral roll form (distributed in March 2025 and required back by 15 April).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q Can I vote if I'm going to be out of the country on election night? And if so, how?

A So long as you're registered to vote, you can absolutely vote while overseas. We recommend that voters who will be overseas on election night register a proxy who can vote on their behalf in the election. This person will be able to enter the voting booth and cast a vote on your behalf, and so should be someone you trust completely, and who you can contact easily while overseas to inform them of your voting preference.

You also have the option of a postal vote. This option is not our first recommendation, however, as if there are any delays of mail this could affect your vote being counted.

Q Am I required to vote? Is there any punishment for not voting, or benefit to voting?

A There's no requirement to vote, and no punishment for not voting - but it is a great way to exercise your democratic rights!

Q What if I have dual nationality? I remember there being a court case about that, but I don't know how it affects me.

A Your dual-nationality has no effect on your ability to vote. You can turn up on polling day and cast a vote like any other member of the community.

Q If I don't feel strongly supportive of the candidates in my constituency, is there a way I can swap which one I vote in?

A Once you've registered to vote in one constituency you can't swap. If you feel that the candidates are not representing issues you feel strongly about, this is a great time to get involved in meetings or ask questions to candidates to exercise the strength of your vote!

THE ELECTION, AND HOW THE VOTING PROCESS WORKS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

HOW TO VOTE

The Falkland Islands use a simple voting system where voters in Stanley and Camp elect MLAs to represent them.

Each voter selects multiple candidates (up to the number of available seats in their constituency), and those with the most votes are elected. If you're registered to vote in Stanley during the General Election, you will be able to vote for up to five Stanley candidates to fill those seats; if you are registered in camp you will be able to vote for up to three Camp candidates to fill those seats.

The system ensures fair representation and reflects the will of the electorate.

Voters can cast their ballots:

- In person at designated polling stations.
- By postal vote if registered in advance.
- By following all instructions provided on the ballot paper to ensure a valid vote.
- Through a proxy they have nominated beforehand.

ELECTION DAY: WHAT TO EXPECT

Polling stations open early and remain accessible throughout the day. Voters should bring identification [check with AG, was raised as possibly being encouraged soon] and follow guidelines for a smooth voting experience.

HOW VOTES ARE COUNTED

After polling closes ballots are securely transported to the Town Hall in Stanley to be verified and tallied in a transparent process. Anyone can attend at this stage, and candidates can cross into the immediate counting area to ensure that the process is functioning properly.

Results will then announced publicly once counting is complete, this will usually happen for Camp first, as there are fewer voters; and then later on in the evening the votes for Stanley candidates will be announced. Usually this is complete by 11pm.

Candidates can observe the election more closely than voters, and inform the Returning Officer of any concerns they may have, or even call for a recount. Candidates will be informed in more detail about these options on the night.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHOICES

Voters should research candidates' policies, attend public meetings, and review manifestos to make informed decisions. Engaging in discussions and debates helps ensure a well-rounded perspective.

KNOWING YOUR

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

FOR FALKLANDS ELECTIONS

To be eligible to stand for election in the Falkland Islands you must meet the following criteria:

- Be over the age of 18 *on the date of the election*.
- Be registered to vote in the Falkland Islands (gained by having Falkland Islands status).

That's all! To stand for Legislative Assembly you don't have to have any specific qualifications or prior experience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q Can I still vote if I run for election? If I do, am I allowed to vote for myself?

A You can still vote if you run for election, and you can even use one of your votes on yourself. When it comes to voting on polling day it will effectively be the same for any other voter in the Islands.

Q Can I use social media to campaign? What limits are there on social media campaigning?

A Social media campaigning is permitted, but you must keep within cost limits for advertising. You are also expected to campaign in a responsible manner and not spread false information, or mislead the public.

Q What if I have dual nationality? I remember there being a court case about that, but I don't know how it affects me.

A If you have dual-nationality you can still stand for election, and vote, so long as you have maintained your Falkland Islands status. You may be expected to declare an interest as a dual-national in some cases once you are an elected member, if you are successful during the election. FIG staff will assist with this once you are in office.

Q What if I put my name forward and decide I don't want to run any more? Can I withdraw my candidacy?

A You can't formally withdraw your candidacy. However, there have been cases in the past where candidates have decided that they don't want to run any more, and have informed the public and requested constituents not to vote for them. This has been largely respected in the past. We encourage you to think deeply before nominating yourself, however, to avoid this situation.

THE ELECTION, AND HOW THE ELECTION PROCESS WORKS IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CANDIDATE

Candidates must adhere to ethical campaigning practices, including:

- Respecting election rules and spending limits.
- Avoiding false claims or misinformation.
- Treating opponents and voters with respect.
- Complying with all legal requirements set by election authorities.

STEPS AHEAD OF STANDING FOR ELECTION

There are some key considerations ahead of standing:

- Choose which constituency you want to stand for. Camp residents can stand for Stanley, and vice-versa. While MLAs represent the Islands as a whole they also represent their constituency.
- Pick two supporters and four electors to sign your nomination form to stand for election. They must be from the constituency that you're standing in. We also suggest that you get more electors and supporters than you technically require—as people can only be electors or supporters for one candidate, and if one of yours has forgotten that they did it for someone else then it may make your registration as a candidate ineligible.
- You must pay a £100 deposit to stand, which is returned unless you receive one eighth of the votes cast.

CAMPAIGN FUNDING AND SPENDING RULES

Candidates must track campaign spending and adhere to the limit set by the Government. All financial records should be properly maintained for reporting purposes. The spending limit is set per constituency by a cash limit and a value per elector, identified by the amount of electors on the electoral roll. This will be announced ahead of the election.

MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Candidates should be prepared to:

- Participate in debates and public forums.
- Engage with journalists and answer policy-related questions.
- Utilise social media responsibly to connect with voters.
- Address public concerns effectively and professionally.

ELECTION DAY FOR CANDIDATES

On polling day, candidates:

- Must not campaign within polling stations.
- Should be prepared for post-election processes, including vote counting.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN **CAMPAIGNING** AND WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

Running for election is your opportunity to connect with the community and share your ideas. Campaigning should always be open, fair, and respectful. Below is a simple guide to acceptable and unacceptable methods.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit constituents – Meet people in person, and listen to their concerns.
- Host public meetings or surgeries – Offer times where people can come and ask you questions.
- Speak with the press or give interviews – Share your views openly with the wider public. The press do have their own rules about giving candidates equal representation, however, so you'll need to respect their requests about how much they speak to you, and when.
- Send campaign materials – Flyers, posters, and social media posts are all legitimate ways to spread your message.
- Use social media responsibly – Share your vision, interact with voters, and answer questions respectfully.
- Engage at community events – Going to gatherings and public events can be great opportunities to meet voters, but don't harass people or try to take over the event.

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

- Treating (bribery) – Offering food, drink, gifts, or favours in exchange for support is not allowed.
- Spreading lies or slander – Attacking opponents with false or misleading claims is unethical and can damage public trust.
- Misusing government resources – Public funds, facilities, or official positions must never be used for campaign purposes.
- Intimidating voters – Pressuring or harassing individuals to vote a certain way is not acceptable.
- Campaigning inside polling stations – Once people are voting, they must be free from outside influence.

REMEMBER

Elections are about giving voters a fair choice. Respect, honesty, and openness will help you build trust—not just for your campaign, but for the future role of MLA if elected.

THE IMPORTANCE OF

POLITICALLY ENGAGED

CITIZENS AFTER THE ELECTION

Elections are a vital part of democracy, but political engagement doesn't end at the ballot box. Decisions made by MLAs affect every aspect of life in the Falkland Islands, from healthcare and education to infrastructure and emergency services. Staying informed and involved ensures that the democratic process remains strong.

HOLDING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ACCOUNTABLE

Once elected, MLAs are responsible for making important policy and governance decisions. However, their work must reflect the needs and concerns of the community. You can be involved by:

- Attending public meetings and Assembly sessions.
- Engaging with MLAs through emails or public forums.

PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

FIG frequently seeks public input on key policies, legislation, and projects. Taking part in consultations allows individuals to:

- Voice opinions on important issues.
- Influence the development of new laws and policies.
- Ensure that a broad range of perspectives is considered.

Active participation in these discussions strengthens democratic governance and leads to better-informed policies.

ENGAGING IN COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

Engagement with politics goes beyond FIG, for example you can:

- Join community groups or advocacy organisations focused on specific issues.
- Organize petitions or awareness campaigns.
- Support initiatives that promote social, economic, or environmental improvements.

Advocacy efforts help bring attention to overlooked issues and can drive meaningful change within the Islands.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS

Political engagement between elections helps build an informed electorate. This includes:

- Encouraging discussions about politics and governance. Including discussing rights and responsibilities with young or first-time voters.

By fostering an engaged political culture, the Falkland Islands can ensure that each election cycle brings strong, capable leaders who reflect the community's needs.

You can also join a range of government committees, which require both expert and lay-members to give their perspectives.

HOW OUR NEW MLAs

START IN OFFICE

AFTER THE ELECTION

After MLAs have been elected there are several key steps which will take place.

THE SWEARING OF THE OATHS

The new Legislative Assembly will attend Government House together to swear several oaths required as part of their keeping of office, as set out in the Constitution. These oaths include:

- **The Oath of Allegiance:** Swearing to bear allegiance to The Monarch.
- **The Oath for Due Execution of Office:** Swearing to serve The Monarch, the people of the Falkland Islands, and to uphold the Constitution and other laws in force in the Falkland Islands.
- **The Oath of Secrecy:** Swearing to be a true and faithful Councillor and that they will not reveal the business or proceedings of the Executive Council, except in the scope of their duties as a Councillor or with authority of the Governor.

MEETING OFFICERS AND GETTING BRIEFED ON KEY INFORMATION

The new Assembly members will meet key members of the Civil Service and be briefed on ongoing projects, recent developments, immediate priorities, and potential challenges within each department and directorate. Along with some basic training essential to members duties, this will get MLAs up to speed on the current state of the Government and provide deeper understanding of what they may wish to prioritise, and which directorates they may want to work with.

THE DIVISION AND ASSIGNMENT OF PORTFOLIOS

Once the new Assembly has been briefed by Officers of the Falkland Islands Government they will discuss and come to an agreement about the division of the government portfolios. Each Assembly can divide the directorates into portfolios as they wish.

The only limitation in place in the portfolio system is that an MLA cannot hold the same portfolio for two terms in a row.

THE CREATION OF AN ISLANDS PLAN

Among other meetings and briefings, in the first few months of being in the Legislative Assembly the members will agree on an Islands Plan, a collective manifesto collating their individual ideals into a set of goals for the Legislative Assembly across their four years in Government.

This will come together following discussion with civil servants, including the Chief Executive, to create a set of goals which can be engaged with by the civil service.

PRE-ELECTION **WORKSHOPS** FOR CANDIDATES AND VOTERS

Want to know more about the role of MLAs? Thinking about standing for election? Or just want to better understand how your voice matters?

To help potential candidates and voters understand the election process and the role of the MLAs that they may either aspire to become, or be voting for, a series of workshops are being held in the lead-up to the General Election.

These will help voters, and especially candidates, to understand the role and responsibilities which come with elected office.

Camp Workshop: The Role of MLAs & Why Your Voice Matters

31 July – 1700, Goose Green Social Club

An introduction to what it means to be an MLA and why participation in politics matters. Ideal for anyone considering standing for election, as well as voters who want to understand the responsibilities of their representatives.

Stanley Workshop: The Role of MLAs & Why Your Voice Matters

28 August – 1700, FI Chamber of commerce

An introduction to what it means to be an MLA and why participation in politics matters. Ideal for anyone considering standing for election, as well as voters who want to understand the responsibilities of their representatives.

Camp Workshop: The Role of MLAs & Why Your Voice Matters

15 September – 1200, Fox Bay Social Club

An introduction to what it means to be an MLA and why participation in politics matters. Ideal for anyone considering standing for election, as well as voters who want to understand the responsibilities of their representatives.

Voter Workshop: The Power of a Vote, Making Your Voice Heard

15 October – 1200, FI Chamber of Commerce

Especially useful for first-time voters, this session explains how voting works, why every ballot counts, and how your voice makes a real difference. A valuable refresher for all voters ahead of the election.

Workshops are open to everyone – voters, potential future MLAs, and anyone interested in Falklands politics.

GETTING FAMILIAR WITH **CONTACTS** FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

You may have more questions or queries than can be answered by this booklet ahead of the election, whether you're planning to vote, or you're planning to run for office.

Here are some key contacts which may be of use:

The Registry

+500 27271 // registryenquiries@townhall.gov.fk

For questions on whether you're on the electoral roll, whether you're eligible to stand for office, or similar queries about registration, the registrar is the best place to contact.

Gilbert House, the Office of the Legislative Assembly

+500 27451 // paassembly@sec.gov.fk

For questions about the Pre-Election Workshops, or for queries directly to current MLAs, contact Gilbert House.

THE PRESS

Whether it's to share your manifesto, try to organise press coverage or adverts, or you want to put a question to candidates through the press, the media have a vital role in an Election.

Falkland Islands TV

+500 22649 // news@fitv.co.fk

Falklands Radio

+500 27279 // newseditor@radio.co.fk

Penguin News

+500 22684 // editor@penguinnews.co.fk