

Election guide

LMC England conference elections 2021



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Introduction to online elections

The online elections system was introduced to ensure our elections process is open, transparent and accessible to our members.

This guide will provide you with the necessary information for this particular election and will guide you through the online election process. For specific help as to how to nominate, vote and view results, please refer to the demonstration and quick guides found at bma.co.uk/elections

Elections at LMC England conference

Every year, a certain number of positions are available for attendees of the conference to nominate themselves for elections. These positions are:

1. Chair of LMC England conference
2. Deputy chair of LMC England conference
3. Five members of the LMC England conference agenda committee, not more than one of whom may be a sitting member of GPC England at the time of their election.

Election Principles

- Candidates submit their nominations online at the BMA elections website.
- Voting is by single transferable vote and is online.
- Detailed instructions on how to vote are provided.

Eligibility to participate in election

All members of the conference are eligible to stand and vote for all positions

Election schedule

Nominations open for all positions – **12pm Thursday 18 November 2021**

Nominations close for LMC England conference chair – **3pm Thursday 25 November 2021**

Nominations close for LMC England deputy chair – **5pm Thursday 25 November 2021**

Nominations close for LMC England Conference Agenda committee – **10am Friday 26 November 2021**

Voting opens for all positions – **2pm Friday 26 November**

Voting close for all positions – **2pm Monday 29 November**

Results will be announced soon after the conclusion of voting.

Candidate statement guidelines

Role profile and skills: First, read the role profile to make sure your statement is relevant. You could use real-life examples to demonstrate that you have the skills needed.

Don't write in CAPITALS: Writing in all-capital letters can come across as shouting, as do exclamation marks. Consider other ways to convey the importance of your message.

Abbreviations: Recognised BMA and other abbreviations can help you keep within the word limit, but make sure they are easily understood. Try to avoid jargon and write what you mean.

Be concise: Don't make your statement longer than it needs to be. A long statement can be discouraging and lose readers before they get to your final point.

Tone: Avoid irony and humour that can be misunderstood. It's always best to keep the tone professional and business-like. Discriminatory, unpleasant or negative comments could constitute harassment and are not acceptable. If these are found in your statement, you will be asked to remove them.

External links: No hyperlinks are permitted within your statement, including links to websites, YouTube or other media. Depending on the election you may be able to upload a photo or video.

Review your statement: Allow plenty of time to complete your statement and revisit it before the nominations close. When you return to it, read it through from the voter's perspective.

Check before you save: Once nominations close, you cannot edit your statement. Treat it like any other official document. Read it before you save it – errors are just as unfortunate in candidate statements as in any corporate correspondence. Look out for potential misunderstandings and check for tone. You're responsible for your content – the elections team will not amend grammar and spelling.

If there is a problem with your statement, such as inappropriate content, the elections team will contact you. If you do not respond within the time limit given, they will amend as necessary. Any civil or criminal liability in respect of publishing or copying an election address rests solely with the candidate.

What is STV

STV (Single Transferable Vote) is a form of proportional representation where you rank the candidates.

Candidates don't need a majority of votes to be elected, just a known 'quota', or share of the votes, determined by the size of the electorate and the number of positions to be filled.

Each voter gets one vote, which can transfer from their first-preference to their second-preference, so if your preferred candidate has no chance of being elected, or has enough votes already, your vote is transferred to another candidate in accordance with your instructions. STV thus ensures that very few votes are wasted, unlike other systems, especially First Past the Post, where only a small number of votes actually contribute to the result.

Why do we use STV?

STV gives voters more choice than any other system. This in turn puts most power in the hands of the voters.

Fewer votes are 'wasted' (ie cast for losing candidates or unnecessarily cast for the winner) under STV. This means that most voters can identify a representative that they personally helped to elect. Such a link in turn increases a representative's accountability.

Contacts

For any questions on eligibility to nominate or vote or about the election process please contact the elections team at elections@bma.org.uk.

To check or update your membership details please go to <https://www.bma.org.uk/my-bma>

Canvassing guidelines

Canvassing for votes is an integral part of an election. However, candidates must not use BMA resources to canvas voters and should not send unsolicited communications to them, but they can use social media to encourage votes. Candidates should think carefully about using other networks to support their candidacy.

Here are some dos and don'ts of canvassing:

- Do role model BMA behaviours at all times in the election process
- Do highlight your strengths and experience
- Don't post negative comments about rival candidates
- Do contact the secretariat immediately if you believe other candidates are behaving inappropriately
- Do discourage heckling during any hustings or on social media
- Don't put pressure on people to vote for you or ask others to do the same
- Don't make promises you can't keep – you will be held to account in the next round of elections