

The Rule Book – Section L National Assembly for Wales Candidates

Introduction

1. These rules were agreed by the Wales Council of the Co-operative Party/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol on 13 December 2008.

Eligibility

2. Applicants must have been individual members of the Co-operative Party for two years and of a Co-operative Society or bone fide co-operative for three years - except in exceptional circumstances to be strictly sanctioned by the full Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol.
3. Applicants must have the minimum membership requirements of the Labour Party Panel for consideration as a Prospective National Assembly Candidate.
4. Prospective National Assembly Candidates are ineligible.

Applications

5. Applicants must complete the prescribed application form in full and sign the declaration on the application form.

Empanelment

6. Applicants will only be empanelled after meeting the Labour Party selection criteria.
7. The Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol or a Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol Sub-Committee may turn down applications with or without interview.
8. Unsuccessful applicants may not reapply for at least one year.

Appeal

9. Applicants who are not accepted may appeal in writing to the Wales Council setting out the grounds on which the Wales Council should consider the decision. Any appeal must be lodged within two months of the date on which the applicant receives notification of their rejection.

Membership of the Panel

10. Membership of the Co-operative Party's National Assembly Panel brings considerable advantages but also involves panellists accepting a number of obligations.
11. Where the Co-operative Party is willing to make an official nomination for a particular Constituency, you will be considered for short-listing by the local Co-operative Party.
12. If selected as the Prospective Labour and Co-operative Candidate, the Co-operative Party will enter into a local electoral agreement with the adopting constituency Labour Party.

13. You must accept the following obligations

- You will no longer be a free agent to pursue National Assembly selections. You must keep in touch with the General Secretary/Deputy General Secretary of the Co-operative Party advising her/him of the seats you wish to pursue. If the Co-operative Party is not making an official nomination to a particular seat it is likely that permission will be granted for you to seek nomination as a non-official candidate.
- No member of the National Assembly Panel of the Co-operative Party may seek nomination from Labour Party branches or other affiliated organisations against the official nominee of the Co-operative Party. If you are not the Co-operative Party nominee you must withdraw all interest in the seat in the two days following the Co-operative Party nomination meeting. This includes rescinding any nominations already received.
- Panel members are expected to support the official nominee of the Co-operative Party.
- You may resign from the Panel at any time but you may not resign simply to have a free hand to oppose the official nominee of the Co-operative Party.
- Failure to observe these rules will cause your exclusion from this Panel and future Panels. If you break these rules you may be asked to submit a written explanation of your actions to the Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol. If you are or have been so excluded, you will not be considered for membership of this or future Panels.
- You must be available for any training events arranged by the Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol for members of the Panel.
- Panellists are expected to attend all Co-operative Party selection meetings to which they are invited.
- Any Panellist who consistently refuses to attend Co-operative Party selection meetings will be asked to give the National Organiser of the Co-operative Party an explanation.
- The Wales Council/Cyngor Cymru y Blaid Gydweithredol may remove from the Panel any member who consistently fails to attend Co-operative Party selection meetings.