

# Standing for a political party

## This document is for

Candidates, political parties and election agents who want information about standing for a registered political party at the National Assembly for Wales elections. In this document we use 'you' to refer to the candidate. There are no dates for specific elections in this document. For relevant dates, please refer to the election timetable [here](#).

## The document covers

- Standing for a political party
- Certificate of authorisation to use a party name or description
- Joint descriptions
- Request to use an emblem on the ballot paper
- Use of emblems by candidates using a joint description

## Related documents

- [Getting nominated](#)
- [Registering a political party](#)

## Forms

- [Nomination papers](#)

## Links

- [Register of political parties](#)

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## Standing for a political party

### Constituency candidates

If as a constituency candidate you are standing on behalf of a registered political party, you can ask for the party's name to appear next to your name on the statement of persons nominated and on the ballot paper. Alternatively, you could ask for one of the descriptions the party has [registered with the Commission](#) to be used instead.

To use a party's name or registered description you must have a certificate of authorisation signed by the party's Nominating Officer or someone authorised in writing to act on their behalf. The written authorisation for someone to act on behalf of the Nominating Officer must be included with the nomination papers if not previously delivered.

You can also ask for one of the party's official emblems to be printed on the ballot paper.

### Joint descriptions

As a constituency candidate, you can stand for election for more than one party and use a joint description. In that case, the candidate would need a certificate of authorisation from the Nominating Officers for each party and the description must be registered as a joint description by each party.

### Completing the descriptions field on the nomination form

Particular care should be taken when completing the descriptions field on the nomination form. The party name/description used on the nomination paper must exactly match the party name/description on the [Commission's register of political parties](#). If it does not, the whole nomination paper will be rejected.

If you are thinking of registering a new party, please see our guidance document:

[Registering a political party](#)

You can download the full range of nomination papers from our website:

[Nomination papers](#)

# The certificate of authorisation

## Constituency candidates

If you are a constituency candidate, the certificate of authorisation must state:

- that you are the official candidate for the party
- that the description appearing on your nomination form is authorised by the party

## Completing the certificate

Particular care should be taken when completing the certificate of authorisation. If the party name/description included on the certificate does not match the name/description on the nomination paper, the whole nomination will become invalid.

## Delivering the certificate of authorisation to the Returning Officer

Constituency candidates should deliver the certificate of authorisation to the Returning Officer at the same time as the nomination papers and before the close of nominations at **12 noon** on **E-19**.

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## Request to use an emblem on the ballot paper

If a candidate has been authorised to use a party name/description on the ballot paper, they can also request that one of the party's official emblems is printed on the ballot paper. Emblems can be viewed or downloaded from the [Commission's website](#).

The request to use an emblem must be made in writing on the certificate of authorisation.

The Returning Officer will supply the required form or, alternatively, you could use the [form produced by the Commission](#).

The request should state both the **name of the political party** and the **description of the emblem** to be used, as listed on the [Commission's website](#). Registered emblems cannot be varied in any way.

### Use of emblems by candidates using a joint description

If you are a constituency candidate standing under a joint description, you can choose one of the emblems from any of the parties to appear on the ballot paper.

## How we can help

You can view our full range of guidance and up-to-date resources on our website.

If it's easier, you can also call us on our number below or email us. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Call us on: 029 2034 6800

Email us at: [infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk)

Visit us at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)

### Translations and other formats

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