

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **DRAFT REFERENDUM (PRESIDENCY OF STATES ASSEMBLY) (JERSEY) ACT 201- (P.76/2018): SECOND AMENDMENT**

---

**Lodged au Greffe on 3rd July 2018  
by the Comité des Connétables**

---

**STATES GREFFE**

DRAFT REFERENDUM (PRESIDENCY OF STATES ASSEMBLY) (JERSEY)  
ACT 201- (P.76/2018): SECOND AMENDMENT

---

**PAGE 21, ARTICLE 8 –**

After Article 8(5)(a) insert the following sub-paragraph –

“(b) in Article 30(2) the reference to 8 a.m. (for the opening of the poll)  
is to be read as a reference to 10 a.m.”,

and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraphs of Article 8(5) accordingly.

COMITÉ DES CONNÉTABLES

## REPORT

1. Should the States Assembly reject the Comité des Connétables' amendment (P.76/2018 Amd.) to the date for the referendum in relation to the Bailiff's Presidency of the States Assembly ([P.76/2018](#)), the Comité proposes that the polling hours for the referendum on Saturday 20th October 2018 should be reduced from 12 hours to 10 hours.
2. It is interesting to note that Recommendations 24 and 25 of the proposition 'Electoral Law Reform' ([P.207/1998](#)) proposed moving to a Saturday election but maintaining the times of the poll as 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. –

### *“RECOMMENDATION 24*

*All polls for Senators, Deputies, Connétables and Centeniers should be held on a Saturday, which should be considered the normal election day for elections.*

*NOTE: The law would permit the Royal Court to nominate another day of the week in any particular election if a case were made as to why the Saturday would be inappropriate.*

*7.4.5.4 Several submissions were made suggesting alternative times e.g., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. However, because Saturday is not a normal working day for most people it was felt that the existing opening times for the poll of 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. would be adequate.*

### *RECOMMENDATION 25*

*No change, however, should be made to the times of the poll (i.e., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.) provided that these times in the law could be changed by Regulation.”.*

3. The States' decision, following an amendment ([P.212/1998 \(revised\)](#)), was to continue with elections on a Wednesday, but instead to open the polls for 12 hours. Since then, the options of pre-poll and postal voting have been introduced, which have provided further opportunities for electors to vote, including on 2 Saturdays at, on each occasion, a different location that is not in St. Helier (*see* Article 40(2) of the [Public Elections \(Jersey\) Law 2002](#)).
4. In the last 2 'general' elections (2014 and 2018), the estimated number of persons using the pre-poll Saturday option is shown below. In both 2014 and 2018, the Saturday pre-poll was held once each in St. Brelade and Trinity and, in each year, the highest number pre-polling were residents of the Parish in which the pre-poll was held.

<i>Pre-poll</i>	<i>Pre-poll opening hours</i>	<i>Estimated no. pre-poll voting</i>	<i>Average no. of voters per hour</i>
October 2014 (2 Saturdays)	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	294	10 hours – 30 per hour
October 2014 (weekdays)	8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (8 days) and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (1 day)	2,178	86 hours – 25 per hour
May 2018 (2 Saturdays)	10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	309	6 hours – 52 per hour
April/May 2018 (weekdays)	8.30 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. (8 days) and 8.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (1 day)	2,608	75.5 hours – 35 per hour

5. The longer opening hours were introduced to enable electors to vote on their way to work, at 8 a.m., as well as after work. The Statistics Jersey report at December 2017 '[Jersey Labour Market](#)' indicates more than 15,000 workers (c. 25% of the total employed) work in 6/7 day week industries such as hotels, restaurants and bars, wholesale and retail, and health services, although not all will be Saturday workers. Conversely, some 75% of the workforce are not employed in 6/7 day week industries and so will not be voting at 8 a.m. on their way to work.
6. For those who may work on a Saturday, the Comité considers a 10 hour opening for polls is a reasonable balance which, combined with opportunities for pre-poll and postal voting, will not adversely impact on electors' opportunity to vote, but will reduce the difficulties which Parishes anticipate will arise if the poll is held on a Saturday.
7. A 10 a.m. poll opening on the Saturday will mean staff need to attend at 9 a.m. (rather than at 7 a.m. for an 8 a.m. poll opening). Although the polling station is set up prior to polling day, there is still work to do before the poll opens, including final administrative checks, setting out ballot papers and electoral registers, ensuring adequate staff/assistants are available, making arrangements for requests for home visits to collect votes from those who are sick, and liaising with the Jurat over last-minute requirements.

### **Financial and manpower implications**

8. Aside from the setting-up costs, which are met by the Parishes, the amendment will not change the costs to be met by the States as set out in [P.76/2018](#).
9. The amendment will, however, slightly reduce the costs to the Parishes, as staff will not be required to work such long hours on polling day. It may also lessen, slightly, the difficulties which Parishes anticipate in finding sufficient volunteers to assist with the referendum on a Saturday.