

# ***Who makes decisions about the future of Jersey?***



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# What is a States Member?

States Members are local people over the age of 18, who are elected by the public of Jersey to represent their views when decisions are being made about the Island. These include everything from schools to healthcare; to how much tax we pay and how we look after our natural environment.

There are:

- **12 Constables** (or Connétables), one per Parish, voted in by the people living there to represent their views.
- **37 Deputies** voted in by residents of 9 'constituencies'. These constituencies bring together less populated Parishes and the most populated Parish, St. Helier, is divided into three. With each constituency roughly representing the same number of people, everyone is represented more fairly and no matter where you live, your vote carries the same weight.

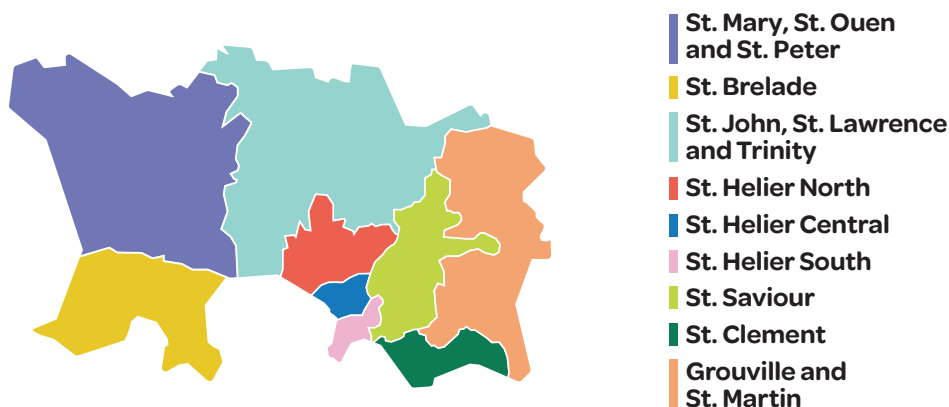


# How are States Members chosen?

Every four years Jersey has an Election, where Jersey residents can put themselves forward to become or be re-elected as a States Member, also known as 'standing for election'. They write about what they would change about Jersey in what's known as a manifesto. Anyone in Jersey, who is aged 16 years and over, and who is registered to vote, then gets to choose who they want to represent them in the States Assembly.

Jersey's last Election took place in June 2022, so the next Election will not take place until 2026.

## Which constituency will you be able to vote in?





# What do States Members do?

There are lots of different roles and responsibilities taken on by States Members.

The first role to be decided every four years is the Chief Minister, who is voted for by States Members. The new Chief Minister then recommends other Members to be Ministers and, once all Members agree, the Ministers form a group called the Council of Ministers.

Each Minister looks after a department, such as 'Education and Lifelong Learning' and 'Health and Social Services'. They are helped in their work by staff known as civil servants or officers.

Ministers also choose other States Members to be their Assistant Ministers, particularly when they have a large department to run. The Council of Ministers meets regularly to discuss its work. When Ministers want to make major changes to the way something is run, or introduce a new law, they have to get the other Members of the States to agree with them.

Once the Council of Ministers is created they become known as the Government or 'executive' Members of the States Assembly.



## TASK:

**If you were Minister in charge of Children and Education, what 3 things would you like to change about schools in Jersey and why?**

1.

2.

3.

# What is Scrutiny?

Some States Members who are not Ministers or Assistant Ministers work together to check, challenge and improve any changes proposed by Government Ministers.

States Members who are part of Scrutiny also talk to local residents and to experts on the subject they are reviewing, to help them decide whether or not they agree with Ministers' ideas and decisions.

States Members who are not in the Government or Scrutiny still have important roles listening and responding to requests from their constituents.

You can find lots of information about Scrutiny on [statesassembly.je/scrutiny](https://statesassembly.je/scrutiny).



## TASK:

**Using the States Assembly website, can you find out how many Scrutiny Panels there are?**

# How are Jersey's laws changed?

Laws are like school rules, except that they apply to everyone in the Island. We need laws so that we all know how the Island is run and what we should and should not do. Just imagine what it would be like if there were no traffic laws and cars could drive on whichever side of the road they wanted!

All Jersey's laws are made by States Members during official States Meetings. Members wanting to bring about a change in the Law begin by preparing a report and proposition describing the issue and their reasons for wanting the Assembly to consider the matter.

Their proposition is then 'lodged au Greffe', which means it is put forward to all States Members before it is debated, to allow Members to think about and research the issue.

The proposition, along with any proposed changes (or 'amendments'), is then placed on the Order Paper (or schedule) for debate at a States Meeting.



## STATES OF JERSEY ORDER PAPER

### Did you know?

Jersey's laws are written in a mixture of French and English.

One of our most unique laws makes it illegal to dance on Good Friday or Christmas Day!

# What happens during a States Meeting?

Throughout the year, States Members attend official States Meetings in the States Chamber. These usually start on a Tuesday and can go on for several days!

Meetings begin with States Members who are not part of the Government asking Ministers questions about what is happening in their departments.

Then, States Members debate the propositions listed on the Order Paper, one by one. At the end of each debate, all 49 Members vote to decide what should happen next.

They have three voting buttons on their desk to choose from:

- P** to vote '**Pour**', meaning in favour; or
- A** for '**Abstain**' if they feel unable to vote in favour or against; or
- C** to vote '**Contre**', meaning against.

If Members vote in favour of a proposition, it is said that the proposal has 'been adopted', but if the majority vote against, then it is said to have been 'lost'.

When a new law or change to the law is 'adopted', it is then sent to the King who has to give his approval in a meeting with his Council before it becomes an official new law which we all have to obey.

We'll talk about the reasons why this might happen during your visit

## Why do you think the voting is all in French?

Don't worry if you're not sure, this is something we will discuss during your visit!





This photo shows the inside of the States Chamber.  
It was first opened on 21 June 1887.

### TASK:



Ask the people that you live with at home who they voted for in the last General Election.

If they don't usually vote, they can register to vote in the next election at **vote.je**

# Who attends States Meetings?



*Sir Timothy Le Cocq*

## What is the role of the Bailiff?

The Bailiff of Jersey is appointed by the King as the President of the States. The present Bailiff is Sir Timothy Le Cocq who was appointed on 17 October 2019. He wears traditional red robes when attending a States Meeting.

States Members let the Bailiff know that they want to speak by pressing a button on the desk in front of them which lights up their microphone. With 49 Members all wanting to speak, the Bailiff, who sits in a Chair at the front of the Chamber, has to keep order in the Chamber and decide who should speak next, a bit like your teacher!

The Bailiff has no right to vote and ensures that debates in the Chamber are fair.

**See if you can guess where his seat is on your visit!**



*Vice Admiral Jeremy Kyd CBE*

## **The Lieutenant Governor**

The Lieutenant Governor is the King's representative in Jersey and sits in a chair next to the Bailiff. The Lieutenant Governor's chair is seven inches (18 cm) lower than the Bailiff's to indicate the Bailiff has seniority over him in the Assembly.

The Lieutenant Governor has the right to attend and speak but traditionally will only speak twice during his five-year term of office – on his arrival and on his departure.

The Lieutenant Governor has no right to vote.



**Do you know which other language recently became an official language of the States Assembly?**



*The Very Reverend  
Mike Keirle*

## **The Dean Of Jersey**

The Dean of Jersey attends States Meetings and leads the Members in prayer at the start of each Meeting. The prayer is in French, because both English and French are traditionally the official languages in the Chamber. The Dean has a right to speak but cannot vote.



*Mark Temple QC*

## **The Law Officers**

The Attorney General (left) and the Solicitor General are lawyers who give advice and can speak in the Assembly. They are appointed by the King, but cannot vote.



*Lisa Hart*

## **The Greffier of the States**

The Greffier of the States sits at a desk in front of the Bailiff during States Meetings and gives advice regarding the formal rules of the States, known as Standing Orders, which say how the Meeting should run.

The Greffier also carries out a 'roll call' at the beginning of a States Meeting (a bit like a school register) and Members respond with 'Présent' in French to say they are in the Chamber. The Greffier also reads out the title of a proposition before it is debated and records the votes. The Greffier, Deputy Greffier and Assistant Greffiers all wear a traditional outfit which includes a black gown and barrister's bands.



# What does the States Greffe do?

The States Greffe is the administrative support for the States Assembly. Their role is to:

1. Make sure that reports, propositions and draft laws are sent to all States Members, so they have plenty of time to read them before they are debated.
2. Prepare the Order Paper for each States Meeting, so that everyone knows what topics are going to be debated.
3. Keep an official record of the decisions made, called minutes.

## The Royal Mace

The Royal Mace was given to the Bailiff of Jersey by King Charles II in 1663 to thank the Island for its loyalty to the Crown during the years of the English Civil War, when England decided to not have a monarchy.

The Mace is carried before the Bailiff as he enters and leaves the States Chamber. During States Meetings, it is placed upright in front of his seat.

**Did you know, Jersey is one of only five places in the world to have a Royal Mace?**



## TASK:

### **Design your own Royal Mace for Jersey.**

Think about the symbols you could include that represent what you love about the Island.





## How many questions can you complete in this quiz?

Have a go now and again after your visit to see the new things you've learnt!

1. How old do you have to be to vote?
  - a. 18
  - b. 16
  - c. 25
2. How old do you have to be to stand for election?
  - a. 16
  - b. 18
  - c. 30
3. How many types of States Members are there?
  - a. 12
  - b. 2
  - c. 1
4. Which role is not elected but sits in States Meetings?
  - a. Constable
  - b. Bailiff
  - c. Deputy
5. How many people can sit in States Meetings but cannot vote?
  - a. 4
  - b. 6
  - c. 2
6. Why does Jersey have a Royal Mace?
  - a. To show Jersey's loyalty to the crown
  - b. To show what was used in battle during the War
  - c. To show how rich the States Assembly is
7. Who is the president of the Royal Court and the States Assembly?
  - a. The Greffier of the States
  - b. The Bailiff
  - c. The Dean
8. How many times can a States Member speak in a debate?
  - a. As many times as they like
  - b. Once
  - c. Twice
9. Who reads out the roll call in the States Assembly?
  - a. The Usher
  - b. The Greffier of the States
  - c. The Lieutenant Governor
10. What would you vote if you agreed with a proposition?
  - a. Contre
  - b. Pour
  - c. Abstain



**States Assembly**  
*Education*

**statesassembly.je**

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