

# STATES OF JERSEY



## REFORM OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATES ASSEMBLY (P.76/2023): AMENDMENT

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Lodged au Greffe on 3rd November 2023  
by Deputy L.J. Farnham of St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter  
Earliest date for debate: 28th November 2023

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STATES GREFFE

REFORM OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE STATES ASSEMBLY  
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**1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (b) –**

Substitute the words “that will determine the number of Deputies to form part of the” with the words “for a” and substitute sub-paragraph (iii) with the following

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“(iii) there should be 9 Senators, reducing the number of Deputies in each existing constituency by 1; and;”

DEPUTY L.J. FARNHAM OF ST. MARY, ST. OUVEN AND ST. PETER

**Note:** After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

- (a) to agree that the number of Deputies in the States Assembly should be reduced, and that the office of Senator, elected on an Island-wide basis, should be re-instated in time for the General Election in 2026;
- (b) to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee to develop proposals **for a** re-constituted States Assembly in 2026 in accordance with the following principles –
  - (i) there should be no increase in the total number of States Members from the current 49;
  - (ii) the twelve Connétables should remain as voting Members in the Assembly; and
  - (iii) there should be 9 Senators, reducing the number of Deputies in each existing constituency by 1; and**
- (c) that all of the consequential amending legislation should be brought for debate by the Assembly before July 2025 to ensure implementation for the 2026 elections.

## REPORT

The effect of this amendment, if adopted, would be to establish a States Assembly of 49 members consisting of 9 Senators, elected by island wide mandate, 28 Deputies elected under the existing constituencies, and the 12 Parish Connétables.

In the 2022 general election, the electorate had lost the right to elect members, to the States Assembly, by island wide mandate.

It is clear from public reaction, during, and post, the last election, that the majority of islanders wished to retain the Island wide mandate as represented in the office of Senator. This resulted in many islanders choosing not to vote leading to the poorest election turnout in recorded history. This is particularly poignant as the new electoral system was predicated upon the objective of increasing voter participation and turnout.

The office of Senator was the most democratic of all the elected offices in Jersey and offered the greatest level of voter equity and accountability, in that Senators are elected by, and answerable to, every voter (and every individual) in the Island.

The Senatorial elections provided Islanders with an opportunity to collectively discuss and consider key issues of interest to every person in Jersey, not just matters relevant to one Parish or District.

Importantly, the holders of Senatorial office were therefore well placed to take unprejudiced and impartial views of issues affecting the whole Island, without being conflicted by Parish or constituency pressures providing an essential balance to the States Assembly.

The reinstatement of Senators, as proposed, and the removal of 1 Deputy from each district, would have virtually no impact on the greater voter equality when compared to our current electoral system. It would however give the electorate far greater voter choice and influence by increasing the number of representatives that each voter can elect by 8 members - 1 less Deputy but 9 new Senators, the loss of 1 vote being replaced with 9 new votes.

The Island wide mandate gives us all a shared, direct and equal influence over the make-up of the States Assembly and, albeit more indirectly, in the Government. I believe this is important and necessary for positive engagement in politics and for turnout at elections, and it is my firm opinion that our democracy has been poorer in its absence.

The main Proposition, brought by Deputy Scott, whilst bringing greater flexibility, would, if approved, require significant work to be undertaken by PPC which would be challenging to complete in the absence of any consensus among members. In discussion with colleagues on this issue, a number stated they would prefer to know what they were voting for at this stage. To that end, this amendment provides a specific solution with ample time to achieve implementation.

**Deputies constituencies under this Amendment:**

<b>Constituencies</b>	<b>Number of Deputies to be Returned</b>
<b>District: St. Helier South</b>	<b>3</b>
Vingtaines de Bas et de Haut de la Ville, St. Helier	
<b>District: St. Helier Central</b>	<b>4</b>
Vingtaine de Rouge Bouillon, St. Helier	
Vingtaine de Bas du Mont au Prêtre, St. Helier	
<b>District : St. Helier North</b>	<b>3</b>
Vingtaine du Mont Cochon, St. Helier	
Vingtaine du Mont à l'Abbé, St. Helier	
Vingtaine du Haut du Mont au Prêtre, St. Helier	
<b>District: St. Saviour</b>	<b>4</b>
Parish of St. Saviour	
<b>District: St. Clement</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish of St. Clement	
<b>District: St. Brelade</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish of St. Brelade	
<b>District: St. Mary, St. Ouen and St. Peter</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish of St. Mary	
Parish of St. Ouen	
Parish of St. Peter	
<b>District: St. John, St. Lawrence and Trinity</b>	<b>3</b>
Parish of St. John	
Parish of St. Lawrence	
Parish of Trinity	
<b>District : Grouville and St. Martin</b>	<b>2</b>
Parish of Grouville	
Parish of St. Martin	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>28</b>

**Deputies constituencies/population/population per Deputy under this Amendment:**

Constituency	Deputies Returned	Population	Population By District	Population Per Deputy
St Helier South	3	10920	10920	3640
St Helier Central	4	13140	13140	3285
St Helier North	3	12480	12480	4160
St Saviour	4	14820	14820	3705
St Clement	3	10060	10060	3353
St Brelade	3	11540	11540	3847
St Mary		1990		
St Ouen	3	4450	11890	3963
St Peter		5450		
St John		3180		
St Lawrence	3	5850	12460	4153
Trinity		3430		
Grouville	2	5320	9490	4745
St Martin		4170		
	28	106800	106800	3814

**Deputies constituencies/population/population per Deputy under current system:**

Constituency	Returned	Population	By District	Per Deputy
St Helier South	4	10920	10920	2730
St Helier Central	5	13140	13140	2628
St Helier North	4	12480	12480	3120
St Saviour	5	14820	14820	2964
St Clement	4	10060	10060	2515
St Brelade	4	11540	11540	2885
St Mary		1990		
St Ouen	4	4450	11890	2973
St Peter		5450		
St John		3180		
St Lawrence	4	5850	12460	3115
Trinity		3430		
Grouville	3	5320	9490	3163
St Martin		4170		
	37	106800	106800	2886

**Financial and staffing implications**

There are no additional financial and staffing implications.