

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **DRAFT ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTON (AMENDMENT OF LAWS) (JERSEY) LAW 202- (P.22/2021) : COMMENTS**

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**Presented to the States on 9th April 2021  
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

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**STATES GREFFE**

## COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) present these Comments on behalf of the Diversity Forum (PPC Sub-Committee).

PPC in its report accompanying P.22/2021 says: *“This change will significantly restrict the number of people eligible to stand for election as a Senator, Connétable or Deputy compared to the current position. Therefore, the Committee urges Members to consider very carefully the consequences this change would have on the eligibility criteria for those thinking about standing for election in the future”*.

The Diversity Forum shares this concern. In 2018 the States agreed in the Common Strategic Policy that the Council of Ministers and PPC should work together *“to increase the diversity of candidates standing for election and to provide them with more assistance to stand”*. We are leading this work on behalf of PPC and have recently launched a campaign to persuade people to stand for the States, with the offer of practical assistance for aspiring candidates. It is paradoxical that, at the same time, the States should consider increasing the number of years someone should live in Jersey before they can stand for election. This will reduce the number of people who are eligible to stand just at the point where we are trying to find more candidates for election. We would prefer to see it made easier for people to stand for election, not to put more barriers in the way of potential candidates.