

STATES OF JERSEY



PUBLIC ELECTIONS: AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION (P.110/2013) – AMENDMENT (P.110/2013 Amd.) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 4th November 2013
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee makes the following comments on the amendments of the Comité des Connétables to its proposition concerning Public Elections: amendments to legislation and administration (P.110/2013) –

- (1) PPC accepts this amendment, which will provide that only those registering for the first time can have their name added to the supplementary register. This will mean that any person moving house from one Parish to another immediately prior to an election will have to vote in the area they have just left, and will not vote in their new district. They are, however, *not* deprived of a vote.
- (2)
 - (i) PPC accepts this amendment. The revised wording of the Comité ensures that it better reflects Recommendation 8 in the report, namely that a notification card should only in the case of an election of States members, and not for other purely Parish positions. It restricts the recommendation a little further, in that it stipulates a general election for members of the States, and this would therefore rule out the issue of a notification card for a by-election.
 - (ii) PPC accepts this amendment.
- (3) (i) & (ii) PPC rejects this amendment.

The Sub-Committee was mindful throughout the review of how to facilitate voting for those with mobility problems or other disability. For this reason, amongst other things, it had reviewed the rules for postal voting.

It had been made clear to members of the Sub-Committee while they were campaigning that many of the elderly and infirm did not like to receive home visits when they were alone, and did not want people they did not know coming into their homes. Those who still wished to vote by pre poll would continue to be able to do so.

In relation to prisoners on remand, these were currently entitled to vote, but there was no mechanism in law to allow them to exercise their vote. The Committee proposed postal voting.

- (4) The Committee accepted the correction proposed by the Comité des Connétables.
- (5) The PPC does not accept the amendment to place candidates' photos in a polling station, rather than in the voting booth. One of the Committee's guiding principles in these amendments is that the public should find it as easy as possible to register to vote and to cast their vote, with all unnecessary impediment being removed. One of the ways in which it will be easier for the voter to make sure they place a cross alongside the name of the correct candidate is to have photographs of the candidates in the precise place where they are voting. The Jurats and the public meeting did feel that photographs of candidates would be useful in the booths to assist the public in making their choices, especially when there were a lot of candidates.