

Palestine Solidarity Campaign Election Regulations

January 2023

This document describes the regulations that apply to elections carried out amongst the general membership of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. These regulations are made pursuant to PSC's constitution and are subservient to the measures outlined in the Constitution.

Advertisement of elections

Members shall be informed of the opportunity to stand for election to posts they are eligible for. For election to the Executive Committee, members shall be informed of the posts available and the mechanism by which they can submit nominations at least three months before the election takes place.

Eligibility

To be eligible to stand for election, individuals must be members in good standing (ie with no arrears in their membership subscription) and must not be subject to any disciplinary suspension at any point between the submission of their nomination and the conclusion of the election.

Any member may request confirmation from the PSC office of their eligibility to be a candidate or to nominate another member.

Nominations

Any member who has been a member for a continuous period of at least six months before nominations open is eligible to stand for election to the Executive Committee.

Nominations for the Executive Committee shall require a proposer and a seconder who shall be individual members of PSC in good standing. Other processes may allow for self-nomination without the need for a proposer or seconder.

Nominations must be submitted through the form produced for the purpose and must be received prior to the published close of nominations.

Members will be encouraged to submit a supporting statement of up to 100 words for distribution to members. Nominations remain valid regardless of whether such a statement is submitted.

Statements which are longer than the maximum length shall be deemed to end at the word count specified.

Election statements must not contain language contrary to the PSC's Code of Conduct or which places PSC in legal jeopardy.

Nominated candidates shall have the right to withdraw from the election at any point.

Confirmation that a nomination is in order shall be provided upon request.

Where no nominations have been received, or where no candidates remains in the process at the scheduled time of election, the Executive Committee may use its power of co-option to fill the vacancy.

Returning Officer

A Returning Officer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee who shall oversee the election process and ensure these procedures are followed.

The Returning Officer shall not be a member of the Executive Committee or a member of PSC staff.

The Returning Officer shall be empowered to exclude a candidate from an election due to a serious breach of these regulations.

Any member shall be entitled to raise a complaint to the Returning Officer. The decisions of the Returning Officer shall be final.

Publicity and statements produced in relation to candidacies

This section applies both to candidates and those supporting or opposing the election of any candidate or candidates.

Candidates and other members are entitled to campaign to influence the outcome of elections. All such activity shall take place in a manner which complies with PSC's Code of Conduct. In the event of a serious breach of the Code of Conduct, the Returning Officer shall be empowered to declare a candidate excluded from the election.

Campaign materials shall not be distributed in the room in which the AGM takes place or within sight of the ballot box.

Contact details, funds or other resources held either by PSC or by branches shall not be used for the purpose of promoting or opposing the election or a candidate or candidates. This shall not preclude references being made to candidates for purposes other than for promoting their candidacy.

Candidates for the Executive Committee who are present at the meeting shall be entitled to make a verbal statement to the AGM, the duration of which shall be determined by the Chair.

Conduct of the election and counting of votes

If the number of eligible candidates is no more than the number of seats concerned, those candidates will be considered to have been elected with no further process.

The method of electing members will be by a simple majority of those voting in the election for each seat, or where there are multiple places, those elected shall be the specified number of candidates with the greatest number of votes and who fulfil any gender requirements of the posts available. There shall not be an option to re-open nominations.

Elections conducted at PSC Annual General Meeting shall have a voting eligibility as defined in the Constitution.

Notice shall be given as to the opening and closing of the voting period.

Votes shall be kept securely and counted as soon as reasonably practicable.

In the event of a tie, the matter shall be decided by a coin toss.

Results shall be announced as soon as is practicable.

No member may be elected to more than one post on the Executive Committee at any one time. In the event that a member is elected to one post and is a candidate for further posts, they shall be given the option of withdrawing from the subsequent election. If they do not wish to withdraw and are successful in a subsequent election they shall immediately declare which post they shall take up.

Procedure in the event of a disputed election

Any challenge to the outcome of an election should be made at the earliest point possible and in any event, must be submitted within 7 days of the declaration of the election result.

The challenge should be submitted to the Returning Officer who shall inform the Secretary of PSC.

The Returning Officer will rule on whether the challenge should be upheld or dismissed and determine if the original election result should stand or be overturned. The Returning Officer's determination shall be final.