

Liberal Democrat hereditary peers' by-election

This note confirms arrangements for the by-election following the death of Lord Avebury.

Electors

Lord Avebury was elected under Standing Order 9(2)(i)(c), among the “3 peers elected by the Liberal Democrat hereditary peers”. Therefore, under Standing Order 10(2), the electorate will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Liberal Democrat group, of whom there are currently three¹ eligible to vote. A list is below.

Candidates

Those eligible to be candidates are hereditary peers on the register maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The deadline for registration of candidature was 5 pm on Monday 11 April 2016. Seven candidates registered to stand in this by-election; a list is below. Candidates were invited to submit a written statement of up to 75 words; those statements are also below.

Voting timetable

Ballot papers will be available to electors on Tuesday 12 April 2016. Completed papers should be returned to the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments either by post or in person by **5 pm on Monday 18 April 2016**. Ballot papers received after this time will not be counted. Electors should use the pre-addressed envelopes sent with the ballot papers.

Voting system

The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters place the figure 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate they most strongly support, the figure 2 against the next most favoured candidate, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish. In order to be elected, the first successful candidate must receive at least as many votes as all the other candidates put together. In this instance, assuming all three electors vote, it means that any candidate receiving two first-preference votes will have won the by-election. If three candidates receive one first-preference vote, lots will be drawn to determine which candidate is eliminated; and the eliminated candidate’s second-preference vote will be allocated accordingly.

Ballot papers will be invalidated if:

- any number is used more than once, or
- in the opinion of the Returning Officer (the Clerk of the Parliaments) the ballot paper is illegible or ambiguous.

¹ This figure comprises two hereditary peers elected by Liberal Democrat hereditary peers who currently are in the Liberal Democrat group; and one hereditary peer elected by the whole House who currently is in the Liberal Democrat group.

Results

The count will be conducted by Electoral Reform Services.

The result will be announced in the House of Lords chamber by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a convenient moment (likely to be after oral questions) on Tuesday 19 April 2016.

The full results, including the number of first-preference votes cast for each candidate and the position after each transfer of votes, will be available in the Printed Paper Office and the Library soon after the announcement by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The results will also be published online at www.parliament.uk

12 April 2016

David Beamish
Clerk of the Parliaments

List of electors

Elected by a party or group and sitting as Liberal Democrat peers

Addington, L.

Glasgow, E.

Elected by the whole House and sitting as a Liberal Democrat peer

Oxford and Asquith, E.

List of candidates

Calverley, L.

Carlisle, E.

Kennet, L.

Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.

Russell, E.

Somerleyton, L.

Thurso, V.

Candidature statements

Calverley, L.

Since being prevented from sitting on the Lib-Dem benches, I have noticed a minority of individuals have usurped their new-found status for their own cupidity, rather than upholding the values of our honourable institution. Their actions have brought “the House” into disrepute in the eyes of the British public. If successful in this ballot, I would endeavour to comply with the demands contained in my writ of summons.

Carlisle, E.

I served as an officer in the armed forces for 20 years, experiencing conflict in Northern Ireland, Oman, Cyprus and the refugee problem in Hong Kong.

I have been a parliamentary and European parliamentary candidate in the north of England. During my five years in the House of Lords I championed the cause of widening the European Union eastwards and increasing the membership of NATO. Until retirement I worked at Tartu University, Estonia.

Kennet, L.

I devised, commissioned and implemented the world’s first nationwide home-delivery service of fresh and chilled food, bringing zero carbon emission organic food to consumers nationwide in the UK (Cornwall to the Highlands & Islands), paving the way for Ocado *et al*, who are still not nationwide.

Through Aldus Initiatives, I am leading an innovative project to drastically reduce carbon emissions from the building sector through the adoption of zero carbon sustainable bio-aggregates alternative construction materials.

Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.

Since my early years I have had a keen and personal interest in politics, espoused with the traditions and beliefs of a liberal.

My working life started aged 19 in shipping, finishing in political risk insurance. If elected, I would undertake to be a regular attender and to devote my maximum time and efforts to the Liberal Democrats and to the business of the House.

Russell, E.

I am a long-standing party member, activist and approved parliamentary candidate. I was a Councillor in Lewisham 2006–2010 and chaired Overview and Scrutiny. I was a London Assembly candidate 2012.

I have been chair of Wide Horizons Outdoor Education Trust (1105847) since 2012. Wide Horizons provides outdoor education to 45,000 children each year.

If elected, I will be a full-time working peer and will make the best contribution I can to the workings of the House.

Somerleyton, L.

Employer of >100pax in deprived area near Great Yarmouth tourism & agriculture; two food businesses, one Middle Eastern, currently Hot Chip, gourmet chip shop, Brixton.

Travelled to occupied territories, support the Hoping Foundation, Palestinian Circus, the Palestinian marathon and deeply committed to Palestinian Statehood; concerned the government is not.

Visited re-wilding projects; committed to this marriage between enriched native wildlife diversity and enriched human diet; concerned government has no green philosophy.

Thurso, V.

[No statement submitted.]