

## **Election of Council 2021**

### **Election Statements**

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## Grayden Reece-Smith

### Location

London

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

ERS is 137 years old. It's time we completed our mission.

### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I want to achieve STV in the UK and am willing to contribute all my ability to making that happen.

I've been a member of ERS since I was 20. During the AV Referendum campaign, I spent many hours on the phone banks and on the streets trying to build the case. But my efforts were in vain because people were completely unfamiliar with different electoral systems. We simply didn't have enough time to move popular opinion.

Since then, the ERS has disappeared from public life again. The strategy is to build wait for a hung parliament and another referendum. But it will be too late by then. The ERS has huge resources and we need to be spending them now in order to win that referendum whenever it comes.

I don't want the ERS to still be here in 137 years. There shouldn't be the need.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I bring:

- Strategic thinking skills (this is my day job)
- Financial management skills and accounting competence
- Non-profit governance experience from various trusteeships
- Drive, energy and ambition
- Diversity of thought

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## **Sarah Kendal**

### **Location**

Neston, Wirral, Cheshire

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I desperately want electoral reform. I share the ERS's values and I believe I can be useful to the Council.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

Fair voting systems are essential to social justice, and proportional representation is the way forward. There are some good and important changes going on, but we need to press for change at all levels of government across the UK.

I hate the inequalities in our diverse country. I joined the ERS because I believe that improving how we run our political systems can be a really effective way to improve things for everybody. In my opinion, this type of action can have a profound impact, and change things for the better, long term.

We're on a crowded island on a crowded planet. Sometimes we seem to be lurching from crisis to crisis. We need electoral reform because we have to sort out better and fairer ways of living together. I were on the Council, I would bring my values, skills and experience to help push the Society's work forward.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I started out in a small workers' cooperative, where decisions were made collectively during long(!) meetings. Our system was fair -but not always efficient. I qualified as a nurse and worked in the NHS for twenty years, slowly coming to understand the power structures within this huge public organisation. I am now a health scientist, which has given me skills in making sense of complicated ideas and information, and then finding ways to explain them simply and clearly to all sorts of people.

The Council ensures that the Society is run properly. I can contribute insights and skills from my experience as a school governor, a charity Trustee, and an NHS Trust council member. I have lots of experience of working in groups and teams. If elected, I could use my knowledge and understanding to help the Council look clearly and realistically at issues, and make good group decisions.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Robert Turner**

### **Location**

Northumberland

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I would work with fellow Council Members to pursue an urgent, focussed campaign for electoral reform.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I believe that it is time to raise the profile of the electoral reform issue, and that the ERS should adopt a more focussed campaigning approach. The country cannot afford to continue with the current dysfunctional system for much longer.

I would propose that the Society should organise a citizen's assembly to consider the advantages and disadvantages of various electoral systems for the UK, including thinking outside the "box" of established systems such as STV and AM. We then need to set out very clearly the arguments in favour of preferred systems, and crucially develop very strong defences against the inevitable counter arguments.

We then need to work with politicians across the spectrum to develop a clear, time-bounded strategy for achieving change. Critical aspects would be to secure the support of the Labour Party for the principle of PR and the necessary, temporary electoral pact vital to achieve it.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I am a retired civil engineer with a background of project management in the water industry. I am used to working with diverse teams to analyse complex problems, develop practical, time-bounded plans and negotiate with stakeholders so as to achieve defined objectives for a community to a deadline.

I propose that our objective should be to achieve PR for UK parliamentary elections by 2029.

I believe that my work and life experience give me skills to understand how to pick people, control costs and meet deadlines as well as appreciating the need to communicate effectively with the community we aim to serve. I would work with other Council Members, ERS staff and supporters to develop and implement a project to achieve our strategic objective.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Richard Crane**

### **Location**

York

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

As someone who is only 23 years old I hope to represent the younger members of the society



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

Having joined the society relatively recently I want to become more involved in its work. I see becoming a member of the council as an ideal of of doing this. I believe I will be able to help ERS in growing its membership of younger people and the experience I gain from being on the council will prove to be greatly valuable to me in the future.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I use social media relatively frequently and therefore understand how it is used to promote and inform people about certain issues and campaigns.

I have good presentation and communication skills developed from presenting the progress in my masters and PhD research to supervisors and colleges.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## David Green

### Location

Southport, Merseyside, North West.

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

A liberal-minded independent contactable via [david.green@supervote.org.uk](mailto:david.green@supervote.org.uk) who believes this Society needs to raise its game.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I believe the ERS has lost its way. After the disastrous 2011 referendum, the Society diversified away from voting reform, preferring to gallivant around the political arena after the latest fads and trends. Nowadays, we seem to strike poses rather than campaign: Never confuse activity with action!

While progress has been made in Wales, nothing has been achieved for England where 84% of Brits reside. So, let's reform the Electoral Reform Society! Let's make it more voter-oriented and exploit electoral injustices in local government to increase voter awareness. Our Victorian voting system does far more damage on local councils than in Westminster because FPTP can create single-party-forever fiefdoms with little opposition. For example, Labour took 97% of the seats with 65% of the vote in Manchester this year.

Priorities for 2021-23 should be Wales and a campaign for STV in English Council elections, launching next year in the London Boroughs.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

What if you're young with neither? I'd trade all the experience and skills on Council for some members with fire in their bellies and a commitment to voting reform. If we need expertise, we can buy it in.

Having served on Council, I believe that, as currently constituted, it is unfit for purpose. It seems docile, reactive, lacking a mind of its own. We take minutes and waste years. We talk endlessly about diversity, ethical investments and inclusive language but there was outrage when I submitted a paper proposing a public campaign for local election voting reform. Council members just don't do this, apparently. Chris Graham and I have tried our best but 2 out of 12 Council members aren't enough to effect change. Please support similarly-minded candidates, such as David Brandwood, Flo Clucas, Philip Cole, Brigid Gardner, Michael Meadowcroft and Keith Underhill. More info? Visit [www.supervote.org.uk](http://www.supervote.org.uk)

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Ioan Bellin**

### **Location**

Pontypridd, Wales

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I believe I have the experience, energy and enthusiasm to be the voice of grassroots members.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I believe in all of the campaigns of the Electoral Reform Society and want to make sure the society is effective as possible.

Since my teenage years I have campaigned for votes at 16, so I am delighted to see votes at 16 in devolved parts of the UK, the next step surely is to make sure this happens in Westminster elections as well. It has been proven in a devolved context so why not for all of the UK?

The reform of the Welsh parliament, its size and the need to change its electoral system to STV is a live issue in Wales and one of the key campaigns for the organisation. There has been little Welsh presence on the council in the past, so with your vote, I can give a different perspective. Most of all I want to strengthen accountability of the society and make a difference.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I was born and brought up bilingually in Reading until I was 16 before moving to Wales. As a former political journalist in Cardiff and Belfast I have an understanding of different parliaments, and intuitions.

For the last 17 years I have worked in the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) in a variety of roles, more recently as an office manager for a MS. I have also worked in Brussels for an MEP.

In my work as an officer manager I have to manage two staff members which will be useful as a council member in making the society's staff accountable for their actions and help with the work of deciding the strategic direction of the organisation.

I have worked successfully in a number of cross party groups and campaigns, such as the Treasurer for 'Pontypridd says Yes' during the referendum for more powers for Wales in 2011.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Jade Anderson**

### **Location**

Manchester

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I'm just a normal, working class person who wants the UK to have a voting system fit for purpose.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

It's extremely refreshing to hear a call for normal people to be a member on a company's board. As a working class woman, I know the impact the people in Parliament have on people of colour, people with disabilities, people in poverty, single parents etc. - so I think it's criminal that our voting system doesn't reflect the votes cast by the people of our country.

I've been a member of ERS for a few years and would love to be a Council Member to help ensure that we have the correct strategy and plans in place to make PR happen as soon as possible. I'm excited by the prospect of working on a board that isn't made up of predominantly white middle-aged men but as you say in your video, is representative of the UK.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I am extremely passionate about equal opportunities for people and have personal experience of living in a poor, single parent household. This in part led me to study Sociology and Politics at degree level and to always see how I can make things better for people across the board.

Electoral reform would play a huge part in our society. Ensuring that people's votes truly matter would mean we're able to elect a Parliament that reflects the UK and in turn can truly serve the people, because it's in touch with the people.

I have marketing and social media experience, meaning I can provide high level guidance on how to reach more people which is a key factor for the ERS and other than that - I have a great drive and passion for effecting real change.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No



## Jayne Colvin

### Location

Kent

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I want, I demand: a fairer, more equal, more truly representative, system of government for all citizens of the UK.

### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I think I can make a positive contribution to the aims of the organisation.

One has to choose one's battles. I choose this.

I want to feel that my vote counts for something. I confess I've wanted that for some time. I'm quite patient. I am, however, decidedly fed-up of waiting. I want to do something now that will give my grandchildren (along with everybody else's descendants), more of a chance of having a say in improving things for themselves in their futures than is possible under FPP.

I don't want to be 'world king'! Ugh! I do want the government of our country to represent the broad spectrum of the people in it. Good ideas come from all sorts of different places. We face many different challenges. We need different voices/views/perspectives around the table to find different, better solutions.

We, the people, deserve better, more representative, leadership.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have energy, enthusiasm and ideas.

I enjoy exchanging ideas, views and experiences.

I've taught at an international school in Singapore with a school role of students from 60 countries.

I've successfully completed an original doctoral research thesis at a Scandinavian university.

Living and working under significantly different cultural and political systems from my own UK background, a working class Lancashire lass originally, has given me a wealth of experience from which to reflect upon life, the universe and everything.

I have plenty of experience of creating and developing programmes of work, working with others and leading small teams.

I have been responsible for many aspects of adherence/compliance to policy and directives.

I have monitored and evaluated others' performance. I've done the same for myself!

I would welcome an opportunity to help the ERS campaign to renovate our electoral system.

I invite you to help me with your vote.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## David Brandwood

### Location

Broadstone, Poole, Dorset, South West Region.

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I am a Liberal Democrat passionate for electoral reform and want to see the Society much more visible nationally.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I want to see the Society more widely recognised as the primary authority on electoral systems. It should be such that whenever the subject of electoral reform is raised, broadcasters and journalists should contact the ERS for an informed contribution.

While I strongly want to see STV ('PR-plus') for Westminster, I note that some of the most egregiously disproportionate results occur in local elections. I would very much like to see a campaign for STV in local government, for several reasons:

Easier to achieve than for Westminster; Easy to form multi-member wards of a suitable size; Easy to show highly disproportionate results using FPTP; It would introduce voters to STV, preparatory to a campaign for Westminster.

I would like to see local groups of members monitor local papers and social media for mentions of electoral reform and make contributions, as well as initiating discussion via local election results.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have a mathematical background, (working in electronics research, now retired) which helps in statistical and numerical discussion points. In order to understand the STV count I wrote a computer program (in MATLAB) to do this, based on the Society's published method, which was an illuminating and educational exercise. (The program could be used to illustrate a talk on STV, if required.)

On electoral reform, I have been a contributor to the Facebook groups 'Make Votes Matter', 'Make Seats Match Votes' and 'Voting Reform: the options' for some years and so have had considerable valuable experience in arguing the case for reform, and specifically for STV.

I have been much influenced by Vernon Bogdanor who noted that there are desirable features of an electoral system other than the important one of party proportionality, and by Michael Meadowcroft's excellent 'The Politics of Electoral Reform' and other ERS publications.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

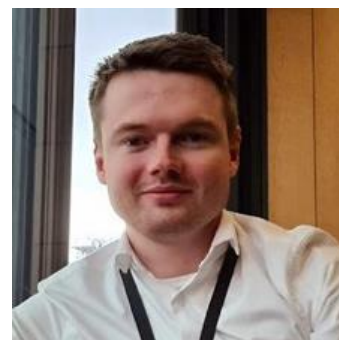
## **Richard Wood**

### **Location**

Edinburgh

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

As an experienced reform activist and founder of Upgrade Holyrood, I support prioritising Proportional Representation (STV) and modernising Westminster.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I joined the Electoral Reform Society the day after the 2015 general election and have been a lifelong supporter of fair votes. I want to make securing Proportional Representation (ideally STV) the main achievement of the ERS at the next election. The UK is supposed to be a representative democracy but FPTP means unrepresentative parliaments. Achieving PR needs to involve increased cooperation between progressive parties and reform organisations while also improving support in the Conservative Party to build a broad consensus for reform.

Westminster politics also needs a complete reorganisation. Retaining a version of the virtual-in-person hybrid parliament and permanently ending the time-consuming practice of having MPs queuing to vote will modernise our democracy.

I also support replacing the House of Lords with a democratic upper chamber and favour improving political education.

Achieving PR (STV) should be our priority but that change must be part of a wider democratic upgrade.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I am the founder of Upgrade Holyrood, which advocates for better democracy in Scotland (including an even fairer voting system at Holyrood, a ban on dual mandates and a return to fixed four-year parliamentary terms).

My experience also includes being an activist for Make Votes Matter, the campaign-group for Proportional Representation, as well as having been the former Media Director of youth-led think-tank TalkPolitics, which supported fair voting as part of a wider package of reforms to improve democracy.

I currently work in Westminster - for the Liberal Democrats' spokesperson for Political and Constitutional Reform.

From all these positions, I can bring communications, governance, research and press/media experience to the council. I also have experience of working well with different parties/groups in the campaign for democratic change.

Lastly, I also regularly contribute to Politics.co.uk, writing on electoral reform issues.

Please contact me at [richardwood.candidate@gmail.com](mailto:richardwood.candidate@gmail.com).

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Sandy Martin**

### **Location**

Ipswich, Suffolk

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

As Chair of Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform I'll help ensure a united campaign with ERS to achieve our goal.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

ERS needs members on its Council who are utterly dedicated to achieving PR for Westminster elections and who have some idea of how to get there. As a Councillor for 20 years, an ex-member of Labour's National Policy Forum, recently an MP and Shadow Minister, and now as Chair of the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform, I have been working with key players in ERS to gain a commitment to PR from the Labour Party. Being a member of ERS Council will strengthen my ability to fulfill that role.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I first became interested in electoral reform while still at school, and it formed part of my university entrance interview. I have extensive knowledge of electoral systems and understand the drawbacks and benefits of each. I have addressed numerous groups, especially Constituency Labour Parties, about the benefits of PR, and understand the arguments that are often raised against. I recognise that the overwhelming handicap to achieving PR is not to do with enumerating the benefits, but with finding a political process that will actually deliver it. Having been elected to Parliament and becoming a Shadow Minister gave me insight into how to make things happen. My work on Labour for a New Democracy jointly with ERS is hopefully bearing fruit and I want to strengthen that cooperation.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## David Ramsbottom

### Location

Hertfordshire

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Experience in analytical insight and making change happen. Making connections between corrosive electoral systems and corrosion elsewhere in public life.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

It took me a long time to get round to joining the society; why try to improve the electoral system, because it will take ages and only then will the benefits start to flow through. Too arcane.

But I no longer feel I can stand by and let things continue. As a country we need to get to grips with this issue. We need a political system where voters can express their desires without having to self censor, settle for their second or third choice to avoid something worse. This feedback is important for our political processes.

In my mind I have also started to make some connections between the corruptions and biases in the electoral systems, and the risks of other corruptions in public life. Clandestine lobbying, expenses, media biases and suppression of journalism, maybe voter suppression. All interrelated? Worth exploring.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I will bring 25 years of consultancy experience, focused on

- using analytical approaches to create fresh insight
- making change happen, across government, the UK private sector, and internationally
- the smart use of convergent and divergent thinking.

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to apply these skills to this noble cause.

Two example areas of particular interest:

- developing a shared understanding and representation of the causal relationships that are reinforcing the status quo ... including why a lot of people are lukewarm and not prioritising this issue... and those that are supporting change, and then exploring how this might be changed. (Systems Thinking)
- exploring the scope to make the connections in the public mind between the electoral system and other quirks of our public life in the UK that work against the best interests of citizens – eg lack of scrutiny, opaque relationships between government and business interests.

Thank you!

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## David Wood

### Location

Settle, North Yorkshire

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I'm from the demographic least understanding of the need for electoral reform and with the most to gain from it.

### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

To raise the profile of electoral reform among those least aware of the link between it and the things they know they want. Humanists and Remainers of course but specifically;

The working class. Often disengaged from politics but why? first past the post leaves us governed by a small subset of the population we don't identify with. Punch and Judy tribalism at PMQs and televised debate tends to further alienate, our employers wouldn't exist if run like that.

I want to reach out to this, my, group saying it doesn't have to be like this, everywhere isn't like this, but we need you to demand better governance locally and nationally. To get there we need reform so all voices are heard and all votes count.

In a time of sound bite and slogan have you ever heard a crowd chanting our three word slogan "Single Transferable Vote"? Why is that?

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I'm 58 and working class, my life has been materially impacted by good and bad governance over time. Working time, health and safety, freedom from discrimination all have direct impact on me and provided framework as a Trade Union Representative several years ago. I studied legislation formally to make good precise representations. I know where the progressive legislation came from and how it came to be progressive sometimes in the face of regression more locally.

Following my Union time I spent some years on the IT projects team. Often my role was explaining change at shop floor level. More psychology than technology the idea that change isn't of itself bad is a message I've conveyed often. Ultimately elected to the Board of Representatives I communicated at the highest level one day then the shop floor the next, both with tangible results.

I aspire to be a good clear critical thinker.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## Keith Underhill

### Location

Greater Manchester, North-West of England Europe

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Manchester pro-EU Socialist ([keithunder@gmail.com](mailto:keithunder@gmail.com)) ex-council member and expert STV returning officer. The Society needs to raise its game!



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I want STV to be adopted in all elections.

The Single Transferable Vote is the best voting system possible.

We should be very proud that our wonderful Electoral Reform Society has devised the best and most efficient counting system for the single transferable vote. (ERS97)

The society should be giving this more prominence and helping clubs and societies to adopt this system.. This is how ballot services started. I was on the council during this period (giving my age away there)

Our current voting system is full of injustices and anomalies which distort the way people vote and force unpleasant tactical decisions. I want a system that allows people to vote without the fear that their vote will be wasted.

STV in Multimember Constituencies is the only system which gives people the genuine choice of candidates they can vote for. Not the ones chosen by the big parties

Re-elect Keith!

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have been a member of council for many years on and off in this century and the last one.

I was recruited by Enid Lakeman into the society when I was 18 years old and I became an expert on counting STV elections and running elections

I was elected to the National Steering Committee of NUS and I was continuously re-elected to the Rules Revisions Committee for 36 years!

I invented Reopen Nominations!

I have been a director of a few companies (including the ERS) . The Last one was Hulme Community Computing (chairperson)

My experience on the council leads me to think that the society is doing some good work but needs to raise its game!

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

I am a committee member and Secretary of Homes For Change Ltd. a housing Co-op in Manchester

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## Christopher Graham

### Location

Greater Manchester

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

A Trafford Liberal Democrat ([csmgraham123@gmail.com](mailto:csmgraham123@gmail.com)), I am one of many who believe ERS needs to raise its game



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I am seeking re-election to Council to help prioritise the Society's key aim – securing the Single Transferable Vote.

Distrust of politicians and disillusion with our rotten political system is, in large measure, the consequence of our antiquated and undemocratic voting system which breeds arrogance in our leaders, both national and local. In Altrincham and Sale West, we are 'represented' by an MP who seems to think he owns the place. Yet he's a Brexiteer returned for a Remain constituency – and with less than half the votes cast. In the last local elections in Trafford, by contrast, Labour secured 64% of the seats with 45% of the vote. Greens and Lib Dems struggle to get a look in.

With like-minded colleagues, I want to see ERS lead high-profile local campaigning against the continued use of First-past-the-post voting. STV is as easy as 1,2,3 – but it needs explaining and promoting.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

A Liberal city councillor in Liverpool (1971 – 4), I contested North Wiltshire in the 1983 and 1987 General Elections. In my professional career I have co-operated with politicians of all parties. During my first term on the ERS Council, I have played an active role, serving on committees and with a 100% attendance record at Council meetings. I have experience of both executive and non-executive roles – and know the difference between them. I was UK Information Commissioner (2009-16). At the BBC, I worked as a broadcast journalist and manager. On the non-executive side, I have been Chair of a start-up venture, Capacity Public Services Lab LLP, and also served as Vice-President of the Council of Liverpool University (2016 – 2019). I was a non-executive director of Electoral Reform Services Ltd (2002 – 9 - and, again, 2017 – 18, as Senior Independent Director). ERS could make use of my media and presentation experience.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## **Nick Anstead**

### **Location**

London

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

An LSE lecturer researching politics and elections with board experience in campaigning organisations, I'm committed to improving our democratic institutions.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

The outlook for those of us who want to reform Britain's outmoded and unfair political institutions has rarely looked so bleak: a reactionary government with a large majority, changes to the law that make it harder for citizens to vote, and the independence of the Electoral Commission attacked.

Paradoxically, however, these circumstances mean that the work of the Electoral Reform Society has never been more important. The organisation remains the most respected voice in British public life advocating constitutional reform and democratic renewal. It is uniquely capable of constructing long term coalitions for positive change across civil society.

Drawing on my skills as a political scientist and previous experience as a board member, I believe I could make a contribution to the crucial work of the Electoral Reform Society, ensuring good governance, supporting staff and working towards our shared goal of a fairer, better and more inclusive democracy.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics. My work focuses on democratic institutions, elections and political communication. I have published on topics including U.K. campaign finance law, the rules surrounding televised election debates, fake news and Facebook advertising. The overriding question that drives my research and teaching is simple: how can politics be made fairer and more accessible to citizens? I believe this aligns closely with the goals of the Electoral Reform Society.

I have previously served at board level with a large campaigning organisation, having spent two years as a director of 38 Degrees (2017-19). As a result, I have experience of many of the essential and complex elements of the role, including helping staff develop effective strategy, providing financial oversight and being involved in human resources issues.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

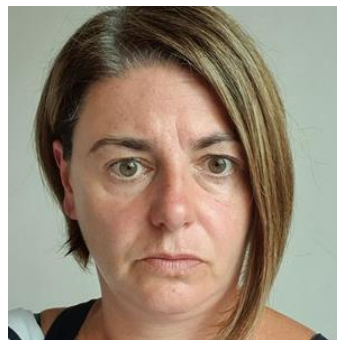
## **Lynn Henderson**

### **Location**

Glasgow

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I am deeply committed to increasing participation in democracy, particularly amongst women, young people and underrepresented groups



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I admire and support the Electoral Reform Society. I am respectful of its historical achievement and wish to support and work with others to shape its influence in building a better society through fairer representation and democratic participation.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

An active trade unionist living in Scotland and a former president of the Scottish Trade Union Congress.

Employed as senior national officer at Public and Commercial Service union, which is the largest civil service union, representing over 180,000 members. Our union has had policy in favour of PR since 2008. I responsible for overseeing strategic organising, campaigns, parliamentary and equality work and teams of staff throughout the UK.

Chair of Politics for the Many, the trade union campaign for electoral reform and through this I work with many ERS staff.

Chair of the Jimmy Reid Foundation project board, a leftwing think tank linked to the Scottish Left Review magazine.

I was the West of Scotland coordinator for the cross party Yes-Yes campaign in the referendum for a Scottish Parliament.

I have been an election agent for a successful Labour candidate in the Scottish Parliament election.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Gareth Brown**

### **Location**

Belfast

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Being from NI, and having lived in Scotland, I know the transformative power of proportional representation in a democracy.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

Fundamentally, I want to ensure that Northern Ireland has a voice in shaping the work of ERS UK-wide. ERS is a standout organisation in a challenging environment, but whether we are in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, or Wales, we are all striving towards the same thing - we want to bring democracy back to the people it is supposed to serve.

We can't wish away a Conservative majority and nor can we indulge ourselves in self-pity at the way that majority came about, but now is the time to move forwards, even if that means stopping us going backwards, and forge alliances and partnerships with other movements for change.

Northern Ireland has its own unique relationship with PR, and I want to ensure our experience contributes to our UK-wide strategy noting that Northern Irish members of Parliament can be critical in the balance of power in the House of Commons.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

As well being an accomplished political affairs, policy and media professional and news paper columnist, I have significant experience of sitting on Boards and Councils. I understand the important role that a Council plays as a governance board plays in an organisation with such an important mission - providing scrutiny and strategic oversight to a talented and successful staff team. In my experience, where organisations fail in reaching their objectives, an overreach by either a Board or staff team into the other's role is often a significant factor. I am clear in the role the stewardship role the ERS Council plays on behalf of members.

In addition, being from Northern Ireland, but having lived in Scotland, means I bring a fresh perspective to a UK-wide campaign, and I am ready to play my part as our movement moves into the next phase of its journey.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## William Lewis

### Location

London

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Proportional representation is a unifying cause in a divided political climate. ERS must engage with diverse groups to achieve reform.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

If democracy is the lifeblood of politics, then the ballot box is the beating heart - it is imperative our electoral system is moulded to the shape of the electorate's needs.

From the Brexit Party, to the Green's, to BLM, electoral reform is a uniquely unifying cause in a climate of divided politics; I believe herein lies the key to ERS' success. Proportional Representation transcends political divisions, enhancing and equalising the democratic rights of every citizen.

As Council Member, I would seek to enhance our strategy through furthering our connection with groups grossly disenfranchised under the current system. BLM and other protests demonstrate the disillusionment that exists within the current system. PR lends itself to these groups, accentuating their power where it matters most: the ballot box. I believe if the ERS highlight the congruency it has with these generational outcries, it can thrust PR onto the national political agenda.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I am a young professional with pertinent experience for Board-level scrutiny and strategic decision-making. I have professional experience in finance and communications, a BSc in Politics with International Relations and am a part-qualified accountant.

In finance roles for a social housing organisation, I have supported the production of financial statements, developed financial analysis skills through the ACCA Accountancy Qualification and produced the minutes at Board Committee meetings, leaving me well-placed to scrutinise the ERS' financial performance.

For a refugee-centred NGO, I produced research articles and press releases as part of a successful stakeholder engagement campaign. Alongside my BSc in Politics, I am well-equipped to support the Board in strategising stakeholder engagement in a political context.

Most importantly, I have a genuine motivation to instigate electoral reform. I have the professional skills and political nous to support the ERS in strategising the foremost political issue of the 21st Century.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## Angela Dickinson

### Location

Kent

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

With experience in trusteeship, grassroots campaigning and building election alliances at local level, I have commitment, vision and energy.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I feel as though there has never been greater support or impetus for the aims of the Electoral Reform Society than now. There is a great opportunity to reach out to grassroots groups across the electoral spectrum to drive forward our aims, and I'm excited to be a part of this.

I am currently studying a Masters in Public Policy and Management, am continually dismayed at the depths to which our politics and parties have plummeted in order to gain within our broken electoral system. Working in the public sector as a Social Sciences teacher, and being an independent town cllr also provides me with evidence that we need change within the fabric of our constitution.

Becoming a council member will enable me to use my energies to guide and frame our work, and learn from the experiences of fellow members.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

As a sixth form social sciences teacher and a member of the Parliamentary Teaching Institute, (with a law degree and an in-progress policy masters) I have a good working knowledge of UK constitutional affairs. I am a good communicator and writer, having had several articles around education policy, political representation and social justice published by national publications.

I am an independent town councilor and this gives me insight into grass-roots elements of campaigning and the nature of party politics at local level. I am also currently involved with an all-party, East Kent movement to create a (non-political) European Cultural Centre, something which demonstrates my ability to operate across a wide scope of projects with creativity and organisational skills.

I am an experienced trustee (currently with a parenting charity) with a hands-on approach when necessary and an appreciation of the importance of building networks in order to drive forward change.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Carole Elliott**

### **Location**

East Riding of Yorkshire

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

I wish to give service to an organization whose mission is to create a more democratic society.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I want to be a Council Member because I wish to give service to an organization whose mission is to create a more democratic society. ERS research shows that the way in which we elect MPs does not accurately reflect the concerns and aspirations of 22 million voters, whose votes had no influence on the composition of the current Parliament. This inequality in whose votes count has consequences for the issues raised and voted upon by MPs. It also has consequences for the UK's standing in the world, including its contribution to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the necessary collaboration with other nations this requires. The UK needs a fairer voting system to develop a more mature democracy, based on consultation and dialogue between parties rather than the current adversarial approach, that will attract a wider variety of potential MPs and voters.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I am a professor of organization studies at Sheffield University Management School, and an experienced researcher, teacher, and manager. I have expertise in qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. I am known internationally for my research in gender, media, and leadership, and I have won several awards for my research and contribution to management studies. I have experience of governance roles on several academic bodies. I am a member of Council for the British Academy of Management (BAM), and I have served on the Board of Directors of the US-based Academy of Human Resource Development. In addition to the knowledge and skills developed through these roles, I have lived and worked in several countries and have experienced different voting systems.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## Rich Atterton

### Location

Hertfordshire

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Vote For Me: A Strong Independent Voice for Electoral Reform and  
Sensible, Strategic Governance of the Society



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I have been a Politics teacher for the last 18 years and Head of Sixth Form for the last 8. In that time, I have shifted from a fairly neutral position on electoral reform to recognising the democratic imperative it has become. I am fully versed in the history of electoral reform in the UK, and I have become an articulate advocate for the compelling arguments to replace FPTP where it remains in the UK. I believe I could be of use to the Society as an independent voice with no ties to partisan politics. I stand fully behind the aims of the Society, but I am able to speak truth to power in the interests of good governance and in the pursuit of the societies aims. I beleive I would be a fresh voice and bring a new perspective to council.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

It has been my privilege to serve on the Association of School and College Leaders' (ASCL) council for 3 years and exec for the last 2. ASCL is a trade union representing over 21k school leaders. During this time, I have regularly reached out to members for their views, written for their Leader magazine and delivered workshops at ASCL conference. I have also represented ASCL at both the DFE and Westminster. I currently chair the ASCL LGBT Leaders' Network, part of ASCL's Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy. This work has made a real difference to so many already and I am immensely proud to be part of this journey.

I am a trustee for The-British-Schools-Museum, on the advisory board of LGBTed, and a member of the Welwyn Hatfield council Independent remuneration panel. I believe in civic service. As a hobby I collect antique ballot papers!

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## Brigid Gardner

### Location

South London

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

A London LibDem, I believe, like many members, that this Society needs to raise its game. (email: [brigidgardner@gmail.com](mailto:brigidgardner@gmail.com)).



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I am standing because I want the ERS to use next year's London Borough council elections as an opportunity to draw voters' attention to how undemocratic FPTP elections are.

Because Londoners are used to electing multiple councillors, these elections provide an ideal context to explain the advantages of STV multi-member parliamentary constituencies and the retrogressive nature of the government's intention to re-introduce FPTP for the mayoral elections.

Party representation in London Boroughs does not reflect votes cast. In Bromley, the Tories took 83% of the seats with 45% of the vote; in Kingston-on-Thames the LibDems took 81% of the seats with 49% of the vote; in Lewisham, Labour took ALL the seats with 53% of the vote.

I want the Society to raise its game with an active campaign on the ground to awaken Londoners to the fact that, under FPTP, the majority of votes they cast are simply wasted.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

As Head of James Allen's Girls' School and then St. George's, the British International School in Rome, I sought to teach young people the truth of Jefferson's adage, 'eternal vigilance is the price of liberty', and that that meant individual action, not mere passive support.

I am an experienced campaigner for the LibDems, both nationally and locally. I know what success can be achieved when a team, united in its aims, pursues them with energy, passion and perseverance. I feel strongly that's what our Society most needs now.

I have done Zoom presentations for Make Votes Matter all over the country and confront an amazingly blinkered acceptance of both FPTP and PR myths. During the London elections I wrote and delivered my own leaflet on PR facts, showing mostly crucially that under STV it is the individual who gains power and the parties who lose. (See [www.supervote.org.uk](http://www.supervote.org.uk).)

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## **Rosanne Bostock**

### **Location**

Oxford

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Worked as an Oxford University administrator, have experience in the voluntary sector and campaigning. Consider PR the ONLY way forward.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

In the light of the unfairness of the 2019 election result, and the high probability under the present FPTP system of endless Conservative governments, plus the government trying to change the Mayor of London election back to FPTP and realising local elections in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are already using PR which can only be changed in England by the government, I regard PR as the central priority for the next General Election.

I would like to see the ERS working with a Progressive Alliance of centre Left parties and groups to that end.

I think PR is complex to explain and the ERS explanation will play a key role in explaining PR to the general public and media.

I think I could be of use and I would like to play a part in moving PR forward in whatever way that might be useful to the ERS.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

Worked as an Oxford University administrator and have experience campaigning for Shelter, a swimming pool and ice rink for Oxford, also campaigned for Harris Manchester College, Oxford, to become a mature students' college. In 2006

founded OxClean, see [oxclean.org.uk](http://oxclean.org.uk), working with the help of Oxford Civic Society, to organise an annual spring clean

involving at least 2,000 people, schools and the two universities. In 2016 I was chosen as Oxfordshire Volunteer of the Year.

I was also on the Keep Britain Tidy Steering Committee for a national annual spring clean.

All these campaigns involved a lot of research and getting background knowledge

Have experience working as a team and working as a group, looking to support people's skills. Am also used to doing interviews on the radio, appearing on TV, zoom, talking to groups and schools.

I feel deeply that PR is now essential for the UK.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## Elizabeth Jarvis

### Location

Leytonstone, London Borough of Waltham Forest

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I'm passionate about electoral reform, and believe my experience and point of view could be put to good use here.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I believe in electoral reform and the aims of the Society. To date I have not been actively involved and would very much like to contribute to the work the Society does. A long time Lib Dem voter, in 2015 I co-founded a branch of the Women's Equality Party, recruited a candidate, and campaigned in the London elections. Over time I have become more and more disillusioned by the two party system. I'm now paying subs to the Green Party, but this leaves me even more despondent at the limited impact I am having. Given the dire straights we find ourselves in as a nation in terms of climate, society and equality in all areas of life, I feel the only way forward is to reform the electoral system, to create a political landscape that is truly representative of our population.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

For three years I supported the board of a non-profit, as the only employee (operations manager) of a voluntary UK-wide membership organisation, so I understand some of the procedural aspects of the role. I have also been a school governor. Over the years I have been involved in the women's equality movement, founding and chairing a women's leadership network and mentoring scheme, which supported employees of 43 London agencies in the creative sector. I later co-founded a local branch of the Women's Equality Party.

I am the operations director of a tech company, and in the course of my twenty year career have held various senior management positions in a variety of organisations. I'm also a certified coach and facilitator and enjoy working with people from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. I am a single mother of two (aged 13 and 16), and am exceptionally well organised, efficient, and positive.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Damion Coates**

### **Location**

Norwich

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Writing scholarly articles and preaching to the converted is great, now it's time ERS reached out to wider society!



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I would welcome the opportunity to influence the direction of the Society and work towards a proportional and democratic future for all.

We have a crisis of democracy in this country. The current voting system is not fit for purpose. It has created a parliament where views are not represented, bad politicians are impossible to remove and the result of elections rarely reflects how people actually voted.

Where the ERS can make a significant difference is by increasing the percentage of people voting. I propose a campaign to get voter turnout to 50+% in local elections by creating a positive buzz around voting and to inspire those that do not normally vote.

Voter suppression also needs to be challenged. I propose the ERS establish a fund to enable those on low incomes to get photographic ID if they need it.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

For nearly twenty years, I have worked in the post compulsory education and training sector working with some of the most disadvantaged groups. I have seen how bad policy and funding cuts impact the lives of ordinary people. I believe I have a skills-set that enables me to communicate ideas in a way that is engaging to most people. At the last General Election, I helped canvass for a political party. I enjoyed the experience of working with other activists, talking to people on the doorstep and the challenge of trying to put my point across in a way that was both positive and respectful. I passionately believe many of the ills of society are a result of our FPTP voting system. A system that discourages new parties and ideas from entering the political discourse, discourages people from voting, and imposes the will of a minority over everyone else.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## Flo Clucas

### Location

Cheltenham

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Liberal Democrat Councillor, contactable at [flo.clucas@btinternet.com](mailto:flo.clucas@btinternet.com)

Like many members, I believe the Society must raise its game.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I want an end to adversarial politics and so I champion any reform that will bring this about. I have seen STV in action and I can testify to the benefits it gives to any decision-making process. Only this Society has the introduction of STV as its primary aim, so I am standing for Council to help make STV a reality for all our elections.

Let's start with local government. Of the four nations of the UK, Northern Ireland and Scotland use STV for local government elections and Welsh councils are being allowed to introduce it, leaving England as the odd one out. Why don't we highlight this?

I believe a goal without a plan is simply a wish list. Our plan needs to start with a public campaign against FPTP for local elections, with a higher profile for STV, using accessible, readable language and graphics.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

As a Liverpool City Councillor from 1986-2012, I was Deputy Leader with responsibility for Finance and for EU funding, and later Housing, Social Care, Health and Economic Development. I chaired the EU Projects Committee for a Liverpool and Merseyside and worked with national government departments, regional officials, voluntary organisations, business organisations and local councils.

I championed the Women's Organisation Economic Development Project in Liverpool, which helped thousands of women from all backgrounds, to start and grow businesses, access employment, training and funding.

I am now a Cheltenham Councillor and the Cabinet member for Community and Safety, which includes Elections and involves working with cultural and sporting organisations, citizens organisations and voluntary sector partnerships.

I was appointed OBE in 2005 for services to the Merseyside Community and appointed an Italian Cavaliere (Knight) in 2009 for post WW2 community reconciliation through commemoration.

With your vote, I can bring this experience to Council

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Antony Frost**

### **Location**

Reading, Berkshire.

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Since 2005 I have been the Vice chairman and Trustee of TEAMGlobal an educational foundation founded in 1958.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

The democratic system of government is under threat not only in this country but around the world. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit the UK has a flawed democracy. The latest attack comes in the form of the Election Integrity Bill which will reduce turnout, restrict campaigning and remove the independence of the Electoral Commission which has previously embarrassed the government.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

Organisation of student conferences, organisation of study tours to Brussels and day to day running of TEAMGlobal

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## Philip Cole

### Location

Cheltenham and Luxembourg.

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

An independent, I believe this Society needs to raise its game: 'Back to basics'. Contact me on [philipvcole99@gmail.com](mailto:philipvcole99@gmail.com)



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

The only way to get a parliament that is truly a 'mirror of the nation's mind' is through the introduction of PR. In a country where party membership is a minority sport the only appropriate form of PR is the Single Transferable Vote. This is why the Society was set up and this is what we must fight for:

- a high-profile campaign against the continued use of FPTP for local elections in England and elections for Westminster;
- greater emphasis on the advantages of STV and the defects of party PR list systems;
- investment in campaign materials and video & audio resources;
- the establishment of local groups of members who would use their own local council election results to draw the public's attention to the deficiencies of FPTP.

This is what I mean by 'back to basics'.

Please give a high preference to other candidates who share this approach.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

- In the past: secretary of the Surrey Campaign for Electoral Reform and LCER Reform; contributed to Representation.
- In 1987 I went to work for the European Parliament (retiring as head of English and Irish Translation; and, for a time, Romanian).
- On returning to the UK in 2016 I set up and chaired Cheltenham Stronger In (we won the 2016 referendum with 56% of the vote) and subsequently chair of Cheltenham for Europe.
- ERS Council Member 2017-2019; runner-up 2019.
- On the editorial board of West England Bylines and author of a number of articles, including on PR..
- This year's local election results in Cheltenham provide a striking example of why we need PR. In Cheltenham the LibDems took 75% of the seats with only 43% of the vote. Conservative voters (and, indeed, Brexiteers) are as entitled as anyone else to fair representation.

I am a good team player.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Stephen Cook**

### **Location**

Christchurch, Dorset

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Active listener, effective communicator, Able strategist, thoughtful planner



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

Electoral reform along with some other democratic reforms are long overdue in the UK. Vital progress and reform are choked off due to our illegitimate and ineffective FPTP voting system. Politics is hard enough without structural failures getting in the way. The FPTP system means that UK politics has been made adversarial, tribal and means we are unable to create a lasting genuine consensus. Consensus is necessary to create sustainable progress and stop flip-flop politics. A PR system would break this deadlock The ERS is a key vehicle bring this change about through campaigning. I wish to be a Council Member in order to play a part in helping to try achieve this change. I want to provide meaningful oversight for the society and be an effective bridge between staff and the membership.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I have experience as a company director, secondary school teacher, school governor and I'm about to begin an MA International Political Communication. I'm an effective communicator, planner, strategist with an eye for detail. I've had numerous jobs across a wide variety of sectors from which to draw knowledge and skills. I work well independently or as part of a team.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

Director of a residential property limited company.



## Chris Finlayson

### Location

Aberystwyth, Wales

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Advocate for STV and Lords reform from Wales, with 4 years ERS Council experience. Non-partisan, strongly independent vision and ideals.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

As a Welsh resident, I am very excited by the developing opportunities for electoral reform in Wales (e.g. STV for local government and potentially the Senedd). I feel this will be an important battleground for the entire cause in the coming period, and I hope to be able to fulfil an insightful and authoritative role on the Council in helping to keep the ERS at the very forefront of these breakthroughs.

The farce of first-past-the-post (wasted votes, safe seats, effective mass disenfranchisement) must also be viewed within the wider context of the majority of UK parliamentarians being unelected, and many basically having a “job-for-life”. FPTP democracy has a definite feel of being a “means to an end”, based on a deeply counterproductive, self-entitled partisan model.

I hope to be part of a strong movement for a suitably reformed modern democracy, which uses STV to elect our representative bodies.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have 4 years invaluable past experience on ERS Council (2015-19), with an exemplary participation and attendance record, in addition to 10 years as an active member, thus developing a strong visibility within the organisation and rapport with Staff. I was thus at the heart of a crucial phase in the Society’s history; namely the 2018 sale of ERS. This legacy puts us in a uniquely strong position amongst comparable NGOs for dynamic campaigning and public visibility, in addition to our lobbying work. This is a strategic shift I will strongly work towards if elected. I also firmly believe the next Council should predominantly focus on primary reform goals, and rather less on internal governance matters.

I am a University Lecturer and scientific researcher at Aberystwyth in my day job; whilst being outside of party politics, I contribute an excellent critical engagement and knowledge of the issues surrounding electoral reform.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## **Kirsten de Keyser**

### **Location**

London

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Two years on ERS Council have primed me for another two years. My electoral reform hopes are stronger than ever!



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

When I was elected to council in 2019, who could have imagined what was about to hit us? The Covid pandemic soon engulfed the country. If ever we needed a fully representative, competent government, this was it. Instead, a bungling, crony infested, dishonest administration played fast and loose with its voters. A government emboldened by a whopping 80 seat majority despite only one in three voters actually voting for them. Whatever your political views, that is just plain wrong. An electoral system capable of throwing up such catastrophically false outcomes must be updated. The ERS is the loadstar in this tough campaign. Tough, because ‘turkeys don’t vote for Christmas’, and determined, progressive methods of working together with likeminded campaigners are crucial for achieving the transition from First Past The Post to Proportional Representation for the House of Commons. That is why I want to continue as an ERS Council Member.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

Steering the Society through the pandemic has been a challenge. My working life in television production, most often engaged in some form of remote, screen-based environment enabled me to readily adapt to campaigning effectively on Zoom, through social media, on political forums and other relevant platforms. I have served on several groups for the Society – The Diversity Working Group, The Investment Committee and The Elections Working Group, all reflecting my skillset and specific interests. I generally favour action over words and steer clear of ‘talking shops’. Although the ERS is happily in a strong and solid position as a campaigning organisation right now, it is vital that we don’t rest on our laurels and indulge in too much navel gazing. For the ERS to remain a loud and relevant voice to be reckoned with, amid an increasingly crowded electoral reform lobby, we need persistent action. And that is my strength.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## John Allen

### Location

Ashington, Northumberland

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I feel I can make a positive contribution to the Society on the basis of my knowledge and practical experience



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I would like to be able to influence and improve on the excellent work already undertaken by the ERS. I have believed for a long time that our electoral system does not reflect the people's will. In 2015 when over 4 million voted for UKIP and got 1 MP while in Scotland less than 1.5 million voted SNP but got 56 MP's.

Two areas where I would disagree with current policy are votes at 16 and ID checks. I do not believe that young people at 16 have the life experience to make informed judgements especially at national level. With ID checks, how can anyone object to anything that reduces fraud.

I would also like to see more activity outside London, how about Regional groups and spreading Council meetings?

What would you like me to do if I was elected? It's your society  
01670 816986./[john\\_v\\_allen@hotmail.com](mailto:john_v_allen@hotmail.com)

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

In my early working life I worked for charities like the Doe Award scheme and Operation Raleigh mainly teaching leadership and expedition skills in UK and overseas. I then moved into technical sales dealing with a wide range of clients, both government and commercial at a senior level.

I stood as a candidate in the 1997 general election and built up a 50 + volunteer network which raised money, organised meetings, street stalls and media interviews. When I moved to Northampton I became branch chairman for UKIP and played a very active role in the Referendum campaign, indeed several people said our weekly street stall decided their vote!

I have also stood in many County & Borough elections, most recently May 2021.

All this has given me a great deal of experience in dealing with people from all cultures and backgrounds, experience I feel would be very useful in the ERS role.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Rob Ewers**

### **Location**

Taunton, Somerset

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Local Labour Party Secretary and ER activist within Labour. Extensive background in International Relations, project planning and research.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

If Electoral Reform is to ever happen, the Labour Party need to back it. In addition to working as a Constituency Labour Party (CLP) Secretary over the last 18 months, I have been part of the core working group for the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform in the South West. I authored a motion for Labour Party Conference which has been passed by 5 local Labour groups, and am attending conference as the main delegate from my CLP to push efforts for Labour Party adoption. The Electoral Reform Society is the nation's leading ER campaign group. Being able to gain a strategic oversight of its work and contribute knowledge from my background in International Relations, Project Management, and the Labour Party, I feel would be of enormous benefit to efforts not just within Labour but nationally.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I have worked extensively in International Relations, at the Royal Institute for International Affairs - Chatham House, which is consistently rated #1 think tank globally outside of the US. Here I managed high level research projects and organised conferences, and roundtable meetings which included former Heads of State as attendees, and managed large budgets. In addition to individual projects I provided strategic oversight to my research programme, the Centre on Global Health Security. I have since worked for Labour Peer, Lord Robert Winston's charity managing the unit which organises medical conferences. In May 2020 (and subsequently in February 2021) I was elected as Constituency Labour Party (CLP) Secretary for Taunton Deane, and have since worked closely with the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform as an advocate to other CLPs for Labour adopting ER as policy, and aided efforts to lobby Trade Unions who are also crucial to the discussion.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## David Arlette

### Location

Stebbing CM6 3TJ

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Actively fit, alert Retiree, with past extensive business and senior-managerial experience. Disillusioned follower and analytical critic of modern career-politicians/politics.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

Like many of us, I suspect, I feel helpless when confronted almost daily with local and world events which are brought about by almost exclusively, what we at least see as, crass ineptitude and self-interested political manouvering. We may seeth and we may rant but there is actually very little we can do about things, as we watch other equally helpless people die or suffer needlessly around the globe. My current 'action' such as it is boils down to frequent posts in online newspapers or comments on Facebook, neither of which, I am perfectly aware, will cut much reall ice. It strikes me that as a Council member I could add a level of usefullness which might also give me an additional modicum of satisfaction before my dotage kicks in.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I am 81 years of age with the experience of life that a comparatively great age inevitably bestows on one. I am also fortunate enough to remain physically and mentally active and fit thus far.

Retired, my work background was in business, with extensive sales and senior-management experience together with board-level responsibilities. I developed and ran a successful stand-alone business within a global organisation for fifteen years.

I am a great pragmatist and believer in Common Sense - which to me seems an increasingly rare attribute in todays' sphere of Officialdom, Authorities and of course, Government!.

I have an enquiring mind and am keen to explore the why's and wherefore's of situations or problems - which often helps lead to the how's and when's - two vitally missing words from polit-speak today.

I enjoy discussing, analysing and action-planning. I am a 'do-er' but I also very much have a thinking, wondering brain!

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## Andrew Copson

### Location

Leicestershire

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I'm completely committed to electoral reform and have extensive director experience in a number of campaigns and not for profits.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I have been a Council member for the last four years, as treasurer for the last two. As a teenager over twenty years ago, the Electoral Reform Society was the first organisation that I ever joined. In the years since, I have not lost any of my enthusiasm for the cause of electoral reform, including in my last four years on the ERS Council.

There is enormous potential for electoral reform to be promoted and highlighted as the fundamental solution to our political problems in the UK and I hope to see the Society pursuing a strategy that will bring this about.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have extensive experience in governance roles such as the Council role. I have been a non-executive director or trustee of sixteen diverse organisations, from Conway Hall Ethical Society to the Religious Education Council of England and Wales. On three of these Boards I have served as Chair, on two of them I have served on the Finance and Audit Committee, on two as Treasurer, and on all of them I have experience of scrutinising executives and being a critical friend to management. I have experience of contributing to strategic direction and monitoring progress from having chaired Board strategy groups.

In my employment, I'm Chief Executive of Humanists UK where I have worked for the last sixteen years. Before that I worked at the Citizenship Foundation. In both roles, but especially currently, I have experience of work with political campaigning, the development of strategy, not for profit management, and fundraising.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

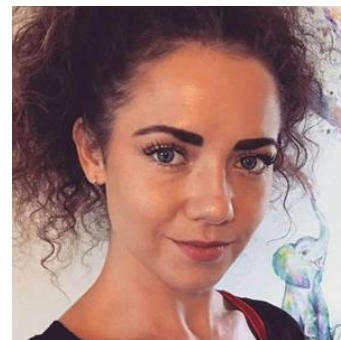
## Cien-maria Crawley

### Location

Manchester

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I would like to continue my work on the council, advocating for non-voters and other often overlooked groups



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I have been on the council for the past two years, sitting on the risk committee, diversity committee, and the investments committee more recently, and would like to continue this work. I would like to continue advocating for younger generations, non-voters, and other groups often overlooked when it comes to electoral reform. I successfully advocated for non-voters to be incorporated into ERS's strategy, and have also highlighted issues that would make the ERS and its work easier to access for younger people and those who typically would not become a society member. We can often get lost in political party reform when advocating for electoral reform, and I would like to continue advocating for holistic electoral reform, envisioning an electoral system which appeals to more than just party members and 'key voting groups'. I would like to advocate for an electoral system that encourages all citizens to engage with it.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have experience of sitting on the council for the past two years, I would like to continue that, and help implement the newly developed strategy. My academic background is in social sciences, with a particular interest in civic engagement, sociology of law and critical social theory. My most recent work was exploring the trend of declining civic engagement, technological developments and digital campaigning, and I would like to continue bringing these perspectives to council. I am also from a working class background, where the majority of my friends would never consider voting, and have an insight into those who are not civically engaged because they do not believe electoral reform can happen, but that it should. Whilst at university, I was also involved with many political campaigns and groups, and have many transferable skills, such as planning and collaborating with allies, from these projects.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## Alexander Ray

### Location

London

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Elect me for a strong voice advocating to direct our campaigning towards implementing real-world electoral reform, beginning with local government.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

Our adversarial political system is increasingly dividing our society, reducing the quality of political discourse to point-scoring, and causing decision-makers to focus upon activists who shout the loudest. I firmly believe that through electoral reform we can also reform our political culture.

I will advocate to direct our campaigning towards implementing real-world electoral reform, starting at the local government level. I believe reforming local government elections is the best catalyst for normalising the concept of adopting proportional representation for Westminster elections. This will also help end the blight of one-party councils which constitute one of our country's greatest democratic deficits.

I will campaign for ERS to work with amenable local councils to lobby to trial various forms of proportional representation (including STV) in future local elections. Legislation in Wales already offers councils the opportunity to voluntarily implement STV and I believe a similar process can create change in England too.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I work in Parliament in a role promoting parliamentary democracy and democratic accountability across the Commonwealth. I therefore bring strong knowledge and experience of politics and policy relating to elections and the democratic process. I have a wealth of experience engaging with a wide range of stakeholders relevant to this position including parliamentarians, policymakers, civil servants, and civil society organisations.

I believe it is important for young people to have a strong voice advocating for reform. In my previous experience serving on committees of not-for-profit organisations I have seen first-hand the importance of having a diverse group of members involved in the governance process.

I have experience in roles involving compliance with data protection and election law and regulations. I also have experience with financial reporting. These oversight roles demonstrate my meticulous attention to detail and show I have the requisite skills to support the good governance of the ERS.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## **Peter Hirst**

### **Location**

Middlewich, Cheshire, NW

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

To use my experience in politics and democracy to make the ERS more effective.

### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

to help the ERS achieve its aim of voting reform.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

30+ years of political and democratic campaigning. PPC x4, long-standing member of local party executive. Presently town councillor

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No





## **Michael Meadowcroft**

### **Location**

Leeds, West Yorkshire

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

A Leeds Liberal Democrat contactable at [michael@beemeadowcroft.uk](mailto:michael@beemeadowcroft.uk) who believes that the Society needs to raise its game.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

Because ERS could and should be the main dynamic force for democratic change. Other pro-democracy organisations fail because they have only the analysis of what is wrong with FPTP whereas ERS also has the prescription of what its replacement should be. ERS is fortunate in having very significant financial resources and I want to work with Council members to focus those resources on the ways and means of achieving the vital change as quickly as possible. I believe that the Society needs to see its prime purpose intellectually, politically, electorally and in its use of social media, to concentrate on that key aim. Given the present state of British politics, the disillusion of the public and the low levels of participation at all electoral levels, Council has a unique opportunity to campaign with the public and to play a key role in persuading the politicians to take the key decisions.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I have a lifetime of experience at many levels of politics, including as a city councillor, a county councillor and as a Member of Parliament. I am a past Chair of ERS Council at which time, at the request of Council, I wrote the book "The Politics of Electoral Reform" which is now in its fourth edition. I have written a great deal on electoral matters generally and on Liberal politics. I spent twenty-five years assisting and monitoring elections, enabling democratic governance and supervising the transition from single-party rule in 35 new and emerging democracies on four continents. My experience as a journalist, with thirty years as a member of the NUJ, gives me many useful contacts amongst the movers and shakers in British politics. Within the voluntary sector I have considerable experience of bringing together teams of disparate individuals and welding them into a constructive team.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## **Alison Maynard**

### **Location**

Worcester

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

Relevant experience combined with fresh ideas

### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

I believe in the importance of electoral reform and I want to contribute., and I feel that this is the way that I can be of most help using the skills that I have. Perhaps slightly oddly, I really quite like going to meetings and reading reports and scrutinising proposals and accounts.

I understand the relationship between a board role overseeing and providing governance to the organisation and executive roles actually implementing policy, and I'd love to have the opportunity to use the skills and experience I've build up over the last 25 years to support the ERS.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I have experience of executive and non executive roles in charities and non-profit businesses. I've been a manager for the Citizens Advice service and worked with a non executive trustee board and seen that relationship work well. I've also been a trustee for a local charity, and the Chair, and a company director, of a national membership organisation for professional authors. So I've seen the role of directors and board members from all angles. I understand the scope and limitations of the role and believe I would bring a professional approach to an ERS council role.

In my day job at present I'm an author, editor and writing tutor, so my schedule is flexible and I manage my own time and workload. I believe that I have the capacity to undertake an ERS council role alongside my current workload.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No



## **Ron Glatter**

### **Location**

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

As a long-standing supporter of electoral reform with wide experience of governing bodies I can help advance the organisation.



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

My support for electoral reform is long-standing. FPTP has dire consequences for our democracy and society. As a campaigner on NHS issues I've seen how marginal constituencies are favoured in decision-making, a discreditable practice the prevalence of which has been confirmed by research. The impact of FPTP on local government is also highly anti-democratic, leading to many one-party 'states'. The current elections bill is a massive threat to democracy. ERS has a proud record of analysing and presenting the facts about our fundamentally flawed electoral systems and proposing rational and practicable solutions in a dispassionate manner. As a retired senior academic in the field of education, governance and leadership, I feel this approach is the one most likely to achieve results and I would be glad to have the opportunity of helping to guide the organisation through what are likely to be tumultuous years ahead.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

As someone with experience of 12 governing bodies including charities, schools and universities I believe I can help promote and advance ERS's aims. For example in 2019 a body which I helped found many years ago ([belmas.org.uk](http://belmas.org.uk)) and whose President I became presented me with its first Lifetime Achievement Award. I am very much in favour of greater diversity and while I accept I do not belong to an under-represented group I hope my experience and capabilities will be complementary to those of other members of Council. I have been involved in numerous research projects relating to educational governance and leadership and have written widely on these subjects. In doing so I have raised constitutional issues which are rarely covered in such texts, such as the exceptionally, and in my view dangerously, centralised nature of our arrangements. These are central issues for me.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## William Edmondson

### Location

Shrewsbury

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I believe the ERS must do more to publicise both the reasons and the options for electoral and representational reform.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I'm a big fan of STV and have been for more than 50 years. It is an electoral mechanism which is effective and efficient at delivering the most widely acceptable representative from a list of candidates. It does not deliver proportional representation unless the representational system is also changed to make use of the voting data. There are several ways to improve the representational system. The ERS should be promoting discussion of these issues.

Discussion of the options is important for raising awareness of the issues. To this end the ERS should promote the creation of ERS societies in student communities at universities and colleges. This work should be supported by the production of commissioned materials setting out alternative views.

If elected I would work to see such societies established. I believe such efforts would promote the attractiveness of electoral and representational reform which includes elements of proportionality.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

As a scientist/academic I have been involved in the publication of carefully written data based materials and arguments. This has been done in a variety of scientific disciplines, at lengths ranging from short papers to book chapters, and one technical book.

I have served on the governing body of the university where I worked.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## Jon Walsh

### Location

Southampton

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I was Chair of the Society from 2017-2019 and am an experienced campaigner who's dedicated to electoral reform.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

I am dedicated to electoral reform and think fairer and better elections are the route to better government. I am experienced and knowledgeable in the strategy and governance roles essential for Council.

I want to help influence the major parties to adopt or be less hostile to electoral reform as well as trade unions and smaller groups and associations. I support our strategy of engagement on wider issues, such as size of the Welsh Senedd, as it opens doors to us pursuing STV. I'm excited to help the fight for STV in Welsh councils.

I have experience of elections across the UK which is essential when it comes to setting and assessing strategy and understanding issues such as the problems with Voter ID cards and the regulatory needs of online campaigning.

If you have questions you can contact on me at:

[jon.k.walsh@googlemail.com](mailto:jon.k.walsh@googlemail.com)

or

twitter @jonkwalth

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

- Former political organiser and the National Campaigns Officer for a political party.
- Ran the London campaign for the AV referendum.
- Experience of count observation and campaigning under most electoral systems used in the UK.
- Have represented and spoken for the Society, both inside parliament (receptions) and outside it at protests.
- Have also spoken for the Society on electoral systems at schools and colleges.
- The former External Governance Advisor for the Royal College of Nursing, the UK's largest professional membership body.
- Helped establish the ERS current investment strategy as part of the investment sub group of Council.
- Helped revise our Articles of Association as part of the Elections Working Group.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

## **Pablo John**

### **Location**

Tunbridge Wells

### **In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you**

To provide a voice for young people and to bring national political experience



### **Why do you want to be a Council Member?**

People like me don't usually run for a company board. I am a 22 year old disabled man and carer. I want to be a Council Member to represent young people, overwhelming disadvantage by First Past the Post, in the Society. As a champagne socialist Labour Party member from Tunbridge Wells, my vote does not matter. Over 200,000 people voted Labour in Kent to receive a single MP, the nearest MP from a party I actually voted for is 30 miles away! As a country bumpkin I know rural Britain is particularly disadvantage by first past the post, as villages and small towns like mine effectively become one party states. Finally as a committed environmentalist I know we cannot hope to properly fight climate change without first reforming our broken political system.

### **What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?**

I bring three years of political experience. I spent two years working for Alex Sobel MP - now chair of the APPG on Electoral Reform. In this role I helped support the Parliamentary fight for electoral reform, providing political and research assistance. I have an intimate knowledge of the British political system, with strong knowledge of parliamentary, political party and trade union procedure.

I also served as a Yorkshire Organiser for Labour for a New Democracy, the campaign group within the Labour Party to fight for electoral reform. In this I helped pass a record number of electoral reform motions to Labour Party conference and even helped to swing the organisation Momentum behind electoral reform. My current day job is working as a Policy Officer for the Renewable Energy Association, so I am able to make the environmentalist case for electoral reform.

### **Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?**

No

### **Do you have any financial interests to declare?**

No

## Amy Dodd

### Location

London

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

I was ERS Chair between 2013-2017 and am a passionate reformer with significant leadership experience including in governance and finance.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

Our politics - from how decisions are made to where power sits - has never been more important. And I know the ERS can and must continue to play an important role in changing that politics and our democracy for the better. Having served on the Council previously, and as Chair of the Society between 2013 and 2017, I know what a critical role Council members play in supporting the organisation to be effective in delivering those ambitions. Through my career working in politics and international development, I believe I have the right strategic skills and experience, political knowledge and connections to support the Society in working towards its mission.

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I have significant experience in politics, political advocacy and campaigning. I have worked on a range of campaigns including as Deputy Director of the Labour Yes to AV campaign during the 2011 referendum, as well as working on general election campaigns, local campaigns and as Adviser to a Shadow Ministerial team in Parliament. This experience has given me an excellent understanding of politics, Westminster and the functioning of political parties - including how to effect change.

I have also developed significant strategic, finance, fundraising and governance experience in my professional career, including running an international development network and other leadership roles.

I served on the Council previously, including four years as Chair of the Council overseeing a period of important renewal and strategy review, governance reform and modernisation.

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



## Ruth Kelly

### Location

York

### In 20 words or less, tell members why they should vote for you

Current Chair of ERS, previously Deputy-Chair, working hard to take every political opportunity to make all voices count in politics.



### Why do you want to be a Council Member?

It's been a huge privilege to be Chair of the ERS, and previously Deputy-Chair, over the last three years. I've worked hard to put us in a strong financial position and develop a new strategy that will take every political opportunity to achieve our goals of STV and better voter engagement. The Society is moving towards a greater focus on ordinary people's experience of democracy – I know we can do more to show how important it is to listen to people who don't vote (yet!) and give them a reason to care about politics. I'd like us to put more emphasis on appealing to people less likely to support our cause, encouraging more women, and people with different backgrounds and perspectives to become members and get involved. I hope you consider voting for me to continue on Council as we continue to raise our game in implementing the new strategy!

### What experience and skills do you feel you could bring to the role?

I work in an institute at Oxford closely linked into debates on UK constitutional reform, giving me a good insight into the context of the Society's work. From my previous roles in large UK NGOs, I bring a strong understanding of how to do research and develop messaging that underpins effective campaigning and lobbying. I have a good grasp of financial markets and the importance of responsible, long-term investment. I've been able to draw on this over the last three years as chair of the investment committee – selecting our investment manager and overseeing their performance – to secure the Society's long-term future and ensure that we have the resources we need to implement our strategy. I love working with a diverse group of people with a wide range of views on Council; I think this is crucial for effective oversight of the Society's work. Email: [ruth.kelly2@law.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.kelly2@law.ox.ac.uk)

### Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

### Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

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