



Election of Elections Panel 2021

Election Statements

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Anthony Tuffin



Location

Selsey, W Sussex coast, close to Hampshire border.

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

I want to ensure that ERS elections are conducted fairly in accordance with the rules, and complaints are resolved quickly.

Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

For the ERS's own sake and for the sake of you, its members, ERS elections should be fair and by the rules. Justice delayed is justice denied, so I believe the Elections Panel should also respond promptly to any complaints.

More than that, the ERS should set an example to others by conducting elections fairly in accordance with the rules, and it is the Panel's job to make sure of that.

I believe my qualifications and experience would help the Panel in that job. Ideally, the Elections Panel members will have an understanding of law and knowledge of voting procedures, and I think I fit the bill.

I could not do this on my own, so I ask you to give your next preferences to other candidates with similar views. If you have any questions for me, you are welcome to contact me at tuffin@waitrose.com or 01243 604715.

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

The Elections Panel is the ERS's internal "court" to apply the ERS's own rules strictly and fairly. My qualifications and experiences described below would be valuable for a member of the Elections Panel.

I am a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute, I hold a Certificate of Higher Education in Law, and I had a career in a legal environment. I am a former Chair of the Legislation Committee of the Society of Pension Consultants, and I am a former ERS Treasurer and former Chair of the ERS's Campaigns Committee.

I am also the non-party Chair of Make Votes Count In West Sussex, which includes independents, UKIP members, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Labour members and Greens, so I am used to acting impartially between people of different views.

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

Lesley Abdela

Location

Burwash, Rother District, East Sussex.

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

My experience gained working on democracy in 50 countries can contribute to the oversight role of the ERS Elections Panel.



Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

One ERS Strategic goal is to have public authorities in the UK 'elected by proportional representation and specifically by the Single Transferable Vote.' Another ERS strategic goal is, 'that the democratic institutions of the UK, its nations and regions and other constituent parts work in ways that lead to citizens having high levels of trust in them'. A key component to building trust in elections is to have impartial oversight bodies. I want to help ERS lead by example. My work as an Expert Consultant on human rights, gender equality, political empowerment, participation in elections and inclusive democracy in 50 countries has taught me the importance of all citizens across the political spectrum – women, men, LGBTIQ, diverse races, ethnicities and geography, secular or diverse faiths -feeling they can trust their electoral processes.

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

My experiences as a campaigner, journalist and consultant would contribute strongly to the oversight role. My work has included identifying and analysing actions taken by civil society, political parties, government, media, international organisations to develop inclusive democracy, accountability and transparency. I am currently Senior Partner in Shevolution Consultancy; Associate Consultant, Nordic Consulting Group Sweden - member of the Swedish International Development Agency Gender Experts Help Desk. I serve on the Advisory Board of UK based Democracy Volunteers. I founded the all-party 300 GROUP for women in Politics. My 'political apprenticeship' was as a researcher to Members of both Houses of the UK Parliament and standing for election as a Parliamentary Candidate. My first preference for an electoral system is STV. I joined ERS in Enid Lakeman's time, and for many years was an ERS vice-president.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact me.

Lesley.abdela@shevolution.com

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

David George Ian Mathieson

Location

Epsom, Surrey

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

I bring practical experience of running and monitoring national elections and 16 years serving on the Elections Panel.



Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

I have been a member of the ERS since 1985, and was active for many years, but am now retired, and more interested in an oversight role. It is important that elections to the Electoral Reform Society run smoothly: the problems of the 1990's were a PR embarrassment and should not be repeated. In my 16 years as a member of the Elections Panel we have been able to respond to candidates' queries and resolve their complaints satisfactorily, and in that time the rules have been updated and the levels of complaint have damped down, so that the Society's elections now run smoothly. I hope that this can continue, without undue incident.

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

I joined the Society in 1985, and was asked to advise on the 'new' computer and network systems, and then on some business issues. Then for 15 years I was a consultant, and then Director, of ERIS, the Electoral Reform International Services Division, monitoring elections in Africa and the former Soviet Union, advising Electoral Commissions in these countries, running Voter Registration, Ballots and secure Counting. So I have seen what can go wrong with elections, and the rules needed to keep them honest, and I have tried to bring this experience to the Election Panel over the past years.

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

Colin Buchanan

Location

Leeds

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

Deep commitment to STV as providing the most just form of representation motivates me to ensure elections are justly conducted.



Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

I strongly support the Society's provision of a point of arbitration and appeal, independent of the returning officer, to resolve any uncertainties or complaints in respect of internal elections. The Society exists to promote the Single Transferable Vote as effecting justice in elections; it therefore has to be as scrupulous as possible in ensuring its own internal procedures match and model its proclaimed external message. In my own (Church of England) terms, we have to practise what we preach! I am of an age when I am doubtful whether I could serve as fully as possible as a council member, but I am very ready for the more occasional role of the Elections Panel, and, as shown in the next paragraph, I do bring very long, wide and varied experience of electoral procedures to the task. [Contact me on: cobdleeds@btinternet.com]

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

I am a minister in the Church of England, which elects its central authorities by STV. Thus I learned STV through others nominating me as a candidate in 1964. I have since run in ten such elections, being six times elected to General Synod. On Synod I pressed our repeated call on the political parties to adopt STV. I joined ERS in Enid Lakeman's time, and, becoming a bishop, was appointed an honorary vice-president. In 2005 on council's nomination the AGM elected me honorary president. For seven years I chaired General Meetings, always watchful for just procedures within the Society. In 2012 the presidency was abolished, and I was awarded Life Membership, much valued. I have introduced STV in other voluntary agencies, sometimes acting as returning officer. I have written substantially in this cause (see my An Ethical Case for Electoral Reform), and lectured and debated passionately on the subject.

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

Keith Best

Location

London

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

Barrister, governance adviser to various bodies, Secretary of European Movement (I run their elections), former ERS Chair and Council Member



Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

As a long standing member of ERS, a former Chair and Council Member for 15 years I wish to see a high reputation and integrity of ERS elections. It is essential that all issues of contention are dealt with in a thorough, investigative and impartial manner without fear of favour and in a transparent way. The standing is at stake of ERS as the main electoral advice society in the UK. It can take years to build a reputation and one flawed election to lose it. Enquiries must be dealt with promptly and fully without any bias - something which has been my professional training and conduct throughout fifty years as a barrister including dealing with very vulnerable groups (such as asylum seekers and immigrants). I wish to apply that experience in the service of ERS.

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

Former MP (Chair of CAER) and Chief Executive of four major charities I now advise boards in both the non-profit and commercial sectors on governance issues (such as drafting constitutions), including elections (I conduct them for the European Movement as Secretary). I am also used to conducting inquiries, dealing with disciplinary and complaints matters, gathering evidence and then delivering judgment in a disinterested manner based on that evidence - so I bring a legal/judicial approach to the responsibility of the Elections Panel. I have long been a proponent of preferential voting (especially STV as the only truly democratic proportional system). I am semi-retired and can devote the time and attention to these duties.

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No

Sadia Moaeed

Location

Barking

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

Tories running business down because of covid and it is scam.

Why do you want to serve on the Elections Panel?

I never worked as election panel and I like to experience and challenge in my role to win.

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

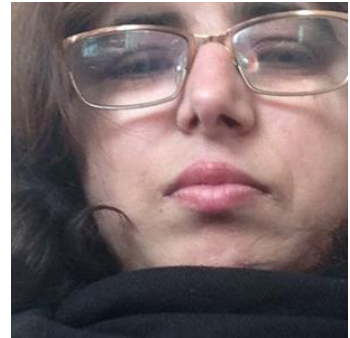
I do not have a experience but I am health and safety rep. I like to get some experience and challenge it.

Do you have any conflicts of interest to declare?

No

Do you have any financial interests to declare?

No



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