



Brief Guidelines for Political Parties Contesting General and Regional Elections.

Note: This is Not an exhaustive document. Interested Political Parties are advised to consult with the pertinent laws for detailed guidance.

Laws Guiding the Conduct of General and Regional Elections

- ✓ **Constitution of Guyana, Cap. 1:01;**
- ✓ **Representation of the People Act (ROPA), Cap. 1:03**
- ✓ **Representation of the People (Amendment) Act (ROPA),
No. 25 of 2022**
- ✓ **The Local Democratic Organs Act, Cap. 28:09**

Registration of Political Parties

Article 161B of the Constitution as amended by Act No. 14 of 2000 stipulates that the role of political parties and their nominees shall “be limited to their participation in determining policy, monitoring the electoral process and the conduct of the election, but does not include active management of the electoral process.”

There is **NO** legal requirement for political parties to register with the Guyana Elections Commission. However, it is advisable that newly formed Political Parties inform the Commission in writing of their intent to contest elections, so that they can be kept informed in relation to elections on a regular and timely basis.

Insofar as contesting elections is concerned, Political Parties are required to submit Lists of Candidates in accordance with the relevant legal provisions, on Nomination Day. Thereafter, subject to approval of their Lists of Candidates by the Commission, they are permitted to contest the elections.

Nomination Day

No later than 32 days before Election Day

On Nomination Day, Political Parties are required to:

- ✓ Submit Application for Approval of Symbol
- ✓ Submit Lists of Candidates
- ✓ Ensure each List of Candidates has the requisite number of eligible Nominators.

The Lists

- ✓ All lists must be comprised of registered electors.
- ✓ All lists must be submitted in duplicate.
- ✓ The list should have a Title.
- ✓ The list must also include the requisite number of nominators.
- ✓ A Representative and Deputy Representative of the list should be selected.

Representative and Deputy Representative of the Lists

- ✓ The Representative and Deputy Representative are statutory persons.
- ✓ The Representative and Deputy Representative are candidates on your list.
- ✓ If none is appointed, the first two candidates on the list are deemed the representative and deputy representative of the list respectively.

General Elections Lists

- ✓ National top-up list
- ✓ Geographical constituency list

National Top-up list

- ✓ **Nominators:** 300 to 330 countrywide
- ✓ **Candidates:** at least 42
- ✓ **Presidential:** identified on this list **ONLY**
- ✓ **All candidates:** sign statutory form

Geographical Constituency List

- ✓ **Nominators: 150 to 175 from each geographical constituency.**
- ✓ **Candidates: two more than the number for each constituency that the party is contesting.**

Geographical Constituencies	Members of the National Assembly elected(seats)
No. 1	2
No. 2	2
No. 3	3
No. 4	7
No. 5	2
No. 6	3
No. 7	2
No. 8	1
No. 9	1
No. 10	2
TOTAL	25

✓ Each party must contest in minimum of

a. 6 geographical constituency

AND

b. 13 of the 25 seats

Duplications of names

✓ The same candidate can be on 1 geographical constituency list

AND

✓ The national top-up list

✓ Of the same party

✓ A candidate could only be named on 1 party's list

Gender Balance

- ✓ At least 1/3 females candidates on national top-up list.
- ✓ At least 1/3 on geographical constituency list **TAKEN TOGETHER.**
- ✓ No more than 20% of the number of geo. const. in which a party is contesting for which the party's geographical list contains no females.

Statutory Declaration

- ✓ All lists of candidates must be accompanied by statutory declarations signed by each candidate.

Examination of lists

- ✓ The Chief Election Officer (CEO) examines the lists to ensure all the requirements as laid out before are met.
- ✓ If any one requirement is not met, that list will be deemed defective.

Correction of Lists

✓ Must be done within the time stipulated by the Order

AND

✓ Resubmitted to the Chief Election Officer (CEO)

Approval/Disapproval of Lists

- ✓ Lists are approved/disapproved by the Commission
- ✓ If disapproved, the representative and deputy representative may appeal to the High Court

Publication of Lists

- ✓ The titles and symbols of approved lists will be published in the gazette along with the names of the candidates.

Withdrawal of Lists

- ✓ Could be done only before list is approved.
- ✓ Notice in writing to the Chief Election Officer (CEO) signed by BOTH representative and deputy representative of lists.

Withdrawal of Candidature

- ✓ A candidate may withdraw his candidature by notice in writing to the CEO signed by himself

Joinder of Lists

- ✓ 2 or more lists of candidates: distribution of seats only; not for voting.
- ✓ The rep and dep of each list to be joined must give notice to Chief Election Officer (CEO) not later than the 25th day before elections.
- ✓ Notification of combination of list will be published in the gazette not later than the 23rd day before E-Day.

Election Agents

Appointment of Agents (ss 23, 24)

- ✓ The rep of each list must give notice in writing to the CEO on nomination day appointing the election agent.

- ✓ In addition to the election agent, the following may be appointed:
 - a: For each district and sub-district, an assistant and counting agent.

 - b: a polling agent for each polling place and polling station.

Candidate to Attend Poll

- ✓ The election agent may appoint one of the candidates to attend the poll at a polling place.
- ✓ Notice in writing of such appointment must be submitted to the RETURNING OFFICER of the respective district.

More Information

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