

Candidate spending and donations

The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission's role as a regulator

- Help candidates, political parties and campaigners understand the rules through written guidance and advice service
- Register political parties
- Monitor compliance with the rules, and report on them after the election



Four types of candidate

**Mayoral
election:**

Mayor of London

**London
Assembly
elections:**

**Constituency
Assembly
Member**

**Party list
London-wide
Assembly
Member**

**Independent
London-wide
Assembly
Member**

When do the rules apply?



Type of candidate	Date
Mayor of London, Constituency Member, Independent London-wide Member	Day after official candidacy – earliest date 22 March 2021
Party list London-wide Member	The date your party submits the list to the GLRO. Between 22 March and 30 March 2021

All regulated periods end on polling day, 6 May 2021



Spending Limits



Type of candidate	Spending limit
Mayor of London	£420,000
Constituency Assembly Member	£35,000
Independent London-wide Assembly Member	£330,000
Party list London-wide Assembly Member	A total of £330,000 for the whole list

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What counts as election spending, and what doesn't?



- Advertising
- Election material sent to voters
- Transport costs
- Public meetings
- Staff costs
- Accommodation
- Administrative and overheads



- Election deposits
- Volunteer time
- Newspaper and periodical articles
- Expenses reas. attributable to the candidates disability
- Facilities candidates are entitled to by law – such as public meeting rooms

Personal expenses

- Do not count towards your spending limit, but must be reported after the election.
- Candidates can pay for personal expenses up to certain limits – any further personal expenses must be authorised by the election agent

Type of candidate	Personal expenses
London Mayor	£5,000
Constituency Assembly Member	£600
Independent and Party List London- wide Assembly Members	£900 per candidate

Notional spending

- Rules apply to:
 - goods or services given free of charge or at a non-commercial discount
 - that are made use of by or on behalf of the candidate
 - where the difference between what you pay and the usual commercial value is more than £50
- Full commercial value will count towards the spending limit and must be reported after the election
- Notional spending of more than £50 will also be a donation

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Donations



- Money, goods, property, or services given towards election spending and;
- Has a value of **more than £50**
- You must only accept donations from permissible sources. Common examples include an individual on an electoral register, most UK registered companies, and registered political parties
- The election agent must check that the donation is from a permissible source within 30 days of receipt. If it can't be accepted it must be returned

Dates and deadlines (1/2)



- All types of candidates must receive and pay their invoices by the deadlines below:

Receive invoices	Within 21 days of the declaration of result
Pay invoices	Within 28 days of the declaration of result

- If you miss these deadlines, you must apply for a court order to pay any outstanding invoices

Dates and deadlines 2/2

The election agent must submit the spending and donations return within the following deadlines:

Type of candidate	Deadline for return and agent's declaration	Deadline for candidate's declaration
London Mayor, Independent and Party List London-wide Assembly seats	Within 70 calendar days of the declaration of the result	Within 7 working days of the return being received by the GLRO
Constituency Assembly Member Candidates	Within 35 calendar days of the declaration of the result	Within 7 working days of the return being received by the GLRO

Code of conduct

- Covers everyone actively involved in campaigning, including candidates and political parties
- Non-statutory agreement developed by the Commission following an open consultation
- Helps to ensure the integrity of the electoral process by setting out what is and is not acceptable campaigning behaviour
- The code is available on our website:
- [Code of conduct](#)

Imprints

- By law, an imprint must be added to campaign material to show who is responsible for producing it.
- Must include the name and address of:
 - ✓ The printer of the material
 - ✓ The promoter (the agent)
 - ✓ Anyone the material is being produced for (the candidate)
- Law applies to printed material only, but good practice to use on digital material too

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How we can help



- Guidance for candidates and agents on spending and donations will be available on our website nearer to the election
- Call or email on 0333 103 1928, or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

