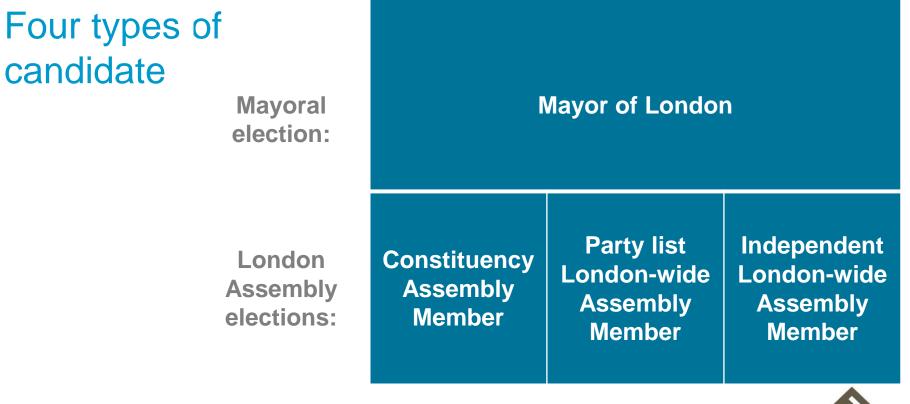
Candidate spending and donations

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







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



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

The Electoral Commission

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- 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 room
 Comparison

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



- 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

Notional spending

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:
- <u>Code of conduct</u>



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:
- \checkmark 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



How we can help



 Guidance for candidates and agents on spending and donations will be available our website nearer to the election

 Call or email on 0333 103 1928, or at pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

