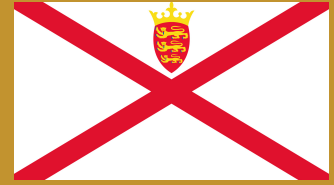


CPA UK
BRITISH ISLANDS
& MEDITERRANEAN
REGION



CPA BIMR

Election Observation Mission to Jersey

JUNE 2026

FINAL REPORT



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PREFACE

In our capacity as the regional secretariat to the CPA British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch is pleased to present the report of the Election Observation Mission to Jersey's General Election of 7 June 2026. This was the third occasion on which CPA BIMR has been invited to observe elections in Jersey, demonstrating the island's continued commitment to openness, accountability and democratic development.

This report presents the findings and recommendations of that mission. Led by experienced parliamentarians and supported by specialist electoral analysts and CPA staff, the Mission conducted a comprehensive assessment of the electoral process against international obligations, democratic principles and Jersey's domestic legal framework. Observers met a wide range of stakeholders, including election officials, candidates, civil society representatives, media organisations and voters, and observed polling across the Island on Election Day.

The Mission found that the election was administered professionally. Election stakeholders worked diligently to deliver the process, incorporating significant legislative changes introduced close to polling day. The report highlights positive developments, including reforms designed to broaden electoral participation, sustained efforts to engage young people and the continuing commitment of election officials and volunteers across Jersey. At the same time, the Mission identified areas where further strengthening of the electoral framework and administration would be beneficial.

Election observation is most valuable when it contributes to constructive dialogue and continuous improvement. The recommendations contained within this report are offered in that spirit. They are intended to support Jersey's institutions and election stakeholders as they build on the progress already achieved and continue to enhance public confidence in the democratic process.

On behalf of CPA BIMR, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the States Assembly, election officials, candidates, civil society organisations, media representatives and the people of Jersey for their openness, cooperation and hospitality throughout the mission. I would also like to thank the members of the Election Observation Mission for their professionalism, dedication and hard work.

We commend this report to all those with an interest in the future of democratic governance in Jersey and trust that its findings and recommendations will contribute positively to future electoral development.

Sarah Dickson OBE
Chief Executive of CPA UK and Regional Secretary to CPA BIMR





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the invitation of the Privileges and Procedures Committee of the States Assembly, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) conducted an Election Observation Mission to the Jersey General Election held on 7 June 2026.
- Overall, Jersey's legal framework provides a strong basis for democratic elections. However, substantial legislative changes were adopted less than three months before polling day, creating challenges for implementation and stakeholder preparedness. The reforms included the reintroduction of Senators, the introduction of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), and amendments to voting eligibility and electoral procedures.
- Despite the compressed timeframe, election stakeholders worked collaboratively and professionally to administer the election effectively. The commitment of election officials, volunteers and partner institutions was instrumental in ensuring the successful delivery of the process.
- The introduction of AVR represented a significant step towards broadening electoral participation. However, limited time for implementation and testing led to operational difficulties and concerns about data accuracy.
- The election was competitive, with 92 candidates contesting seats across the Senatorial, Connétable and Deputy elections. Campaigning was active and generally respectful, with discussions largely focused on housing, the cost of living, and public services.
- Media coverage was diverse and appeared to be balanced, while the States Greffe delivered an innovative and effective voter education campaign. The Mission identified a need to strengthen resilience against misinformation, information disorder and potential malign influence in future elections.
- Women's representation increased compared with the previous election, and efforts were made to promote accessibility and participation among young people and persons with disabilities.
- Election Day was calm and orderly. Voting procedures were generally followed, polling staff performed their duties professionally, and voters were able to exercise their rights freely.
- The election results demonstrated a continued preference among Jersey voters for independent representation. While the count was transparent, there are opportunities to improve efficiency and enhance the publication of results.
- In this report, the CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission offers nine recommendations to strengthen future elections in Jersey and further enhance transparency, participation and public confidence in the electoral process. Full details on the recommendations are found on page 29.



INTRODUCTION TO THE MISSION

“

The 2026 General Election was administered in a calm and orderly manner under a compressed and challenging implementation timetable. The commitment of the Parishes, Greffes, Autorisés, volunteers and other election stakeholders was central to the effective delivery of polling and counting. At the same time, the late adoption of consequential legislative reforms exposed weaknesses in electoral planning, legal certainty, voter registration assurance, institutional accountability, and public transparency. Future reform should therefore prioritise earlier legislative decision-making, independently assured voter registration, clearer allocation of electoral responsibilities, stronger political-finance oversight, inclusive redress mechanisms, transparent publication of complete results, and proportionate resilience against information-integrity risks,

The Mission is extremely appreciative of the support and engagement it received from all stakeholders, given that they had considerable other duties and priorities related to the election.”

Gary Clueit MLC – Head of Mission

At the invitation of the Privileges and Procedures Committee of the States Assembly, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association British Islands and Mediterranean Region (CPA BIMR) conducted an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Jersey General Election held on 7 June 2026.

The Mission was present in Jersey from 28 May until 8 June 2026. The Mission was guided by the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

The ten-member Mission was composed of:

- Head of Mission – Gary Clueit MLC (Isle of Man)
- Short-Term Observer – Hon. Randy Howell (Turks and Caicos Islands)
- Short-Term Observer – Sarah Champion MP (United Kingdom)
- Short-Term Observer – Ann Corlett MHK (Isle of Man)
- Electoral & Campaign Analyst – Delphine Blanchet (France)
- Legal & Political Analyst – Ben Graham Jones (United Kingdom)
- CPA BIMR Mission Coordinator – Josephine Jengo-Cowell
- CPA BIMR Mission Administrator – Alysia Boadi
- CPA BIMR Staff Member – Julia Gillman
- CPA BIMR Staff Member – Siobhann Tighe



This was the third time CPA BIMR was invited to observe a General Election in Jersey. In 2018, CPA BIMR conducted its first EOM to Jersey, resulting in the publication of a report with 18 recommendations. A second Election Observation Mission was deployed in 2022, resulting in a further report with 14 recommendations to strengthen Jersey's democratic processes. The Mission notes the efforts of the Jersey authorities and election stakeholders to implement recommendations arising from previous CPA BIMR observation missions.

The Mission conducted an independent assessment of the Jersey General Election against international legal standards, commitments and obligations, as well as domestic laws. Its assessment encompassed the legal framework, election administration, political campaign, media, and opportunities for complaints and appeals. In addition, the Mission considered several cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and the participation of persons with disabilities. The Mission met key stakeholders, including election officials, candidates, the judicial branch, civil society groups, representatives of the media and voters. Members of the Mission also attended campaign events and hustings across the Island, including youth hustings.

On Election Day, the Mission observed voting across all nine districts of Jersey, visiting every polling station throughout the day. The Mission also observed the opening and part of the count for 3 districts.

The Mission found that the legal framework generally provides a strong basis for democratic elections and reflects international standards. Despite significant legislative changes introduced close to Election Day, the election was administered effectively and in an orderly manner through the commitment and cooperation of election stakeholders, officials and volunteers.

The Mission also found that campaigning was active and generally respectful. It was accessible, and Election Day procedures were largely followed. Based on the Mission's stakeholder meetings and qualitative review of selected media content, the Mission observed a diverse range of outlets. It did



not identify clear evidence of systematic exclusion of candidates or political viewpoints. The Mission did not conduct systematic quantitative media monitoring and therefore does not draw a comprehensive conclusion on balance of coverage. At the same time, several challenges and areas for improvement were identified. These findings, together with the Mission's recommendations, are examined in greater detail throughout the following chapters of this report. The Mission is independent in its composition, findings, and conclusions, and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, signed at the United Nations in 2005.

This report offers 9 recommendations that it is hoped will receive due consideration from all election stakeholders, particularly the States Assembly, to support the continued improvement of future elections in Jersey.



POLITICAL BACKGROUND

The Bailiwick of Jersey is a Crown Dependency. It is home to approximately 104,500 people, roughly a third of whom live in the Parish of St Helier, the capital. Jersey is autonomous and self-governing, with its own independent legal, administrative and fiscal systems. The King is Head of State, and the Lieutenant-Governor acts as His Majesty's representative in Jersey.

The States Assembly is the parliament of Jersey. Members of the States Assembly elect the Chief Minister and Ministers, who comprise the Government of Jersey. The cabinet is referred to as the Council of Ministers. The President of the States Assembly is the Bailiff of Jersey, who acts as the parliamentary speaker.

Jersey's legislature sits in one house, the States Assembly, which comprises 49 elected members of equal standing. Following recent reforms that restored the office of Senator, the incoming legislature will comprise 12 Connétables (Constables), 28 Deputies, and 9 Senators. All are elected for four-year terms. The Government of Jersey is composed of the Council of Ministers, led by a Chief Minister. Certain decentralised government functions are exercised by Jersey's twelve Parishes, which date back over a millennium and play an integral role in island life.

The 2022 elections returned a total of 24 independents, 10 members of Reform Jersey, a centre-left party, and three members of other parties. The Jersey Alliance, a centre-right party which had led the government before the election, lost eight of its nine seats, with its only elected member announcing his resignation from the party shortly after the election.

Deputy Kristina Moore became Jersey's first female Chief Minister and appointed a government composed entirely of independents. However, following a vote of no confidence in January 2024, Deputy Lyndon Farnham, also independent, took office as Chief Minister for the remainder of the term.



He led a government composed of ministers from Reform Jersey and independents, only two of whom had served in the previous administration.

Two registered parties contested the 2026 election: Reform Jersey, which presented 16 candidates, and People First, which presented 2 candidates. In addition, a political entity, Value Jersey, came to prominence in the lead-up to the election, describing itself as a political movement. Although several candidates declared their support for Value Jersey at various stages of the electoral process, Value Jersey was not formally registered as a political party.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Election Observation Mission analysed the full legal framework governing the election, covering not only the electoral rules and procedures but also laws affecting areas such as data protection, access to information, and political finance, which affect democratic rights throughout the electoral cycle.

Jersey has a distinctive mixed legal system rooted in Norman customary law and influenced by English common law and French civil-law traditions. The States Assembly debates and adopts legislation, including electoral legislation. Any States Member may lodge a proposition, although the preparation of a formal draft Law may then be undertaken through the relevant Minister, committee or Legislative Drafting Office. A Law must be approved by the King in Council and registered by the Royal Court before it is made; it comes into force either according to its specified commencement provision or, where applicable, on the default statutory date.

The law in Jersey provides a strong basis for conducting democratic elections. Elections are governed by the Elections (Jersey) Law 2002, the Connétables (Jersey) Law 2008, and the 2014 Public Elections (Expenditure and Donations) Law. The framework is completed by relevant provisions of the 2008 Political Parties (Registration) Law, the 2018 Data Protection Law, the 2018 Data Protection Authority Law, and the 2018 Freedom of Information Law.

Although Jersey passes its own domestic legislation, the principal international obligations pertaining to Jersey are extended by the United Kingdom at the island's request. Jersey is not itself a party to the treaty; the United Kingdom extends its treaty ratification to Jersey, thereby creating international obligations binding on the UK in respect of Jersey. The domestic effect of an extended treaty depends on Jersey law; the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000 gives Convention rights domestic effect in Jersey. These obligations include a range of human rights obligations relevant to elections, including the following:

- Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly, the ECHR; signed at Rome, 4 November 1950; entered into force 3 September 1953; extended to Jersey in 1953; Convention rights given domestic effect by the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000). The principal electoral guarantee is contained in Article 3 of Protocol No. 1, which requires free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot under conditions ensuring the free expression of



the people's opinion in the choice of the legislature.

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (adopted 16 December 1966; entered into force 23 March 1976; extended to Jersey on 20 May 1976, coming into force in Jersey on 20 August 1976)

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (adopted by the

- UN General Assembly 21 December 1965; entered into force 4 January 1969; extended to Jersey in 1969)

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (adopted 18

- December 1979; entered into force 3 September 1981; extended to Jersey on 16 February 2021). The extension was made subject to Jersey-specific reservations and declarations, including a reservation concerning Article 16(1)(h), which relates to equal rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property. Article 7 is particularly relevant to equal rights to vote, stand for election, participate in public life and hold public office.

United Nations Convention against Corruption (adopted 31 October 2003; entered into force 14

- December 2005; extended to Jersey in 2009 following the UK's ratification in 2006)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (adopted 13 December

- 2006; entered into force 3 May 2008) has not been extended to Jersey. Its provisions on accessible and inclusive participation in political and public life, including Article 29 on accessible voting procedures, secret ballot, and facilitation of candidacy and office-holding by persons with disabilities, are accordingly treated as persuasive international good practice and a relevant benchmark rather than as a binding treaty obligation. In response to a question about extending the UNCPRD, the Minister for Social Security said that Jersey was still assessing its policies and practices against the Convention; determining the value of extending ratification; and exploring how and when an extension might be achieved.

Changes to the Elections Law relating to AVR were enacted on 26 March 2026, three months before the election. Other amendments such as the return of Senators and voting rights for prisoners came into effect before that date. The late timing of some of these amendments was due in part to a vote of no confidence and the resulting mid-term government changes. Key stakeholders, including the States Greffe, undertook laudable efforts to facilitate the necessary administrative preparations; however, their efforts ultimately depended on the legislative process. The introduction of such consequential changes to the election law shortly before the vote posed challenges, including undue pressure on the electoral administration. As underscored by the Venice Commission and affirmed by the CPA in 2022, *'substantive changes to the legal framework less than a year before voting may undermine confidence in the process, thus contravening electoral good practice.'*



The reforms marked the return of the office of Senator, which had been abolished at the 2022 polls. This decision returned Jersey's electoral system to three types of representatives across three distinct constituencies. All the representatives sit together in a unicameral parliament, the States Assembly, and have equal voting power. To make room for the reintroduction of Senators, nine Deputy positions are removed, one from each district. The timing of the amendment prevented adequate time to communicate the new system.

Although each of the three types of representatives holds equal power under the law, they represent three different constituencies. The island's nine Senators are elected in one island-wide constituency. Twenty-eight Deputies are elected across nine voting districts, with between two and four members elected in each constituency. Twelve Connétables are elected across each of Jersey's parishes. Senators, Connétables and Deputies are elected using plurality-based systems. In multi-member Deputy districts, electors may vote for candidates up to the number of seats available, with the highest-polling candidates elected.

The reinstatement of senators attracted a range of views among stakeholders. Some noted the importance of an island-wide perspective for decision-making in the States Assembly, whilst others noted the complexity of having three different types of representatives with equal voting power within a single unicameral body. One of the most significant changes included an amendment to roll out Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), which moved Jersey from an active voter register, in which electors must register to vote, to a passive voter register, in which all eligible citizens are registered by default. This was an important amendment which reduces barriers to voting.

Although the move nominally led to reduced turnout compared with the previous election, as electors who never intended to vote are now on the list, it serves to broaden the exercise of the right to vote and was welcomed by most stakeholders. The compressed timetable had a range of knock-on effects, including reducing the time available for adequate technical scrutiny of the proposed measures. Interlocutors consistently reported a need for greater stakeholder inclusion in the legislative process. Although the best efforts of the many stakeholders responsible for administering the election ensured that the vote proceeded in an orderly fashion, several challenges might have been avoided had adequate time been available for technical scrutiny of the draft legislation, including by legal scholars, election professionals, and subject-matter experts.

For example, the late adoption of the amendments to the Election Law affected the electoral calendar, shortening key deadlines and resulting in the overlap of several election-related activities. For instance, the nomination of candidates was held whilst the voter register had not been finalised; pre-polling closed before all hustings had been held; postal vote applications were closed before the booklet containing candidates' manifestos was printed, etc. This risks contributing to negative perceptions of the electoral process among stakeholders and the public.



Jersey's applicable human-rights obligations protect political participation and access to information. While international law does not prescribe a single model for addressing foreign information manipulation and interference, comparative practice indicates the value of proportionate, rights-respecting measures to assess and mitigate electoral vulnerabilities.

Jersey has ensured automatic implementation of UK sanctions related to electoral interference.¹ However, there are opportunities beyond sanctions compliance to build resilience, both within Jersey's legal framework and more widely within the island's electoral practice. For example, the legal framework for security in Jersey, comprising principally the Crime and Security (Jersey) Law 2003 and the Crime (Public Order) (Jersey) Law 2024, does not presently address threats such as foreign information manipulation and interference, and malign influence. Not all challenges of malign influence merit a response in law. Some may be addressed with resilience-building measures by stakeholders such as those within civil society, the media, and the education system. Jersey may consider conducting a vulnerability assessment and, based on this, adopting a resilience strategy to those risks that may not be adequately addressed through its association with the UK.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

In general, the administration of the elections was successfully completed, despite tight deadlines and last-minute major changes, thanks to the goodwill and commitment of all levels of administration.

The administration of the electoral process remains divided between four institutions: the 12 Parishes and, at the central level, the Judicial Greffe, the States Greffe, and the Jersey Electoral Authority (JEA).

The creation of the Jersey Electoral Authority (JEA), borne out of an intention to consolidate responsibility for delivery, has, for the time being, added an additional entity to the delivery of the election. In practice, a spirit of well-intentioned collaboration, effective planning by key actors including the States Greffe, Judicial Greffe, JEA, parishes and others, and a willingness of actors to go the extra mile when necessary to facilitate an orderly process helped ensure an orderly election. However, any future review of the legal framework may consider ensuring a greater degree of consolidation of powers of delivery, including ensuring that if stakeholders decide to ascribe increased responsibilities to the JEA, it is also allocated the powers in law to deliver upon its functions, including appropriate staffing, budget, and permanent constitution.

The Parishes have traditionally been responsible for the operational aspects of elections, including voter registration, volunteer recruitment, and the establishment and management of polling stations on election day. As a result, they were the first to be directly affected by the legislative changes and were required to make considerable efforts to implement them on very short timelines. In particular, the late introduction of the Automatic Voter Registration system and the decision to hold voting on a Sunday created operational challenges, including difficulties in recruiting sufficient volunteers to staff polling stations. The election Administrators of the parishes must be commended for their professionalism and dedication.

¹ Sanctions and Asset-Freezing (Jersey) Law 2019 (the SAFL), and the Sanctions and Asset-Freezing (Implementation of External Sanctions) (Jersey) Order 2021 (the Jersey Order)



The Judicial Greffe is directly responsible for pre-polling and postal voting, and for ensuring recruitment and training of the Autorisés. Autorisés are volunteers who oversee polling, counting, and the declaration of results.

As for the 2022 elections, the Jersey Electoral Authority was nominated late in the process and played only a minor role. The JEA does not enjoy budgetary autonomy, is not staffed, and depends on volunteers, the States or the Judicial Greffe for its functioning.

The JEA is vested by law with oversight and direct implementation responsibilities for certain aspects of the electoral process, which the Greffes implemented de facto. The JEA is also responsible for publishing a Code of Conduct (CoC) for candidates, which it successfully did. The 2026 CoC was comprehensive and covered campaign and campaign finances; it was part of the nomination file candidates had to fill in and sign.

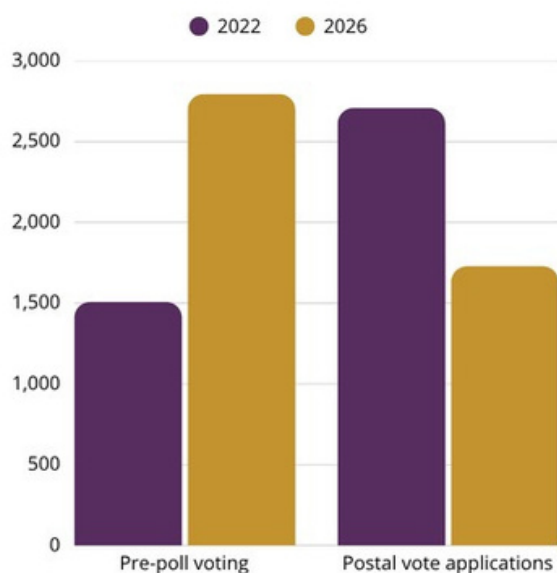
Mission interlocutors were often unaware of the JEA's role, and some were dissatisfied with its mandate, as it was not perceived as conducive to the effective administration of elections.

Recommendation 1: The Jersey Electoral Authority's role, budget, and mandate could be reviewed and aligned to ensure they are fit for purpose.

SPECIAL VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to in-person voting on election day at a polling station, voters were granted a wide range of options for casting their votes.

In-person advance voting was available at a polling location in Saint Helier from Tuesday, 26 May, until midday on Monday, 1 June. Many stakeholders considered this period too short, particularly since advance voting was not available on weekends. Nevertheless, 2,795 voters used this facility, up from 1,508 in 2022, indicating clear voter interest in early voting.



Advance voting trends: 2,795 voters used pre-poll voting, up from 1,508 in 2022

In 2026, voters could apply for a postal vote until 30 April. They had until election day itself, at noon, to send their ballot back to the Judicial Greffe, or were also granted the possibility to cast their ballot in person at their polling station. Election day being a Sunday, the Judicial Greffe had set up special arrangements with Jersey Post to ensure ballots would arrive on time.

Whilst postal voting applications reduced to 1,729, from 2,709 in 2022, the overall number of advance voters (combining pre-polling and postal ballot papers sent out) increased by 7% compared to 2022.

All ballots cast by postal vote or during the early voting ("pre-polling") were brought to their corresponding polling station, where they were added to the ballots cast on election day.

Voters who were ill or receiving home care, along with their caregivers, could vote from home either during the advance voting period or on election day. However, 42 voters used this option, which requires significant organisational effort by the election administration.

Recommendation 2: The Judicial Greffe, States Greffe, and Parishes could explore opportunities to conduct a post-election review of early, postal, and home voting, using data on turnout, accessibility, cost, timeliness, and ballot security. The review would allow for consideration of weekend and multi- location early voting; a timetable to ensure that candidate information is available before postal and early voting begin; and proportionate arrangements for home voting. Any changes can then be legislated and operationalised well before the next election.

BOUNDARY DELIMITATION

Boundary delimitation in Jersey principally concerns the election of Deputies to the States Assembly. For election to the position of Connétable, the parish boundaries are sacrosanct in Jersey, reflecting their immense historical and cultural significance. The twelve parishes are such an integral and historic part of island life that their boundaries are not a significant subject of debate. Senators, meanwhile, represent one island-wide constituency.

There is no law mandating an independent process of boundary delimitation in Jersey. Article 3B of the States of Jersey Law 2005 allows the States Assembly to issue regulations to conduct boundary reform for the election of Deputies, including by combining or splitting constituencies. This ascribes to elected Deputies themselves the power to amend components of the electoral framework that affect their own re-election prospects.

In 2018, representation per elector was particularly unequal across the differently sized constituencies represented by Deputies and Connétables. Following reforms undertaken after the 2018 election, the



boundaries of electoral districts for Deputies were redrawn to ensure greater compliance with international standards. The 2022 reforms abolished the Senators, increased the number of Deputies from 29 to 37, and introduced more equally apportioned Deputy constituencies.

Consequently, the 2022 CPA BIMR EOM Final Report noted that ‘The boundaries for the election of Deputies now all respect international good practice as articulated by the Venice Commission, which states that while “the maximum admissible departure from the distribution criterion adopted depends on the individual situation, [...] it should seldom exceed 10% and never 15%, except in really exceptional circumstances”. However, some overall inequality persisted because each parish continued to elect one Connétable regardless of population.

The Venice Commission further notes that decisions to change electoral boundaries should be based on an independent review process. In 2020, the States Assembly agreed to establish an independent boundaries commission, but it has yet to be established. Then-Deputy Sam Mézec brought an amendment to the legislation seeking to introduce the post of Senator; this proposal established an independent boundaries commission to analyse the impact of the proposed reinstatement of Senators, at the expense of one deputy per constituency, on voter equity and Venice Commission guidelines. The rejection of this proposal by legislators meant that no independent review was presented to the States Assembly before the 2026 decision to reinstate Senators, despite the measures’ impact on representation per elector.

Several interlocutors noted that the 2026 reforms worsened some disparities in representation within the Deputy tier for particular constituencies; others noted that because nine seats were transferred from the Deputies to an island-wide constituency in which every elector has equal voting power, the reforms may improve equality when all Assembly members are considered together. Nevertheless, differences persist due to unequal Deputy ratios and the allocation of one Connétable to each parish, regardless of population.

International good practice stipulates that boundary delimitation should be reviewed at regular intervals. The purpose of this is to ensure that each elector enjoys appropriate levels of representation even as demography changes, or people move in or out of an area. Consideration may be given to establishing an independent and apolitical boundary review process in Jersey ahead of future elections.

Some electors were unaware of past boundary changes. On election day, several electors were observed arriving at the polling stations they had been registered at before the previous boundary review instead of the polling station they had habitually voted at in historic elections. In some cases, as observed by the Mission, this led electors to report that they would not vote.

Recommendation 3: Consideration could be given to establishing an independent boundaries commission. The commission could be given a statutory mandate and sufficient resources to conduct regular reviews of Deputy constituency boundaries, assess the impact of proposed structural reforms to the Assembly on voter equity, and report to the States Assembly before significant changes to electoral districts or the overall composition of the legislature are adopted. It is advised that the commission's remit, composition, independence requirements, and reporting obligations could be clearly defined in primary legislation.



THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The 2026 election saw a strengthened ability of Jersey residents to exercise their right to vote through the adoption of automatic voter registration, alongside important changes that broadened eligibility criteria. The 2002 Elections (Jersey) Law establishes that a person is entitled to have their name included on the electoral register for an electoral district or a Parish if on that day the person is at least 16 years old; resident in that district and has either been resident in Jersey for a period of at least one year; or ordinarily resident in Jersey for a period of at least 6 months, as well as having been ordinarily resident at any time for additional periods that total at least 5 years. The one-year typical residency requirement constitutes a reduction from the two-year requirement stipulated at previous elections. A voter may only be registered in one district.

A blanket ban on the right to vote of prisoners serving a sentence longer than four years was repealed on 10 February 2026 and is now guaranteed under the Elections (Jersey) Law. This change renders Jersey compliant with standards established by international bodies including the European Court of Human Rights and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. It implements the recommendation of the previous CPA UK mission. The 2022 CPA report noted that ***'Anyone convicted of an offence and sentenced to more than four years in prison is deprived of the right to vote. Such blanket restrictions, rather than individualised decisions forming part of the sentence, contravene international standards for democratic elections.'***

Prisoner voting is sometimes regarded as encouraging prisoners to consider their roles and responsibilities as active citizens. Considerable efforts were made by the penitentiary services to encourage prisoners to exercise their civic duties through postal and supervised in-person voting mechanisms. Prisoners had access to the campaign through the media. The Mission was told that an Outreach Team delivered a session for prisoners. Several ideas were discussed to raise future participation, including an in-prison polling station and encouraging candidates to visit and distribute campaign materials.

A further change since 2022 is that the electoral register in Jersey is no longer a public document. A constituency-specific version can be supplied to confirmed candidates; electors may request removal from this list even whilst remaining registered to vote.

Positively, considerable efforts were made by the States Greffe to encourage the upholding of the right to vote across future generations of electors. Enhanced resourcing and staffing enabled extensive programming to be conducted in schools, ranging from the 'Mark My Words' public speaking competition, to engagement of the youth parliament, to commissioning evidence on the matter, to creating innovative video content. This important work recognised the need to bolster long-term political participation by engaging young people. Significant efforts also targeted electors of majority age through a raft of innovative measures, ranging from including an online portal enabling voters to confirm their registration status to distributing the 'Jersey Elections Explained' primer to local employers to assembling an online module on elections accessible to the States of Jersey workforce.



VOTER REGISTRATION

These elections marked the introduction of a significant reform to Jersey's voter registration system. Whereas voter registration had previously been the responsibility of individual voters through their respective Parishes, the Government introduced an Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) system in March 2026² to automatically enrol eligible citizens on the electoral register. The AVR relies primarily on information held in the Government's social security database³ to identify eligible electors, while the Parishes retain the authority to verify and approve registrations.

The AVR is overseen by a governance board initially composed of two representatives of the States Greffe (Chair and Voter Outreach Director), the Judicial Greffe, the Chief Statistician, the Law Office's Department and the Secretary to the Comité des Connétables. The board was subsequently expanded to include all Parish Election Administrators (EAs). Decisions were made by consensus, reflecting a commitment to avoid imposing changes on individual stakeholders.

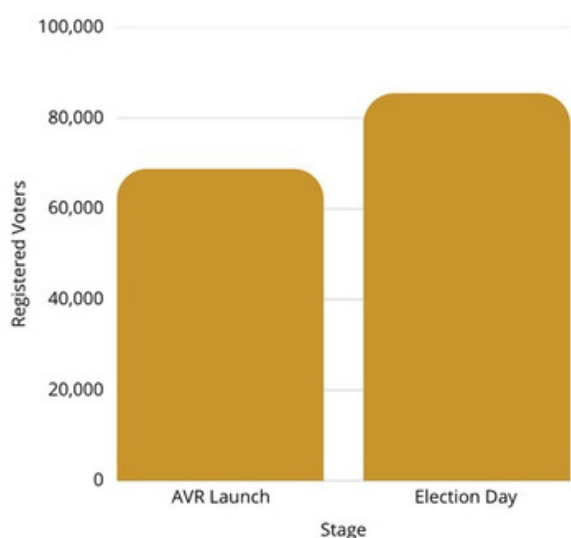
The introduction of AVR represents an important modernisation of the electoral registration process. Shifting responsibility for registration from individual voters to the State has the potential to improve the completeness and accuracy of the electoral register, facilitate voter participation, strengthen electoral planning, and reduce the administrative burden and costs associated with repeated registration campaigns. However, the system was introduced too late in the electoral cycle for these benefits to be fully realised.

The late adoption of the enabling legislation and the resulting compression of the electoral timetable had a significant adverse impact on the implementation of a reform of this scale. There was insufficient time for independent testing, stakeholder preparation, voter awareness or the resolution of operational issues before polling day. Although there has been a long-standing agreement among the principal stakeholders -the States, the States Greffe and the Parish Election Administrators - on the principle of introducing an AVR, delays in the legislative process and the compressed implementation schedule generated considerable frustration. They contributed to tensions between the States Greffe and the Election Administrators over the delivery and management of the system.

Significant data quality issues further complicated implementation of the new system. At its launch on 24 March 2026, the AVR contained substantially fewer elector records than expected and omitted approximately 16,000 individuals who had previously been registered with the Parishes. The Election Administrators had been unable to conduct comprehensive testing before the system became operational because they had received only limited historical data during the development phase. Once access to the live data became available, they identified numerous anomalies requiring extensive manual verification and correction.

² The AVR project dates back two years, but the data became live and available to election administrators to check only on 26 March.

³ NESSE (benefit system, people directory), and CAF (core address database).



Electoral Register Growth (AVR): The electoral register increased by 16,604 voters between AVR launch and Election Day.

Between the launch of the AVR and polling day, Election Administrators and the Government of Jersey's Digital Services Team undertook considerable work to identify missing electors, process supplementary registrations, correct administrative errors and remove duplicate records. As a result, the number of registered electors increased from 68,866 when the AVR became operational to 85,470 on polling day.

The Election Administrators expressed confidence that these extensive corrective measures ultimately produced an accurate electoral register. Nevertheless, the AVR remained a recurring source of concern among many candidates and voters met by the Mission, who questioned the new system's accuracy and reliability.

The Mission also received a small number of concerns regarding certain features of the new registration system. These included the initial absence of an option for voters to prevent disclosure of their details to candidates for campaigning purposes. Another concern related to the continued use of the electoral register for jury selection. Some interlocutors indicated that individuals who do not wish to be eligible for jury service may be discouraged from registering to vote if no separate opt-out mechanism exists.

Recommendation 4: Consideration could be given to a comprehensive, independent audit and rigorous testing of the Automatic Voter Registration system to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and resilience before it is relied upon in future elections. Audit findings and any remedial measures taken are advised to be made publicly available.

THE RIGHT TO STAND FOR ELECTION

The right to candidacy in Jersey, including the obligation to provide an effective opportunity for citizens to exercise that right, is guaranteed under Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The right to stand for election as Senator, Deputy, or Connétable is set out in the States of Jersey Law (2005) and the Connétables Law (2008). Across all three contests, candidates must be a British citizen resident in Jersey for at least two years.

A person may not stand if they are detained under the Mental Health (Jersey) Law 2016, have declared bankruptcy within the preceding five years, have been convicted of an offence as a public official under the Corruption (Jersey) Law 2006, or have been subject to imprisonment for more than three months.

The law requires that prospective candidates present a list of the names and addresses of one proposer and nine seconders, who must themselves be on the electoral register, along with their



registration materials. The 2026 election saw the victory of Jersey's youngest-ever elected politician, who was elected Deputy for St Brelade, an event that attracted international attention.

CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

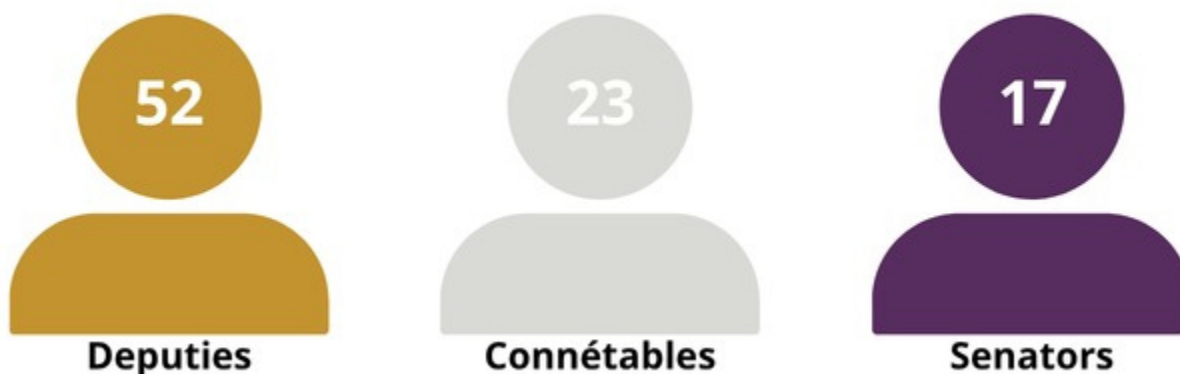
The States Greffe implemented the candidate registration process under the JEA's oversight. Candidates for the three elections were required to submit their nomination forms between 20 and 22 April. The States Greffe was then tasked with verifying candidates' eligibility by 27 April, including confirming that the voters supporting each nomination were registered to vote in the relevant constituency.

The Mission notes that the main electoral register closed at midday on Friday 17 April. It was therefore available when nominations opened on Monday 20 April. A supplementary voter registration period remained open until 28 May, some five weeks after the nomination window closed on 22 April. The right to stand for election requires that eligibility criteria be defined with sufficient clarity and applied through processes that afford candidates reasonable legal certainty. Many candidates raised concerns with the Mission about the uncertainty generated by the overlap between nomination and voter registration deadlines. Candidate registration processes should be sequenced so that the voter register is finalised before the nomination period opens, ensuring that eligibility verification can be conducted on a sound and predictable basis.

As part of the nomination process, candidates were required to submit a short manifesto statement, which was subsequently included in an election information booklet distributed to voters' homes on 11 May. This feature was highly appreciated by candidates and electors alike. However, due to logistical constraints the 1,700 registered postal voters may have voted before receiving this resource.

The candidate registration process was completed without any rejections, and no complaints or appeals were filed. A total of 92 candidates were registered for an inclusive, competitive process across the elections, comprising 17 for the 9 Senator seats, 23 for the 12 Connétable seats, and 52 for the 28 Deputy seats. Six Parishes were uncontested. Two parties fielded candidates: People First for two deputies and Reform for fourteen deputies, one senator and one connétable.

Candidate Distribution: Total 92 Candidates





ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Although the official campaign period began on 7 February for reporting expenses purposes, campaign activities only gained significant momentum following the official nomination of candidates on 27 April.

Structure of Hustings

Approximately 30 hustings were organised throughout the campaign period. The Jersey Election Authority (JEA) was responsible for scheduling these events. At the same time, the States Greffe determined their format to ensure that they could be recorded and subsequently published on the Vote.je website. There was a husting in each parish, divided by role, so there would be one for Senators, Connétable, and Deputies as required by law.

One husting was interpreted into sign language, enhancing its accessibility. Among the hustings observed by the Mission, a youth-focused event for Senatorial candidates stood out for its strong attendance and dynamic exchanges, reflecting a notable level of political interest among younger voters⁴.

The hustings were generally well attended, demonstrating the continued importance of direct interaction between candidates and voters. They proved particularly valuable for candidates contesting the Senatorial elections, whose constituency encompasses the entire island. To facilitate island-wide voter engagement, one Senatorial hustings event was organised in each Parish. The Mission attended a number of these events and found them informative, respectful, and well conducted.

In addition to participating in hustings, candidates relied extensively on door-to-door campaigning, which remains one of the most appreciated and effective means of voter outreach in Jersey.

Traditional campaign methods, including posters and occasional banners, were also widely used. However, observers noted a few instances where campaign materials were displayed in contravention of applicable regulations.

The campaign focused largely on socio-economic issues. The most frequently discussed topics included the cost of living, particularly housing affordability, and calls to establish a low-cost supermarket on the island. Other issues regularly raised during the campaign included the construction of a new hospital, a project widely viewed as necessary but criticised for delays and rising costs, as well as plans for a new school.

The campaign also featured debate over the role of the newly established movement Value Jersey in the island's political landscape. Several interlocutors questioned the movement's financing arrangements, noting that it was neither registered as a political party nor as a third-party supporting

⁴Organised by the SG in collaboration with the Jersey Youth Service. Candidates delivered 30-second opening statements followed by questions.



candidate. Concerns were raised regarding the transparency of its funding sources and campaign expenditures, as it recruited candidates committed to advancing its policy agenda. These issues generated discussion among candidates and voters throughout the campaign period.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Political finance in Jersey is regulated under the Public Elections (Expenditure and Donations) (Jersey) Law 2014. According to the law, all candidates are required to submit expenses to the JEA. This includes expenses incurred within the four months leading up to election day and more than four months before the election if the goods are used within those four months. The requirements to register as a political party are set out in the Political Parties (Registration) (Jersey) Law 2008; this law requires, among other things, the provision of regular statements of account.

A range of stakeholders expressed inadequate confidence that current mechanisms regulating the role of money in politics had secured a level playing field. The States Assembly rejected attempts to broaden transparency in advance of the election. In March 2026, a Lobbying Code was introduced to the States Assembly to define what constitutes lobbying; the motion was defeated. Consequently, Jersey approached the election without a dedicated lobbying transparency regime or public register of interactions between members and lobby groups. Elected members are required to submit a register of interests; however, this is not required before election. Mandating a broad declaration of interests at candidacy stage could enhance transparency and electors' access to information.

The UN Convention on Corruption, a principal international standard on political finance, has been extended to Jersey through the UK's ratification. Article 7(3) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption requires States Parties to consider taking appropriate legislative and administrative measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidates for elected public office and, where applicable, political parties. Interlocutors repeatedly underscored concerns about opacity in political finance and noted the need for a more robust framework to ensure a level playing field. If left unaddressed, these concerns about funding transparency risk diminishing overall trust in the integrity of elections in Jersey.

Candidates have four weeks after the election to submit expense and donation declarations, and a further four weeks to respond to any requests. The timeframes for implementation and limited enforcement capacity before the election date raised questions about the degree to which the campaign finance framework provides for adequate accountability.

During the election, discussions on campaign finance frequently mentioned the status of 'Value Jersey', an entity that described itself as a 'political movement'. On 12 May 2026, Value Jersey Ltd was incorporated as a private company under the Companies (Jersey) Law 1991. Several interlocutors expressed concern that an entity operating outside the registered-party framework may be subject to different disclosure requirements. The Mission recommends that the legal framework clarify the registration, reporting and oversight obligations applicable to organisations that incur expenditure, solicit donations, coordinate activity, or otherwise campaign to influence the election of candidates. A Board Member of Value Jersey disclosed that the group had a contract with the Messina Group, a political consultancy firm whose members have worked on Barack Obama's 2012 election campaign and the Conservative Party's 2015 campaign.



The Public Elections (Expenditure and Donations) (Jersey) Law 2014 limits spending by ‘third parties’ within a four-month regulated period. Expenses before this period are also regulated when the purchased goods and services are used during the regulated period to promote the election of a candidate. Some debate focused on the extent of the ‘third party’ definition in law. Some stakeholders underscored that speculation about Value Jersey reduced trust in both the electoral process and the political finance framework’s ability to guarantee a level playing field. The presence of a crowdfunding page for Value Jersey appeared to allow potential donors to select payment details from any country. On 29 May 2026, the JEA noted that it would make recommendations related to political finance after the election, including ‘matters relating to political movements’.

Note: On 21 August 2026, Vote.je published the report on 2026 Election Expenses for all candidates (<https://vote.je/2026-election-expenses/>), Reform Jersey and two third parties. As of this date, Value Jersey has not submitted a financial report. Some candidates have declared amounts received (mostly as packages) from Value Jersey, but there is no accounting for the amount Value Jersey spent in providing these packages and other support. This highlights a potential gap in the transparency framework, where an organisation provides material support to candidates, yet its own expenditure, funding sources, and reporting obligations are not clearly addressed by applicable law. The legal status of any reporting obligation applicable to Value Jersey requires clarification within the political-finance framework.

The 2026 election underscored the need to strengthen political finance regulation in Jersey, including broader disclosure requirements and enhanced enforcement capabilities in both law and practice. Efforts to enhance the integrity of political finance should be informed by a far-sighted

assessment of vulnerabilities rooted in the experiences of comparable democracies worldwide. This reform process should be shielded from political influence to secure public confidence.

Recommendation 5: Consideration could be given to strengthening political finance transparency and oversight mechanisms which establish a coherent, enforceable, and proportionate transparency regime for candidates, registered parties, third parties, and entities that campaign to influence electoral outcomes. This, in turn, could define coordination, require timely public disclosure of reportable donations and expenditure, address in-kind and overseas-supported campaigning, provide investigatory and sanctioning powers to an independent regulator, and include clear procedural safeguards. The legal framework could then clarify the registration, reporting and oversight obligations applicable to organisations that incur expenditure, solicit donations, coordinate activity, or otherwise campaign to influence the election of candidates.



MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

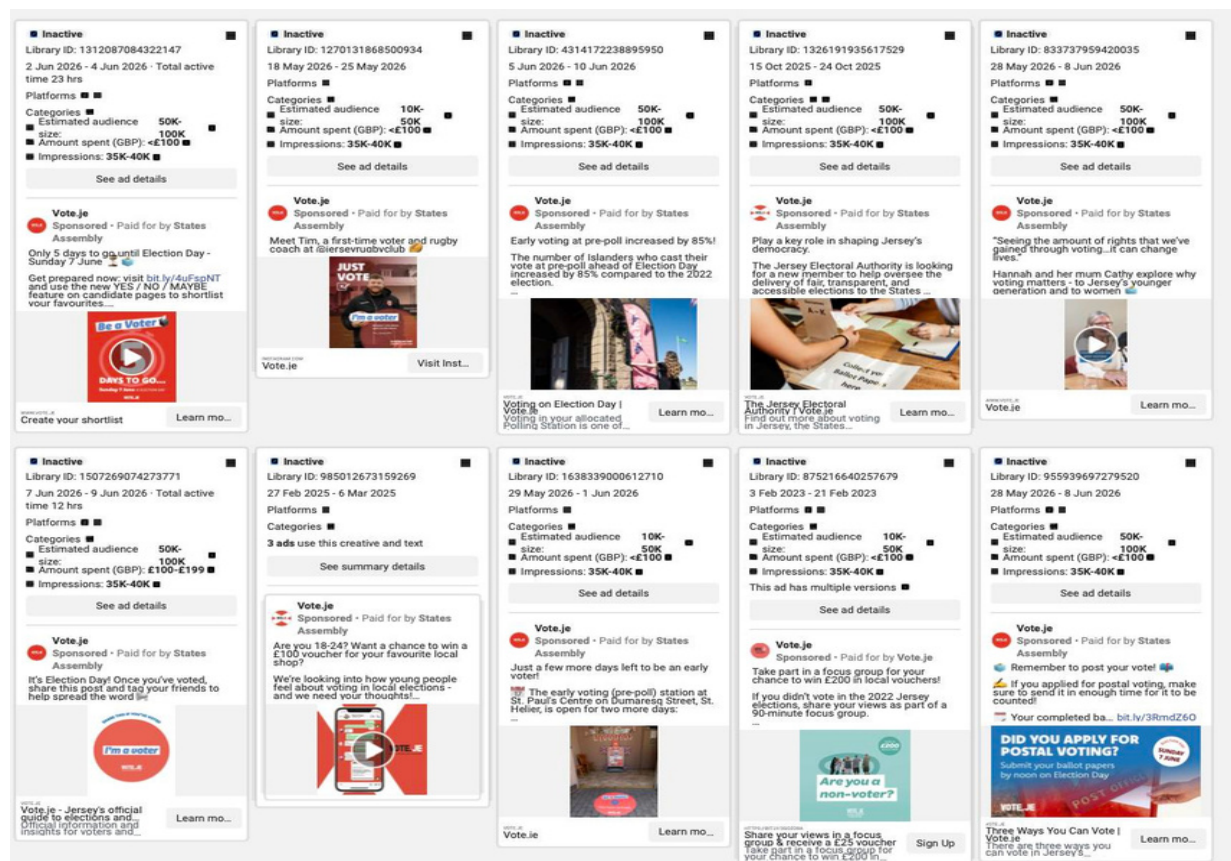
The right to freedom of expression is guaranteed in Jersey under the Human Rights (Jersey) Law 2000. Jersey is subject to core international obligations underpinning media freedoms, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. The legal framework on media freedom is supplemented by relevant provisions of the Freedom of Information (Jersey) Law 2011, the Public Elections (Expenditure and Donations) (Jersey) Law 2014, and the Communications (Jersey) Order 2020. The electoral legislation in Jersey does not mandate a period of campaign silence.

The media landscape includes the Jersey Evening Post, BBC Jersey, ITV Channel, Channel 103 radio, the Bailiwick Express, and other independent radio and online media. Although the Mission did not undertake a comprehensive programme of media monitoring, it notes that the media undertook important functions during the election, including providing means for candidates from across the political spectrum to broadcast their messages.

Media coverage was diverse and innovative, including a range of voter information formats, news articles, analysis, and investigative journalism. The proactive engagement of media organisations by the States Greffe to disseminate important information helped safeguard voters' rights of access to information.

For many Islanders, the online arena was the primary location for electoral campaigning, voter education, and political debate. International standards guarantee that all rights enjoyed offline apply online in equal measure. Nonetheless, the online dimension is relatively poorly understood. The formation of a robust evidence base around online harms in Jersey elections is impeded by the lack of a civil society organisation specialising in digital issues and the absence of social media analysis capabilities within the electoral authorities. In addition, social media companies' ongoing restrictions on platform application programming interfaces (APIs), which enable researchers to analyse the spread of false claims and information operations on social platforms, impede scrutiny of online information integrity.

The States Greffe harnessed the online space to expand access to election information.



The States Greffe's Vote.je initiative used social platforms to spread important messaging through paid adverts such as these across the whole election cycle— data source: Meta

Vote.je provided important factual voter information across the electoral cycle, including using paid ads on Facebook. These achieved considerable reach at low cost.⁵ Several ads that spread important messaging and cost under £100 received tens of thousands of impressions.

The data show that Vote.je's efforts were especially significant during the crucial days leading up to election day. This was valuable, as evidence from elections worldwide shows that the hours surrounding election day are often associated with an intensification of disinformation, underscoring the importance of having already established a trusted source of information about the process beforehand. On election day, searches for 'vote.je' in Jersey were one hundred times greater than just two weeks earlier, highlighting that a considerable number of Jersiais actively sought out information from vote.je during this crucial period.

⁵ For example, an ad sharing the link to watch video manifestos (ad 2180297635842285) received more than 90,000 impressions, while an ad (27451859911086825) informing people that pre-polling was open received over 40,000; both cost less than £100.



Relative search volume for 'vote.je', the main voter education portal administered by the States Greffe.

Data source: Google

The online campaign took place across the platforms in use in Jersey, including Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok. Social media provided a venue for many to engage in dialogue about the election; however, it also hosted insults, inflammatory remarks, and attempts to discourage people from exercising their full voting rights. Interlocutors reported that the online debate in this election was marred by a level of acrimony not seen in past Jersey elections. The tone and nature of some of this content could dissuade people from running for office or participating in political debate.

There was a lack of guidelines on the extent to which political campaigning could be conducted from overseas, which sparked online discussion in the context of the Value Jersey issue. As was noted on social media, according to Facebook's transparency tools, the group's page, which ran advertisements, was administered by accounts in Jersey, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Social platforms also hosted a broad range of paid advertising. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), extended to Jersey in 2009 following the UK's ratification, under Article 7(3) of the Convention requires States Parties to consider taking appropriate legislative and administrative measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidates for elected public office and, where applicable, political parties. Through the Meta ad library, electors could scrutinise political ads; however, several candidates reported difficulties with account verification, which impeded their ability to campaign online effectively.

Jersey saw incidents of negative campaigning which contributed to a climate of negativity in the online space. This included a widely circulated document that explicitly advised people not to vote for certain candidates and even suggested that forgoing one's full voting rights could be preferable to voting for them.

Despite these challenges, Jersey did benefit from strengths in mitigating the risks of coordinated disinformation. The electoral system relies on paper ballots for voting. Jersey's paper-based voting process avoids some technology-specific vulnerabilities and narratives that can arise in elections using electronic voting systems. Several interlocutors expressed concerns that any future moves towards electronic voting could generate such risks.



Increasingly, challenges such as foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) have threatened elections across the globe. It has proven prudent to act before such threats materialise to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent their exploitation. Jersey lacks several safeguards that are established in comparable democracies. For example, it does not host any member of the international fact-checking network, a global association of best practice in information integrity, and lacks a foreign influence registration scheme.

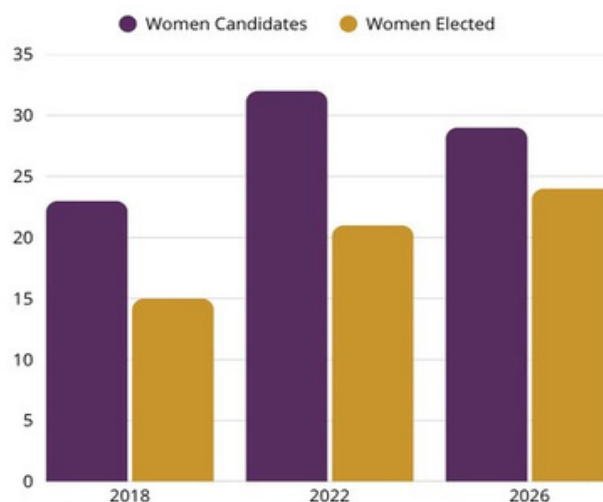
Over the course of the election cycle, Meta reported restricting access to 357 items representing Russian state-controlled media sources due to EU-imposed sanctions. Most of these restrictions corresponded exclusively to Jersey and included pages, groups, and profiles.⁶ Looking ahead, greater engagement among critical stakeholders with both platforms and the global information integrity community in advance of the election will help facilitate a deeper understanding of measures to enhance resilience.

Recommendation 6: Consideration could be given to commissioning an information integrity resilience assessment to identify vulnerabilities across legal, operational, cyber, data protection, media, malign influence, and political finance domains. Such an assessment could help identify proportionate, rights-respecting mitigations, allocate responsibility among stakeholders, and allow for a published action plan.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Women enjoy the same legal rights as men to vote and stand for election. Jersey has not adopted temporary special measures or other policies to promote women's representation in elected office. Overall, the number of women candidates declined slightly in 2026, with 29 women contesting the elections, compared with 32 in 2022. Despite this decrease, women's electoral success improved: 24 women were elected⁷ in 2026, up from 21 in 2022. Women performed particularly well in the Senatorial contest, with all four female candidates elected.

Interlocutors identified several factors that may hinder women's political participation, notably the financial burden of running an electoral campaign and exposure to online harassment. These challenges were reported as potential deterrents to women considering candidacy.



Women's participation and success: Women won 24 seats in 2026, compared with 21 in 2022

⁶<https://transparency.meta.com/reports/content-restrictions/country/JE/>

⁷ Four senators, four connétables, and 16 deputies.



Candidates generally did not disclose their disability. The Mission observed that the election administration made considerable efforts to improve accessibility to the process. Observers noted that 100% of the polling stations were independently accessible and were equipped with a magnifying glass for voters with visual impairment. In 100% of the polling stations observed, voters who required assistance to cast their ballots received it in accordance with the law.

Sign language was also used in one voter education activity. The States Greffe developed and disseminated numerous voter education materials in minority languages, notably Polish and Portuguese, thereby facilitating the participation of linguistic minority communities in the electoral process.

The Mission was told that the introduction of Automatic Voter Registration substantially increased the size of the electoral register, adding 16,604 electors. While this included a significant number of first-time voters, particularly young voters, the States Greffe has not yet published an official figure for the number of first-time young voters in the 2026 election as of this publication.

The States Greffe invested considerable effort in engaging young people through a Youth Assembly, targeted voter education initiatives, including social media campaigns, and school-based outreach activities. These efforts were designed to increase awareness of the electoral process and encourage participation among new voters. However, their impact was constrained by two key limitations: the timing of elections, which often conflicted with school calendars and examination periods, and the limited time available for school-based engagement following candidate announcements.

For the first time, a candidate for Deputy who was under 18 at the time of registration was elected. This development highlights the need to assess whether existing electoral processes and campaign practices adequately protect the digital rights and privacy of minor candidates, particularly regarding online campaigning, media exposure, and the handling of personal data.

Recommendation 7: Subject to data-protection requirements and safeguards against identification in small cohorts, the States Greffe could explore publishing an anonymised turnout report, appropriately aggregated by age group and gender, using the available data. Collaborating with disability organisations and other relevant groups to identify accessibility barriers and publish an accessibility action plan for future elections could also be considered.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The right to seek redress through complaint or appeal is a fundamental principle of democratic elections because it helps ensure that all parties are treated fairly under the law. The right to redress is enshrined in international standards, including Article 8 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2.3 of the 1976 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and Article 13 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the ECHR).



The Venice Commission notes that access to effective remedy should be as simple and as widely available as possible. The CPA BIMR's report on the 2022 elections noted that the absence of an administrative complaints procedure available to a wider range of stakeholders, including voters, may narrow the possibilities for redress. The system of administrative redress remains limited in Jersey, as only candidates are allowed to address their grievances to the JEA; consequently, this report restates this recommendation. The considerable number of complaints received by the JEA, which had registered 95 as of the last week of July 2026, underscores the demands placed upon the electoral authority before, during and after the election.

Recommendation 8: Consideration could be given to establishing a clear, accessible and time-bound administrative electoral-complaints procedure available to voters, candidates, parties, civil society organisations and other persons with a legitimate interest.

Abroad right to redress is available to anyone, whether or not they were a candidate, who wishes to dispute the result of an election at any level. This right is defined in Article 57(2) of the Election Law. Any person may dispute the elections within 12 months, with the Royal Court handling these complaints and appeals. The Court may decide to re-examine ballot papers and is empowered to reject votes deemed valid by an Autorisé. The Royal Court's decisions are subject to an appeal at the Court of Appeal, whose decisions are final. At the time of publication, the Mission had not been notified of any appeal filed with the Royal Court.

Jersey law also defines the right of an unsuccessful candidate to request a recount, to be conducted under the auspices of the Judicial Greffier for Senatorial elections, within 24 hours of the election. Autorisés preside over recounts for Deputy and Connétable elections. A recount took place for the closely fought St Helier Central Deputy election under the authority of the principal Autorisé, with no change to the elected candidates.

ELECTION DAY AND RESULTS

The Mission observed the 19 polling stations, sometimes more than once. Observers were always warmly welcomed, and in general, a positive atmosphere prevailed on election day despite the challenges posed to the polling station staff by the new AVR system and the high number of voters.

The EOM team visited four polling stations to observe them as they opened for voters, and procedures were conducted efficiently and in accordance with established regulations. Essential electoral materials were present, and candidates or their representatives were observed outside the polling stations. Voting commenced promptly, and observers noted a steady flow of voters throughout the day, occasionally resulting in long queues.

Multiple errors in the AVR system were observed across all 19 polling stations visited by the Mission. These issues created an additional workload for polling station staff and electoral authorities. Nevertheless, they were generally addressed efficiently, though in some instances they delayed the voting process. The Mission did not receive a verified total of voters who were unable to vote at the polling station where they first presented; they were often redirected to another polling station. Overall, observers noted a clear commitment by polling staff and Autorisés to facilitate voting and



ensure that all eligible voters who presented themselves at a polling station could cast their ballots as swiftly as possible.

Candidates and their representatives were present outside all polling stations the Mission visited. Their presence was unobtrusive and did not interfere with the voting process or create any disturbance.

In all 19 polling stations visited by the Mission, materials were present, voting procedures were generally followed, and independent access to the vote was ensured. However, in a small number of polling stations, the secrecy of the vote could have been better protected through a different layout of the premises, particularly given the high turnout, the queues resulting from errors on the AVR and the resulting congestion in certain areas of polling stations.⁸

Overall, observers rated the performance of the polling station staff and of the Autorisés as very good (73%) and good (27%). All the staff (besides the election administrator) were volunteers, and their performance is to be commended. Women made up a significant proportion of polling station staff, reflecting their active involvement in administering the electoral process.

The counting process for the three elections began quickly after the polls closed and continued until the early hours of the morning. The results process involved sorting and processing ballots across different categories, including those cast through advance voting, postal voting, and homebound voting arrangements. This process was lengthy; most counts finished around 2:30 am, with 3:30 am in St Brelade, and there was uncertainty as to whether it should be postponed to the following day. In St Helier Central and St Helier North, a decision was made to stop the count and start again at 10:30 am the following day. All results were returned on 8 June in the afternoon. Only one recount was conducted on 10 June in Saint Helier Central, and it ultimately delivered the same result as the original count.

In Jersey, blank and invalid ballots are recorded within the same category. Differentiating between blank ballots and invalid ballots would align with good electoral practice and provide more meaningful information about voting behaviour. Distinguishing these categories can help identify whether invalid ballots result from voter confusion or errors, highlighting areas where voter education or election information could be improved. In contrast, blank ballots may reflect a deliberate choice by voters.

The initial results published on the Vote.je website reported only the number of votes received by the successful candidates. However, the Mission notes that the complete results were published on Vote.je on Friday 12 June, and that Statistics Jersey also collated results. Publishing the complete results for all candidates, including unsuccessful ones, along with the number of blank and invalid ballots, would enhance transparency and provide voters, candidates, and observers with a more comprehensive understanding of the election outcome. More detailed results also support public confidence, electoral analysis and future election planning.

Recommendation 9:

9a: Count process

⁸ This was particularly visible in Saint Helier Central PS



Where possible, the relevant election authorities could review the counting process, staffing, layout, training, reconciliation procedures, and escalation arrangements. This would provide a safeguard against avoidable delays while preserving transparency, scrutiny, and accuracy.

9b: Results publication

The States Greffe could consider publishing complete, timely and machine-readable election results for every contest, constituency and polling location, including all candidates and separate figures for valid, blank and invalid ballots.

This year, for the first time, the States Greffe launched an exit poll survey in which voters were invited to evaluate the voting process. At the time of this report's publication, the survey results had not yet been published. However, they are expected to provide valuable insights that will help improve the organisation and administration of future election days.

RECOMMENDATIONS



1 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The Jersey Electoral Authority's role, budget, and mandate could be reviewed and aligned to ensure they are fit for purpose.



2 SPECIAL VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Judicial Greffe, States Greffe, and Parishes could explore opportunities to conduct a post-election review of early, postal, and home voting, using data on turnout, accessibility, cost, timeliness, and ballot security. The review would allow for consideration of weekend and multi-location early voting; a timetable to ensure that candidate information is available before postal and early voting begin; and proportionate arrangements for home voting. Any changes can then be legislated and operationalised well before the next election.



3 BOUNDARY DELIMINATION

Consideration could be given to establishing an independent boundaries commission. The commission could be given a statutory mandate and sufficient resources to conduct regular reviews of Deputy constituency boundaries, assess the impact of proposed structural reforms to the Assembly on voter equity, and report to the States Assembly before significant changes to electoral districts or the overall composition of the legislature are adopted. It is advised that the commission's remit, composition, independence requirements, and reporting obligations could be clearly defined in primary legislation.



4 VOTER REGISTRATION

Consideration could be given to a comprehensive, independent audit and rigorous testing of the Automatic Voter Registration system to ensure its accuracy, completeness, and resilience before it is relied upon in future elections. Audit findings and any remedial measures taken are advised to be made publicly available.



5 CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Consideration could be given to strengthening political finance transparency and oversight mechanisms which establish a coherent, enforceable, and proportionate transparency regime for candidates, registered parties, third parties, and entities that campaign to influence electoral outcomes. This, in turn, could define coordination, require timely public disclosure of reportable donations and expenditure, address in-kind and overseas-supported campaigning, provide investigatory and sanctioning powers to an independent regulator, and include clear procedural safeguards. The legal framework could then clarify the registration, reporting and oversight obligations applicable to organisations that incur expenditure, solicit donations, coordinate activity, or otherwise campaign to influence the election of candidates.

RECOMMENDATIONS



6 MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Consideration could be given to commissioning an information integrity resilience assessment to identify vulnerabilities across legal, operational, cyber, data protection, media, malign influence, and political finance domains. Such an assessment could help identify proportionate, rights-respecting mitigations, allocate responsibility among stakeholders, and allow for a published action plan.



7 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Subject to data-protection requirements and safeguards against identification in small cohorts, the States Greffe could explore publishing an anonymised turnout report, appropriately aggregated by age group and gender, using the available data. Collaborating with disability organisations and other relevant groups to identify accessibility barriers and publish an accessibility action plan for future elections could also be considered.



8 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Consideration could be given to establishing a clear, accessible and time-bound administrative electoral-complaints procedure available to voters, candidates, parties, civil society organisations and other persons with a legitimate interest.



9 ELECTION RESULTS

a: Count process

Where possible, the relevant election authorities could review the counting process, staffing, layout, training, reconciliation procedures, and escalation arrangements. This would provide a safeguard against avoidable delays while preserving transparency, scrutiny, and accuracy.

b: Results publication

The States Greffe could consider publishing complete, timely and machine-readable election results for every contest, constituency and polling location, including all candidates and separate figures for valid, blank and invalid ballots.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The CPA BIMR Election Observation Mission wishes to express its gratitude to all on the island of Jersey who supported the work of the Mission, including election officials, candidates and civil society organisations. We are also grateful to our team of observers and analysts for taking part.

CPA BIMR ELECTION OBSERVATION SERVICES:

The first objective of the BIMR Strategy is to strengthen parliaments and the skills of their members. As part of this work, CPA BIMR facilitates election observations when invited to do so.

For more information about these services, please contact the CPA BIMR Secretariat at:
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