



DIOCESE OF BRISTOL

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Election Addresses - Guidance for Candidates

All candidates standing in the 2026 General Synod Elections are entitled to submit an election address for circulation to electors. An election address provides an opportunity to introduce yourself, explain your experience and priorities, and help electors make an informed decision when voting.

Submission Deadline

Election addresses must be received by the Presiding Officer no later than 5.00pm on Monday 7 September 2026, which is also the close of nominations.

Format Requirements

House of Clergy candidates: Election addresses must be submitted in electronic form and must be capable of being printed on a single sheet of A4 paper (either one or two sides).

House of Laity candidates: Election addresses may be submitted electronically or in hard copy and must fit on a single sheet of A4 paper (either one or two sides).

Candidates are responsible for preparing their own election addresses and meeting any associated production costs.

Content

There are no prescribed rules regarding the content or layout of an election address. Candidates may choose their own format and may include a photograph if they wish.

Candidates are, however, encouraged to ensure that their election addresses are:

- Accurate and truthful.
- Open and transparent about their views, experience and priorities.
- Frank about any memberships, affiliations or interests that electors may consider relevant when deciding how to vote.

The Presiding Officer will not normally require amendments to an election address unless, in exceptional circumstances, it is considered defamatory or otherwise unlawful.

Suggested Content

While candidates may structure their election address as they wish, many electors find the following information helpful:

- A short introduction and personal background.
- Current role within the Church.
- Relevant skills, experience and interests.
- Previous synodical or governance experience.
- Key issues and priorities you wish to focus on in General Synod.
- Why you are seeking election.
- Any relevant affiliations or networks within the Church.
- A recent photograph (optional).

Submitting Election address

House of Clergy candidates can submit their election addresses via:

- Civica's election portal; or
- governance.support@bristoldiocese.org.

House of Laity candidates can submit their election addresses via:

- Civica's election portal;
- governance.support@bristoldiocese.org; or
- The Presiding Officer, Governance Support Team, Diocese of Bristol, Hillside House, 1500 Parkway North, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS 34 8YU

Circulation to Electors

Following the close of nominations, the Presiding Officer will circulate to electors:

- The names of all validly nominated candidates.
- The names of those who nominated each candidate.
- Each candidate's election address (where one has been submitted).

Election addresses will also be:

- Published on the diocesan website.
- Made available through the elections portal.
- Sent by post to electors who are not participating electronically.

Late Submission

Election addresses received after the close of nominations may be circulated at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, but there is no obligation to do so. Candidates remain free to circulate campaign material directly to electors at their own expense.

Access to Elector Information

Candidates may request a copy of the register of electors from the Presiding Officer. This will include electors' names and contact details, except where an elector has requested that their postal address be withheld for personal safety reasons. Candidate access to this information is provided solely for election purposes.

Publication of Election Addresses Online After the Election

The election addresses of successful candidates will remain published on the diocesan website until the next dissolution of the General Synod or until the individual ceases to be a member of Synod, if earlier. Successful candidates may request that their postal address is removed from the version published online.