

# Get ready for our three-yearly internal elections

Our three-yearly round of internal party elections gets underway when nominations open this Thursday (12 September), ahead of the party conference at Bournemouth – which is traditionally the opportunity to gather signatures on nominations. (A new online nomination process is also being trialled, alongside the old-fashioned paper method).

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Every member of the party gets the opportunity to vote in these elections, which are largely online.

Top of the bill is **Federal President**, to take over from Sal Brinton on 1 January and serve for 2020, 2021 and 2022. This is a major role, chairing the party's Federal Board, protecting and representing members, and acting as guardian of the party's interests. Hustings will be held throughout the country during the two-month campaign, and candidates may raise and spend £20,000 campaigning for the job.

The party's senior Federal Committees for the next three years are also up for re-election: **Federal Board members (15); Federal Policy Committee members (15); Federal Conference Committee members (12); and Federal International Relations Committee members (6).**

These elections will run concurrently with the Presidential election. There are no hustings or campaign budgets for committee places, but candidates are entitled to submit a short manifesto which will be posted on the election pages of the party website and on a 'click-through' when members cast their votes.

**Members in each of England, Scotland and Wales will also elect one State Representative to the Federal Board.**

Every member of the party gets the opportunity to vote in these elections

We are also electing our delegation to our European party's ALDE Council (6 representatives – including one from each state and one under age 26).

Members in Scotland will also be electing the Scottish Liberal Democrats' party committees for 2020 on a broadly concurrent timetable and using the same online voting platform.

Members in Wales will be electing the Welsh Liberal Democrats' party committees this autumn, but their own rules may a slightly different timetable.

To all those considering running for these elections, there will be a **briefing on Sunday 15th September at 6.15pm in the Branksome Suite in the Bournemouth International Convention Centre** to guide you through the process so do please come along.

I wish all candidates the very best of luck.

[Find out more](#)

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

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## What a week!

Over the summer, we won two big by-elections, in Brecon and Radnorshire and Shetland. This weel, Jane Dodds took up her seat in Westminster and Beatrice Wishart in Holyrood.

And over this week, three more MPs have joined us.

Phillip Lee, MP for Bracknell, who joins us from the Conservatives; Luciana Berger, MP for Liverpool Wavertree, former Labour and Change UK MP, who joins us having sat as an independent; and Angela Smith, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge former Labour and Change UK MP, who also joins us having sat as an independent.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

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## Angela Smith joins the Liberal Democrats

Over the past few years, I have been on a political journey triggered by an increasing sense of disenchantment with the Labour Party.

It appeared to me that Labour, a party which I had effectively been born into

and supported all my life, was increasingly distancing itself from the national interest by putting its own priorities first.

This process intensified after the election of Jeremy Corbyn as leader.

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

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## [Working across party to stop No Deal Brexit](#)

The Liberal Democrats stand ready to do everything we can to prevent not only a No Deal Brexit.

**We are leaving no option off the table when it comes to preventing the UK crashing out of the E.U.**

As I outlined in my letter to Jeremy Corbyn below, my door is open to any Parliamentarians who wish to work together to prevent a disastrous No Deal. Equally, we are eager to work with any Parliamentarians who seek to stop Brexit itself, because **there is no version of Brexit that will leave our country better off.**

Party politics can't stand in the way of a solution that works to prevent a national crisis. We will do everything we can to prevent a No Deal Brexit and stop Brexit altogether – my letter to Jeremy Corbyn in advance of the meeting tomorrow.  
[pic.twitter.com/MIbYG3V47K](https://pic.twitter.com/MIbYG3V47K)

– Jo Swinson (@joswinson) [August 26, 2019](#)

With Boris Johnson determined to plough headlong into this national crisis, we now need to work across party to take control of the order paper to prevent No Deal.

The success of an emergency government to stop No Deal must be the absolute priority.

If we cannot secure a legislative approach to block No Deal through such means, **we must maximise the chance of a successful No Confidence vote in the government.** We called for such a motion to be called before Summer recess, so we could hold an election before 31 October, and we would back a No

Confidence vote again.

If successful, **our challenge is to form a viable emergency government with the goal of preventing No Deal.** The success of this emergency government must be the absolute priority. We must put party politics aside.

**Key Conservative MPs we would need to form a majority have said they will not support an emergency government led by Jeremy Corbyn.**

That is why I have proposed the Father and Mother of the House, Ken Clarke and Harriet Harman, as potential candidates to build consensus, and lead this emergency government for the purpose of stopping the No Deal crisis. Both have expressed willingness to do so.

I look forward to all cross-party efforts to avert this disaster, but given the public declarations by MPs we need to support an emergency government, **we must focus on plans that have the best chance of success.**

[Go to Source](#)

Author:

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## [Twitter algorithms](#)

Twitter plays an important part in modern political discourse. It's often the medium through which news breaks (or leaks).

On Twitter, there are 3 main ways we interact with a tweet.

- Liking the tweet
- Replying to the tweet
- Retweeting, or retweeting a tweet with a comment

Beyond this, **the twitter algorithm doesn't differentiate between interactions.**

If you are commenting on a tweet to agree with it, or disagree with it – it counts the same. And **Twitter will show the tweet that you interacted with to your followers**, even if you disagree with it.

The same goes for with retweeting with a comment.

**So what does this have to do with Pro-Brexit**

## content?

**Essentially, it's controversial.**

From making ludicrous comments on giving £350 million to the NHS, to attacking immigrants, to anything else.

It's marmite and begging to be contradicted, torn down with hot takes or explained with dry facts.

And when we explain it away, we also promote it to our followers – and **not all of them will have the firm Remain convictions that you have.**

## Well, what should I be doing?

There are two main things.

**Firstly, ignore pro-Brexit content.**

Your interaction, no matter how good, just grows their reach.

**Secondly, create with progressive, liberal, Remain content.**

Someone who does this to great effect is **Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, the American Democrat Congresswoman.**

**Positivity, outrage, controversy and humour.** She addresses and tackles Trump and Republican attacks, but she does it occasionally, on her own terms and for the most part, **she drives the attacks.**

See this absolute gem

Today I was asked why we should bother paying interns if they're "getting experience for their résumé."

Here's what we have say about that: [pic.twitter.com/vbHoMTLDI3](https://pic.twitter.com/vbHoMTLDI3)

– Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) [July 25, 2019](#)

Or for more serious content.

This video was from 1 year ago this week – before my primary & the Fox News cycle.

I flew to the concentration camp where the Trump admin was keeping children they stole from their parents.

Back then, I was voicing my conscience. I still am.  
[#AbolishICEpic.twitter.com/QLyc9MiMsV](https://AbolishICEpic.twitter.com/QLyc9MiMsV)

– Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (@AOC) [June 18, 2019](#)

**Jo Swinson is also fantastic at this.**

Leadership campaigns can be tough. Sometimes you need to relax...  
[#JoinJo pic.twitter.com/brtxwTy4XE](#)

– Jo Swinson (@joswinson) [June 26, 2019](#)

Or with this biting economic analysis.

Jacob was just showing us what Brexit will do to our economy.  
[#StopBrexit pic.twitter.com/A9ifB66EEB](#)

– Jo Swinson (@joswinson) [September 3, 2019](#)

And sometimes all you need is a well-timed gif.

No Boris Johnson, you can't just use an election to sneak through a dangerous No Deal Brexit. The [@LibDems](#) will not support an election until Article 50 has been extended. [pic.twitter.com/rraLrpeUgX](#)

– Jo Swinson (@joswinson) [September 4, 2019](#)

**And finally, interact with progressive, liberal, Remain content.**

You can make sure your Twitter feed is full of great content by giving a follow to these accounts:

[Who to follow](#)

## **So that's the formula**

1. Ignore the Brexiteer bait
2. Use positivity, outrage, controversy and humour to create progressive, Liberal content
3. Share and interact only with tweets you're happy for your followers to see.

## **And finally**

If you want to change the game, fight the air war with us and win over more progressives to the Liberal Democrat cause, why not join the Lib Dem Digital Campaigners?

[Go to Source](#)

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