

The Opportunities Party (TOP) Incorporated

Selection process for Electoral and List Candidates

Background

- A Under rule 6.4 of the Party's Constitution and Rules (**Rules**) the board may enact bylaws that amend or clarify the Rules, provided that they are not inconsistent with the Rules.
- B Under rule 7.2 of the Rules the process of selecting Electoral Candidates will be at the discretion of the board.
- C At a meeting of the board held on 7 March 2017 the board resolved to:
 - a. adopt the process set out in this document as the process for selecting Electoral Candidates; and
 - b. clarify where appropriate the process for the selection of List Candidates.
- D The process set out in this document supersedes any previously adopted candidate selection processes.

Decision to stand Electoral Candidates

- 1 Whilst the primary focus of the Party is on the party vote, the board may decide to stand Electoral Candidates in one or more electorates in a General Election, or an Electoral Candidate in a By-election. The decision whether or not to stand an Electoral Candidate shall be at the discretion of the board and any decisions made by the board will be final.

Notice to members

- 2 At a time determined by the board, the Party Secretary will provide notice to all members that the board is seeking nominations for List and/or Electoral Candidates. The notice provided by the Party Secretary will invite members to forward written nominations to the board within a time period set by the board, and specified in the notice. The board may however close nominations early in respect of List Candidates and/or Electoral Candidate positions, generally or in a particular electorate, by giving the members not less than 5 days' notice.
- 3 The nominations shall include:
 - a. a signed letter from the nominee that confirms their willingness to be appointed as a Candidate;
 - b. a brief statement detailing why the nominee would be a sound List and/or Electoral Candidate;
 - c. a written reference in support of the nominee from a person of standing in the community who is not to be related to the nominating member or the nominee (if they are different people);
 - d. a photograph of the nominee;
 - e. the nominee's current curriculum vitae; and

- f. any information about the nominee which is not favourable or that could bring the Party into disrepute or reasonably cause the nominee to be ineligible for appointment as a Candidate.

4 Members may nominate themselves as a List and/or Electoral Candidate;

5 Where a member is making a nomination in respect of a non-member, the non-member nominee must personally apply for membership of the Party as soon as is practicable.

Board to consider nominations

6 After the expiry of the time period for nominations, the board will consider all nominations that it has received and may conduct any further interviews or inquiries that it deems necessary. If the board considers it appropriate, it may begin considering nominations immediately on receipt rather than waiting until the expiry of the nomination period.

7 In carrying out nomination assessments, the board must take into account each nominee's:

- a. understanding of and commitment to the Party's policies;
- b. ability to connect with the public, give speeches and effectively debate policy issues;
- c. eligibility to stand as a candidate;
- d. ethical and moral character;
- e. ability to add value; and
- f. connection to the electorate and the communities within it, if applicable.

Board to select Electoral Candidates

8 Following completion of its assessment of the Electoral Candidate nominees, the board will select the nominees it considers suitable to stand as Electoral Candidates.

Board to produce Party List

9 Following completion of its assessment of the List Candidate nominees, the board will produce a Party List in accordance with rule 6.5 of the Rules.

10 The board may from time to time add or remove Candidates from the Party List, and/or change how the Candidates are ranked where it considers it necessary to do so.

Board's reserved power to appoint Candidates

11 Notwithstanding the processes set out above, the board shall have the power, at any time before the date on which candidates need to be notified to the Electoral Commission, to appoint any person it considers suitable as a List and/or Electoral Candidate.

Board to notify members and others

12 The board will, on such date or dates as it determines, advise members, and such other persons as it considers appropriate, of the Candidates selected to represent the Party, and in respect of List Candidates, the order in which they will be ranked on the Party List.

Candidate code of conduct

- 13 All Candidates must agree to comply with, and adhere to, the Party's candidate code of conduct (**Candidate Code of Conduct**). The Candidate Code of Conduct will be developed by the board and made available to Candidates within a reasonable time prior to their appointment.
- 14 The board may add to or amend the Candidate Code of Conduct from time to time. The board will promptly notify Candidates of any addition or alterations to the Candidate Code of Conduct.

Board may withdraw candidacy

- 15 The board may withdraw the candidacy of any Candidate:
- a. who breaches the Candidate Code of Conduct;
 - b. whose information provided to the Party Secretary, the board or any other party as part of the candidate selection process was inaccurate or misleading in any material part or respect or omitted significant relevant material; or
 - c. where in the view of the board, the withdrawal is in the interests of the Party.

Decisions of board to be final

- 16 The decisions of the board will be final and no errors in this process made by the board or anyone else will invalidate the selection of List and/or Electoral Candidates.