

Hustings Policy

Purpose

The London Jewish Forum holds hustings to advance its charitable objects by promoting informed civic engagement and enabling members of the Jewish community to hear directly from candidates standing for public office.

LJF does not support, endorse, or oppose any political party or candidate. LJF will not organise or run any hustings with the intention, or in a way that could reasonably be regarded as intended, to influence voters to support or oppose any particular political party or candidate.

All hustings will be organised in line with [Charity Commission guidance CC9](#) and [Electoral Commission guidance on charities running hustings](#).

Type of Hustings

LJF will seek to operate hustings on a non-selective basis wherever reasonably practicable. Where limitations are necessary, they will be based on objective and impartial criteria. Hustings will provide an opportunity for interaction with candidates from as wide a political spectrum as practically possible, while making sure that events remain structured, focused, and high quality. Any limitations will be proportionate to the practical constraints of the event.

Managing Events with Many Candidates

Where a large number of candidates stand for election, LJF will first consider adjustments to the event format to allow wider participation. This may include extending the panel, shortening speaking times, dividing the event into multiple moderated panels, or using structured discussion rounds. Only where such adjustments would make the event unmanageable or ineffective will LJF limit invitations using the objective criteria set out below.

Candidate Engagement

Where the number of validly nominated candidates exceeds what can reasonably be accommodated within the agreed event format, LJF may limit invitations using the following

objective criteria:

1. Candidates must be formally nominated and appear on the final published ballot for the relevant ward or constituency.
2. Where necessary, LJF may give priority to parties that have either current representation on the relevant council or demonstrate electoral presence at local or national level, applied consistently across comparable hustings during the same election cycle.
3. The maximum number of participants will be determined in advance based on event duration and equal time allocation.

The criteria applied and the rationale for any exclusions will be recorded in writing.

These criteria will be applied consistently across comparable hustings during the same election cycle.

Event Format and Fairness Safeguards

To maintain neutrality and quality:

- An independent and politically neutral chair will moderate the event.
- Each candidate will receive equal speaking time.
- Questions will be screened to ensure relevance and civility.
- No party literature may be distributed within the event space unless agreed equally for all participants.
- LJF will not permit party fundraising at the event.
- Opening and closing remarks will be structured and time-limited.

Where events are recorded or streamed online

- Full recordings will be made available where possible.
- Promotional and communication materials will use neutral language.

Trustee Oversight and Compliance

- LJF Trustees will approve the hustings framework in advance of the election period.
- A risk assessment will be completed and retained for each hustings
- A named trustee will oversee compliance with charity law guidance.
- If a limited number of candidates are invited, decision rationale and event planning

notes will be documented.

Transparency

- This policy will be published on the LJF website in advance of any hustings.
- In a situation where a limited number of candidates are invited for impartial reasons, candidates who are not invited may request an explanation and will be informed, in writing, of the objective criteria applied and the reasons why they were not included.
- Candidates and members of the public may request clarification of how the policy has been applied to a particular event, and LJF will respond in writing within a reasonable timeframe.
- Any concerns about neutrality, decision making or process will be considered under the complaints procedure set out below.

Complaints

Any complaint regarding neutrality or process should be submitted in writing to the LJF Co-Chairs.

The complaint will be reviewed promptly and, where necessary, escalated to the full Board.

Review

This policy will be reviewed prior to each major election cycle or where guidance from the Charity Commission or Electoral Commission changes.

Reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the London Jewish Forum: March 2026

Next review date: January 2028