

You are party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it and then campaign | Electoral Commission Election Pacts You are in the Election Pacts section Home Election Pacts View the navigation tree Go to main guidance section: Election Pacts What does an election pact look like? Important things to remember about election pacts Which laws might apply? You want to enter a pact with Party B and you publicly announce this You are Party A and you enter a pact with Party B but do not announce it or campaign You are Party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it but you don't campaign You are party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it and then campaign You are one of several parties who are part of a large pact across several constituencies You are party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it and then campaign If you enter an election pact and then campaign either for the candidate or party that is standing the candidate, there will be implications for reporting spending and donations. In the first instance the candidate's agent should consider whether any of your spending is used by the candidate in his or her campaign. If so this will be notional spending and must appear in the candidate return. This is likely where you are working with the candidate on their campaign. It is also possible that you could be incurring notional spending on behalf of the party that is standing the candidate. This will be the case where you are working closely with the other party and promoting them in your material. In some circumstances the spending on campaigning by you will be non-party campaigner spending. This is likely where your spending is not used by the candidate or party that is standing, for example you do not tell them about it. Where you campaign for or against a candidate or advise your supporters to do so, then depending on how that occurs, the local non-party campaigning rules may apply to your spending. This is limited to £700 at a UKPGE. When this kind of activity happens across several constituencies or your campaigning is focused on party B, it is likely to engage the general non-party campaigner rules. You will need to consider registering with us. If you register with us you will need to report your spending in separate return from your party return. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for You are party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it and then campaign You are Party A and enter a pact with Party B, you announce it but you don't campaign You are one of several parties who are part of a large pact across several constituencies

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parties who are part of a large pact across several constituencies You are one of

several parties who are part of a large pact across several constituencies Where two

or more parties come together to form an electoral pact and do this on a larger scale

the general non-party campaigner rules will sometimes be engaged. We are assuming

that in this instance there will be some public announcement and some campaigning

done by one party for another party or its candidates. Careful consideration should

be given as to where the spending on the public facing and organisational activity

should appear. In the first instance you should consider whether this is spending:

promoting your party notional spending for a particular candidate notional spending

for another party If the spending is not candidate or party spending, that is it is

independent of the parties and candidates involved, it is likely to be non-party

campaigner spending. You should then consider which non-party campaigning rules

apply. There are rules around general campaigning by non-party campaigners and this

includes for or against a category of candidates. Where there is a substantial

network of electoral pacts, it is likely these rules that will cover this activity.

This means that spending on certain activities will be regulated and if you spend

over £20,000 in England or £10,000 in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland you must

register with us as a non-party campaigner. This is a separate registration from your

party registration. It means you will need to do a separate return for your non-party

campaigner spending. You do not need to report your donations separately. If there

are several parties who are working together and some of those parties are acting as

non-party campaigners you will need to carefully consider the joint campaigning

rules. These rules apply where non-party campaigners are spending money as part of a

common plan between two or more non-party campaigners. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book

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with Party B, you announce it but you don't campaign You are party A and you enter
into an election pact with Party B. Party B's candidate will stand in the electoral
area. You publicise the pact but you do not campaign for Party B or the candidate.
You will only be required to consider reporting any spending to do with the public
announcement. You need to look at this spending to work out if it is: your own party
spending by you as the party that is standing aside notional spending by you on
behalf of the candidate notional spending by you on behalf of the party that is
standing a candidate Where it will be reported depends on the content of the
announcement and whether the candidate or party B has made use of it. Where there is
co-ordination of the announcement and it is not spending promoting your party, it is
likely that this will be notional spending for the candidate or Party B. This is
because they are likely to have made use of it and therefore the rules on notional
spending apply. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for You are Party A
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part of a large pact across several constituencies You are Party A and you enter a
pact with Party B but do not announce it or campaign The rules on spending do not
cover the organisation of an electoral pact where there is no other activity. There
is no spending in this circumstance where the pact has been agreed but not publicised
and no campaigning has occurred. Last updated: 24 May 2021 Book traversal links for
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Election pacts This guidance is for candidates and parties who are entering an election pact and want information about how the rules work when they do this. An election pact is where a party or candidate reaches an agreement not to stand as a candidate in a seat, in order to give another party or candidate a better chance of winning the seat. There is nothing wrong with candidates or parties reaching this kind of agreement, any arrangement is a matter for them. The aim of this guidance is to ensure that any spending and donations is properly reported. Election pacts are not defined in electoral law but we recognise they are becoming more common. The application of the rules in this area is complex and will vary according to the facts. If you are entering an election pact, please contact us to discuss your individual circumstances. This guidance does not cover non-party campaigners who are not political parties and who are working together or parties and candidates who are working with established non-party campaigners. For more on how this works see our guidance for non-party campaigners . [Book traversal links for Election Pacts](#) What does an election pact look like?

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Important things to remember about election pacts There is nothing wrong with candidates and parties reaching this kind of agreement, however they need to observe the rules and ensure that any spending or donation given is properly reported. Agents need to authorise candidate spending. Where notional spending is being incurred, the candidate or their agent must make use of it for it to be notional spending. A registered political party can also be a registered non-party campaigner. A party who registers as a non-party campaigner will have to complete a separate return to report its non-party campaigner spending. Registered political parties cannot donate, via notional spending or directly to a non-party campaigner. You must ensure that any donation you receive as a non-party campaigner is from a permissible source. Last updated: 10 August 2021 Book traversal links for Important things to remember about election pacts What does an election pact look like? Which laws might apply?