

Before you register | Electoral Commission

How to register

your political party

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Before you register Before you register, you need to set up your political party. You

should make sure you have a constitution , and that your financial processes are in

place. You also need to think about where your party intends to stand candidates.

This will affect which register you will need to apply to be included on. Your

intention to stand candidates Your party must intend to field at least one candidate

in at least one election in the UK. If you intend to contest elections in both Great

Britain and Northern Ireland, you will need to register two separate political

parties, one on each register. They are two separate parties for the purposes of the

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). You can register

parties on both registers in a single application. You must ensure the financial

affairs of both parties are conducted separately and this must also be reflected in

each party's financial scheme. The reason the registered parties must be legally

separate is that your NI and GB parties will have separate financial reporting

requirements. If you register on the GB register, you must specify if you wish to

contest elections in England, Scotland and/or Wales. Please remember you will only be

able to field candidates as a party in those parts of the UK your register entry

specifies. As part of the application process we may ask you what the party has done

or will do to realise its intention to contest elections. One way of doing this is to

outline what specific elections your party intends to contest in your party's

constitution. Minor parties Minor parties can only register in Great Britain and must

also specify if they intend to field candidates at parish council elections, Welsh

community elections or both. Making changes If your party is registered and later

wishes to change where it intends to field candidates, you can make an application to

amend these details. An application to change your registration from a minor party to

a political party requires a £150 application fee. Last updated: 24 November 2022

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What you need to do to register