 Guild of Students - Processes for the Calculation of Results

Process for Candidates who have withdrawn
The following approach is taken by the Guild in the event a Candidate decides to withdraw their nomination. All withdrawals need to be made in writing to the Elections Inbox (**elections@guild.bham.ac.uk**). Withdrawals will only be accepted if they originate from either the candidates University student email address or a preferred email address which they have formally submitted at the point of nomination/application as part of the formal process.

1) If a Candidate confirms in writing to the Elections Inbox that they wish to withdraw their candidacy before the opening of voting, their candidacy will be removed from the ballot, unless there is insufficient time to administratively process this (e.g. Requested 1 minute before the opening of voting). The Guild will undertake best endeavours to ensure the candidacy is removed.

2) If the Candidate either does not provide sufficient notice before the opening of voting, or withdraws during the voting period, the following will be applied:

    a. The Guild will acknowledge this in writing and make the Deputy Nominee for the Returning Officer (DNRO)
    b. The Candidate will remain in the ballot for the voting period (and voters will still be able to vote for them in any preference)
    c. Once the voting period ends, in the presence of the DNRO, Student Voice staff will exclude the candidate from the ballot, and transfer subsequent vote preferences (e.g. 2nd, 3rd, etc) in order of preference to the other candidates
    d. If there are multiple withdrawals, they will all be removed at the same stage in this process
    e. Point C will be done before the Vote Count is officially conducted, and before any candidates who have been disqualified are removed

Process for Candidates who have been disqualified (removed) from the election (ballot) by the DNRO or Nominee for the Returning Officer (or the Returning Officer)

The following approach is taken by the Guild in the event a Candidate is removed/disqualified from the election by any member of the Returning Officer Team in line Election Regulation 10.3 (2024)

1) The relevant Returning Officer Team member will write to the candidate informing them that they have been removed from the election and the reason why.

2) Once the voting period ends, in the presence of the DNRO Student Voice staff will exclude the candidate from the ballot, and transfer subsequent vote preferences (e.g. 2nd, 3rd, etc) in

order of preference to the other candidates.

3) If there are multiple removals/disqualifications, they will all be removed at the same stage in this process.

4) Point 2 will be done before the Vote Count is officially conducted, and after any candidates who have withdrawn are removed.

5) All results, and therefore vote counts, shall remain provisional until the Returning Officer is satisfied with the conduct of the election and following the closure of any complaints.

Guild of Students – Process for Management of the Vote Count:

The vote count is undertaken by Student Voice Team with oversight from the DNRO.

- Results are calculated through MSL (a digital online platform which hosts Guild Elections) which is then reviewed by the Voice Team and DNRO.

- All elections undertaken by the Guild of Students use Single Transferable Vote (STV).

  o The outcome of the vote is then displayed, with a 'Quoracy' required for a candidate to be successful, dependent on the number of voters for that election.

  o If a candidate is not successful in the first round of voting, the candidate with the lowest votes (including Re-Open Nominations – RON) is excluded and the subsequent vote preferences (e.g. 2nd, 3rd, etc) transferred in order of preference to the other candidates. At this stage, if a voter has only voted for one preference in that round, the ballot is excluded and the quorum is subsequently reduced for the following round.

  o The vote count is then run for the next round of counting with the subsequent vote preferences included and any adjustments to quorum as above.

  o This process continues until a candidate reaches the required votes for Quoracy and is successfully elected.

  o The results are then published on the Guild Website in line with the Elections Regulations

- The vote count will be conducted after the removal of any candidates who have withdrawn or who have been removed/disqualified by the Returning Officer Team