

Voting Protocol – Presidential Elections

The President is defined in the Royal Charter, which states “the President of Ciarb, who may be appointed in accordance with Article 10 of the Charter by the Voting Members through Branch chairs pursuant to Bye-law 4” (see next).

Bye-Law 4: “There may be a President who, if appointed, shall be appointed by the Voting members through the Branch Chairs. The election procedures, role and responsibilities of the President (if any) shall be set out in the Regulations.”

1. Weighting of Votes

The votes available to the Branch Chairs will be weighted in proportion to the number of members or group(s) that are attached to a Branch.

The weighting of the votes will increase by one for every 250 members or part thereof. For example, if a Branch has up to 250 members the weight of the vote would equal one and the total calculated as one multiplied by three. Thus, the weighting shall be as follows:

Membership	votes
Up to 250	1
Between 251 and 500	2
Between 501 and 750	3
Between 751 and 1000	4
Between 1001 and 1250	5 etc

The Branch weighting for voting together with Branch membership shall be updated on a biennial basis by the Executive, and 14 days before the voting opens. The membership numbers produced by the Executive shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of determining the weighting.

2. Voting For Presidential Officers through the Branch Chairs

Note: In the event there are seven or more candidates there shall be two rounds of voting. In that instance, the voting periods will be adjusted to ensure the election is completed within the 28-day period.

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to ensure the election is completed within the 28-day period. In the event of there being fewer than seven candidates there will be one round of voting only.

A. The First Round (should there be seven or more candidates)

- Upon the conclusion of the election process as set out in the Election Protocol each Branch Chair shall cast their three weighted votes in a shortlisting round (only one of these votes may go to the candidate from their own Branch). The purpose of this round is to narrow the field of candidates.
- The candidates with the six highest numbers of votes shall go through to a second round.

B. The Second Round / first round if there are six or fewer candidates

- In the next and final round, Branch Chairs shall cast their three weighted votes for their preferred candidates (only one vote may go to the candidate from their own Branch).
- The candidate with the highest number of votes after the second round of voting (or, if there is no first round, the only round) will become the Deputy President with immediate effect (for the purpose of the 2025 election). For future elections held in the November, the candidate will take up office on 1 January in the following year.
- The candidate with the second highest number of votes after the second round (or, if there is no first round, the only round) of voting will become Vice-President with immediate effect (for the purpose of the 2025 election). For future elections held in the November, the candidate will take up office on 1 January in the following year.
- In the event of there being a tied vote, lots shall be drawn by the Governance Team to settle the election.
- In the event of there being three (or fewer) candidates the number of votes that a Branch Chair may cast at the Elections shall be reduced to one fewer than the total number of candidates to avoid a deadlock situation and multiple rounds of voting.