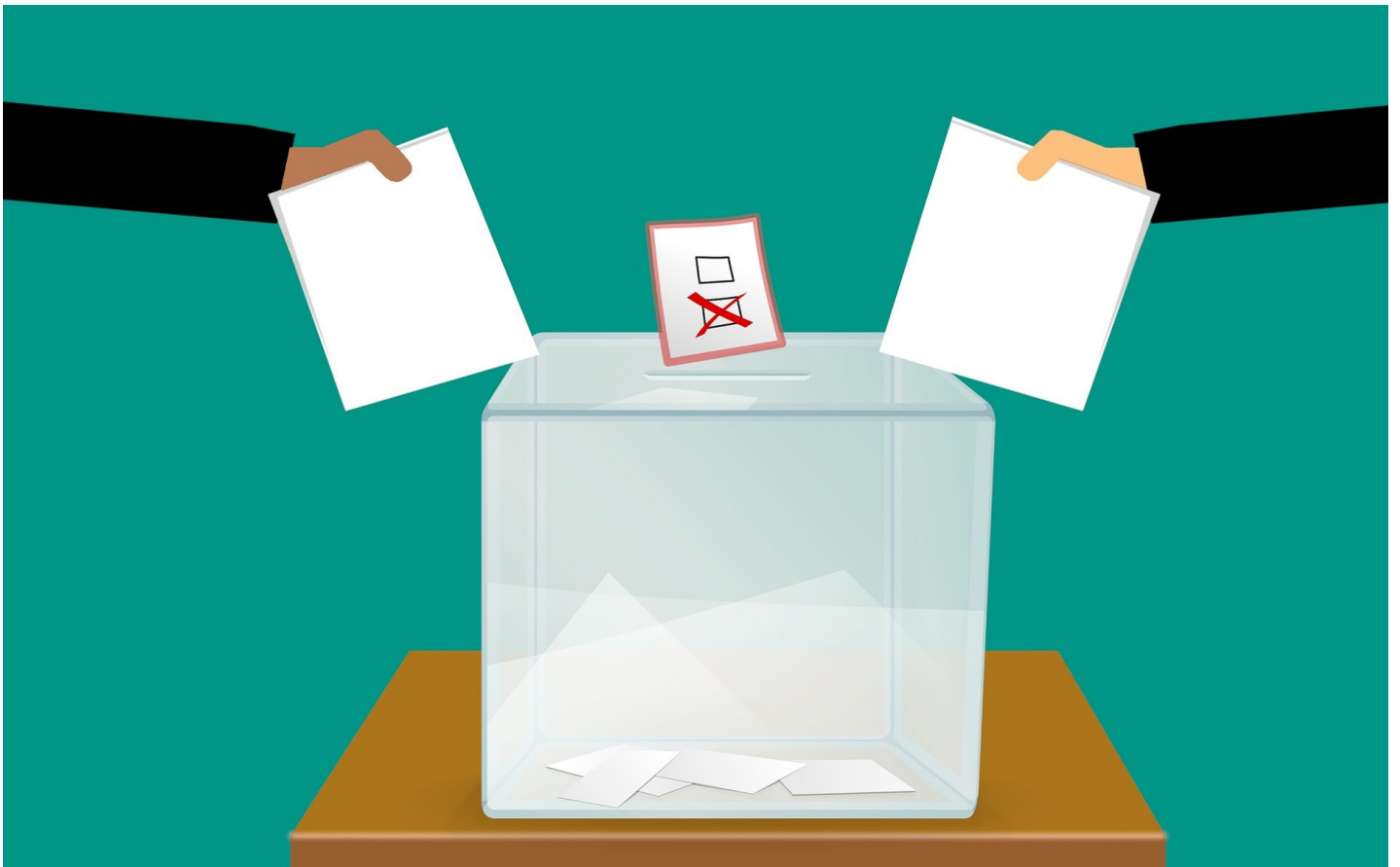


From: compliance@libdems.org.uk
Date: Thu, 9 Feb 2023
Subject: The Treasurer's role during elections



For Day 9, we look at the responsibilities of Treasurers in an election campaign.

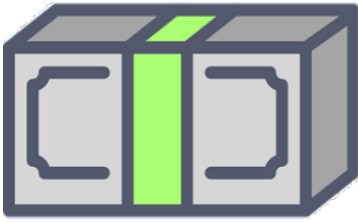
The Treasurer's Role During Elections



In the old days, the Local Party and its branches were suspended for the duration of the Regulated Election Period and all powers were transferred to the Election Agent.

Nowadays, we don't shut down Local Parties because there are obligations under PPERA that still need to be fulfilled by the Treasurer (or Chairperson, in their absence) even though the Election Agent is responsible for election spending.

Remember, election legislation doesn't recognise political parties, aside from labelling their candidate. Therefore, the Candidate and the Agent sit outside of the Lib Dems for their legal duties during the regulated period.



The Treasurer's role is three-fold:

1. To pass onto the Election Agent, a sum of money agreed by the Local Party so the Agent can pay their bills.
2. Any donations received by the Local Party will need to be reported in the usual way on Lighthouse.

(The only exception to this is if the donor is making the donation during the regulated election period with the condition that it must be spent on a candidate or candidate's election campaign. In which case, you can bank the donation but must pass the full amount to the Agent and the Agent reports it as a donation on their election expenses return. You do not report it on Lighthouse).

3. Any services provided by the Local Party to the Agent will need to be invoiced to the Agent. This is sometimes called an *omnibus invoice*. Examples include: leaflets bought prior to but used during the election; posters; use of software etc.

Reminder: election law has changed so make sure your agent pays money for the omnibus invoice, it should no longer be a notional transaction.

Do communicate with the Agent before preparing this invoice.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the Compliance Team at: compliance@libdems.org.uk.

Best wishes,



Lloyd Harris
Compliance Projects Officer
Liberal Democrats

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