

We encourage members to get involved and engaged in election activities but there are canvassing rules that must be followed to ensure a transparent and fair election.

### **GUIDELINES ON CANVASSING DURING THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COUNCIL**

1. All members of the Society, including the candidates seeking election, voters and officials involved in the ballot, must comply with all regulations governing the election and relating to canvassing.
2. Canvassing for candidates is acceptable where it is with their agreement.
3. Candidates should campaign through the positive promotion of their candidacy, and not through negative campaigning, including personal comments, about other candidates.
4. In order to satisfy election regulations, surveys conducted before or during an election to elicit further information from the candidates, either in writing or by telephone, must ensure:
  - (a) all candidates seeking election are contacted
  - (b) all candidates are asked the same questions
  - (c) all candidates have the opportunity to see and edit their replies before publication
  - (d) no specific recommendation is made by any group following such a survey
  - (e) the source of funding for the survey must be clearly identified in advance and be from a particular group
  - (f) proof of the source of funding must be divulged on the request of the Scrutineer/Chief Executive.
5. CSP funding cannot be used to carry out canvassing or to conduct questionnaires and surveys on behalf of individual candidates or specific groups.
6. No NHS or other employer's resources should be used for campaigning or publication of election material without their permission.
7. No candidate should be the subject of any discrimination for any reason including age, gender, colour, sexual orientation or political affiliation.
8. Any suspected infringement of these guidelines should be notified to the Chief Executive and the Official Scrutineer.