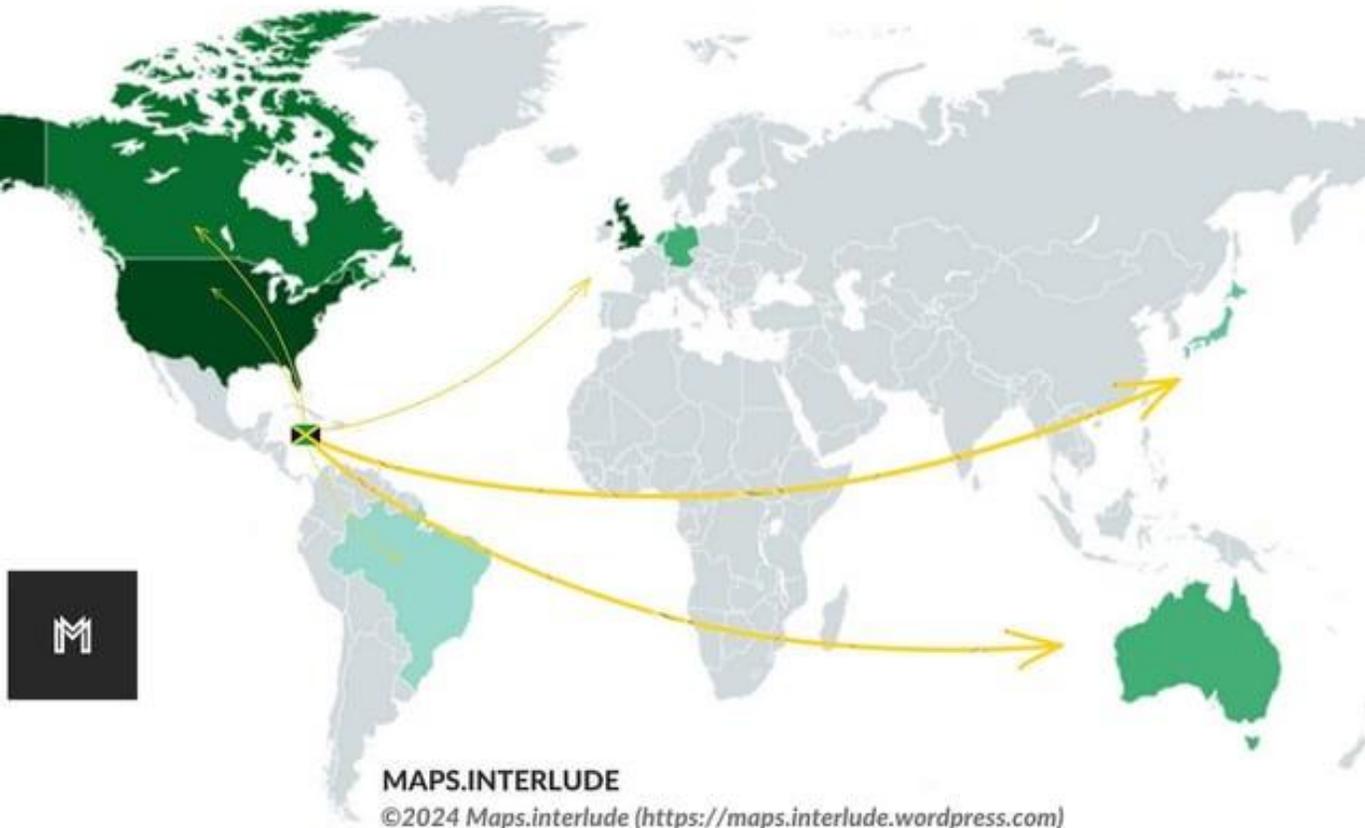


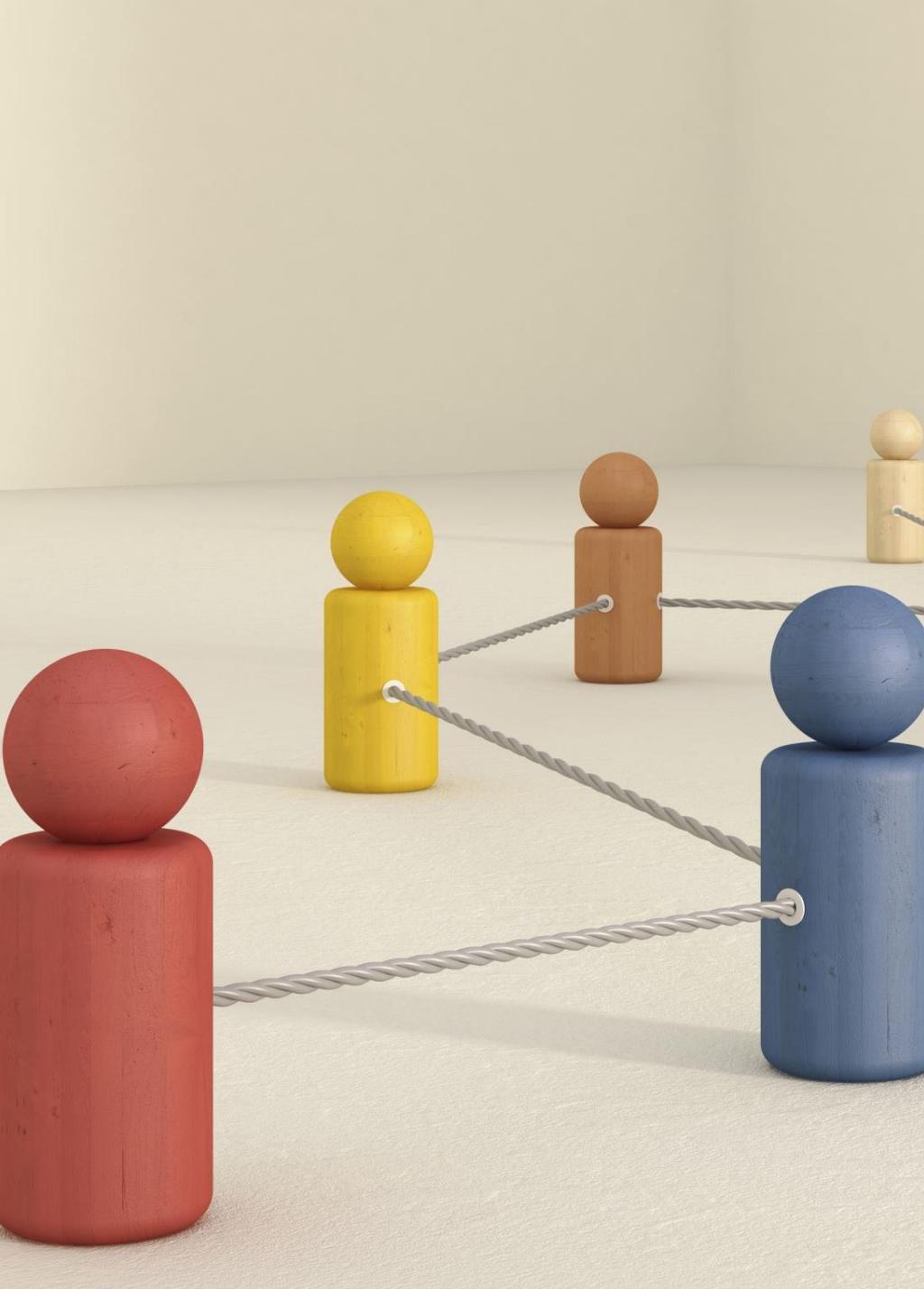
JAMAICAN DIASPORA

Countries with the highest populations



 USA 1.100.000	 Cayman I. 22.000	 The Bahamas 6.000	 Netherlands 2.000
 UK 400.000	 Trinidad & T. 15.000	 Germany 4.000	 Japan 1000
 Canada 300.000	 Antigua & B. 12.000	 Australia 4.000	 Brazil 800

Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) ELECTION PROCESS



Basis of the Presentation

- This presentation was prepared based on the GJDC's Terms of Reference (TOR) and Operational Modalities governing the council's election process.
- The TOR outlines the procedures, eligibility criteria and timelines that structure the content of this presentation.
- All information presented aligns with the election framework and responsibilities defined in GJDC's TOR.



GJDC

**GLOBAL JAMAICA
DIASPORA COUNCIL**



GJDYC

**Global Jamaica Diaspora
Youth Council**



About the GJDC

- The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) is the successor to the Jamaica Diaspora Advisory Board (DAB).
- Its conception arose out of the need to strengthen the mechanisms responsible for enhancing Diaspora engagement and expand the reach and participation of members of the Diaspora globally.
- The further need to align the goals, pillars and focus areas outlined in the National Diaspora Policy with the role, function and activities of the Council was also imperative.

About the GJDC

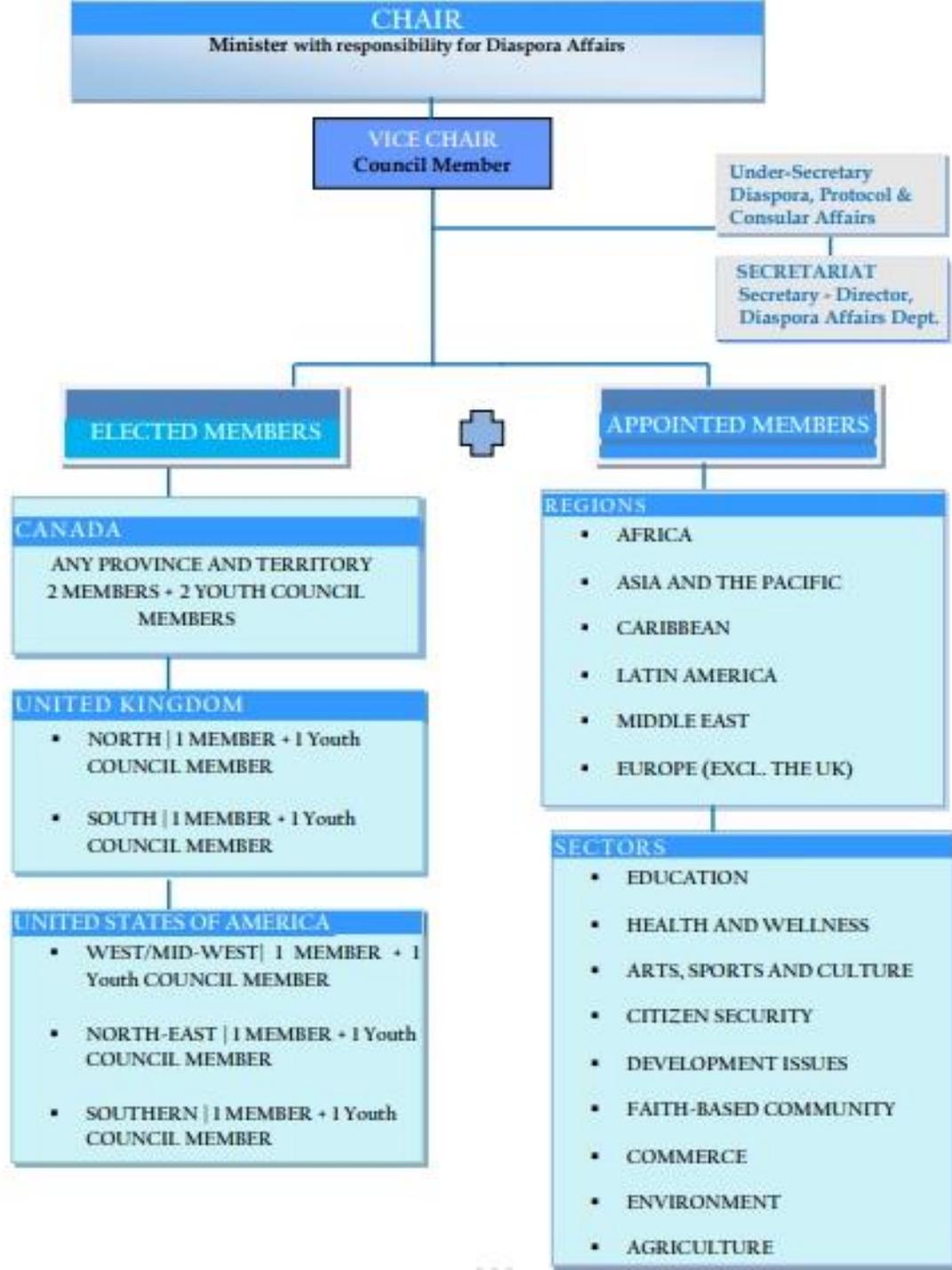
- The framework for the GJDC was endorsed by the Diaspora Advisory Board and the attendees at the 8th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference held in Kingston, 16th – 19th June 2019.
- The GJDC is one of the principal organs of the National Diaspora Policy with the responsibility to create modalities to realize the goals of the Policy. This is with a view to significantly contribute to national development in wide-ranging sectors such as:
 - Education
 - Health
 - Agriculture
 - Environment
 - The Arts, Sports and Culture
 - Citizen Security
 - Development Expertise
 - Faith-Based Community
 - Commerce

Classification of Council Members

- The GJDC will comprise **30** members. **Fourteen (14)** will be **elected** from across the Diaspora communities in the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America.
- The remaining 16 members should be **appointed** from the Diaspora. There will be three (3) categories of appointments:
 1. Appointments according to **regions – (6) individuals**
 2. Appointments according to **sectors - (9) individuals**
 3. One **(1) discretionary** appointment.
- Appointments according to Regions:

Six (6) individuals may be **selected** for appointment as regional representatives from the following regions:

Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe (excluding the United Kingdom)



Responsibilities of the Council

The responsibilities of the Council include the conceptualization and recommendation of support systems and administrative initiatives to enhance collaboration between Jamaicans at home and those living overseas.

Channel discussion on agreed policy and strategy issues to inform, obtain and channel the views of the Diaspora.



PART A



Geographic Scope

Elections are only held in three (3) **established Diaspora regions:**

- United Kingdom (UK)
- United States of America (USA)
- Canada

REGION	TERRITORIES
CANADA	All
UNITED KINGDOM- NORTH	North East, North West, East Midlands, West Midlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man
UNITED KINGDOM – SOUTH	London, South East, South West, Wales, Isle of Wight, Bailiwick of Jersey, Guernsey and Sark, Isles of Scilly
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- NORTHEAST	Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- SOUTH	Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – WEST MID-WEST	Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Election Process for GJDC



- The members of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) are elected to serve on a **voluntary basis for a period of three (3) years.**
- **Fourteen (14) members of the GJDC are elected** from within the **three (3) major locations** which contain the largest Jamaican Diaspora populations, namely:
 - **United Kingdom (UK)**
 - **United States of America (USA)**
 - **Canada**

An election process is carried out at the end of the three (3) year tenure to choose the candidates that will serve to carry out the overall impetus of the Councils - 'deepening Diaspora engagement with Jamaica'.

The election process for membership to the GJDC is carried out by an independent electoral committee, in consultation with the leadership of the respective diaspora communities. The Electoral Committee is constituted in the respective jurisdictions in the Diaspora.

How to Become a Member of the GJDC



- The Election Process for Membership to the GJDC will occur triennially, at the end of each term.

During the elections, members of the Diaspora who meet the eligibility criteria for membership to the Council are encouraged to submit:

- a Nominators Declaration Form
- a Nominee Consent Form
- a Nominee Declaration Statement of Qualification Form
- a personal profile and photograph, during the election period.

- All nominations will be reviewed by an electoral committee in each region.
- If the nomination is accepted by the electoral committee, then nominees will be allowed a period of time to campaign for their candidacy to the Council.
- The candidate that receives the most votes will be appointed to the GJDC for the region in which they reside.
- **All forms are supplied by the Electoral Committee and are available on the GJDC election website.**

Eligibility Requirements For The Global Jamaica Diaspora Council

a) Be Jamaican or of Jamaican descent;

b) Be At least 21 years old;

c) Have no criminal convictions imposed on him/her by any court;

d) Have never been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt by any court or financial institution;

e) Have no pending litigation proceedings against him/her; and

f) Possess expertise/experience in one of the following:

- **Socio-economic Engagement and Involvement;**
- **Human Exchanges, Transfers and Philanthropic initiatives;**
- **Integration and Reintegration;**
- **Safety and Security;**
- **Governance;**
- **Engagement of Diaspora Youth and Young Adults;**
- **Diaspora Tourism and Cultural Exchanges;**
- **Legislation and Policy Reform; and**
- **Data and Information**

g) Be either properly resident in the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom.

Context of the Election Process

- GJDC comprises both (14) elected and (16) appointed members.
- **This election process applies only to elected members.**



Members of the Council

14 elected members

1 discretionary member

9 sector leaders

6 regional leaders

Elected Members of the Council

Elected: 14

UK North – 2 : (1) GJDC and (1) GJDYC

UK South – 2 : (1) GJDC and (1) GJDYC

Canada – 4 : (2) GJDC from any province /territory and (2) GJDYC

US – 2: (1) West-mid-west GJDC and (1) GJDYC

2: (1) North-east GJDC and (1) GJDYC

2: (1) Southern region and (1) GJDYC

Appointed Members

6 Regional

9 Sector Leads

1 Discretionary Member

Six (6) Regions

Africa

Asia and the Pacific

Caribbean

Latin America

Middle East

Europe (excluding the UK)

Nine (9) Sector Leads

Sector Leads are not elected. They **are selected and presented.**

Commerce

Development

Health and Wellness

Agriculture

Education

Citizen Security

Environment

Faith-based community

Arts, Sport and Culture

Discretionary Member

- The Minister may appoint one individual who is not selected based on appointment according to region or sector. Such individual should however possess experience in an area of critical importance to the work of the Council.



Purpose of the Election Process

- Ensure a **transparent, orderly, fair and systematic** approach.
- Allows qualified Jamaican Diaspora members to offer themselves for service.
- Supports strategic engagement for national development.





**PART B –
ELECTIONS
AND
ELECTORAL
COMMITTEE**

Election Process Overview

Each region must establish an **Independent Electoral Committee** to conduct and manage elections.

Candidates are elected by the Diaspora in each region.

The formal appointment of the candidate is done by the **Minister with responsibility for Diaspora Affairs** following his/her election.



Electoral Committee

- The Electoral Committee is activated **every three (3) years to manage the electoral process** for the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) and the Global Jamaica Diaspora Youth Council (GJDYC).
- The Electoral Committee is established, populated and staffed by the Diaspora.

Formation of Electoral Committees

An independent body shall be commissioned by the sitting Council in consultation with Jamaican Overseas Missions.

Members must be:

- Of good character and reputation
- In good standing with their communities
- Free of criminal convictions



Role of the Electoral Committee

- **Primary responsibilities:**
 - Initiate, coordinate, and manage nominations and voting
 - Set campaign rules and ensure compliance
- Operates with **neutrality, timeliness, and efficiency**
- Membership: **5–10 persons recommended**
- Cannot include:
 - Sitting Council members
 - Government representatives or employees

Constitution of the Electoral Committee

Appointment of Members

Members of the Electoral Committee are appointed in consultation with key stakeholders from the Jamaican Diaspora. The selection aims to reflect diversity across regions while ensuring non-partisan oversight.



Mandate and Authority

The Electoral Committee is established under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) of Jamaica, in accordance with the governance framework guiding the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council (GJDC) elections. Its mandate is to ensure a fair, transparent, and credible electoral process.

Composition and Representation

- The Committee typically comprises **5 - 10 individuals** to ensure effective decision-making.
- Members are drawn from **various diaspora regions** and include representatives from diaspora organizations.
- All members must **not be candidates** or have any direct interest in the election outcomes.

Constitution of the Electoral Committee



Eligibility and Integrity

Committee members are expected to be individuals of high integrity, impartiality, and with demonstrated commitment to the Jamaican Diaspora. They must possess a sound understanding of governance and electoral principles.

Term of Service

The Electoral Committee serves only for the duration of the election cycle — from the opening of nominations to the formal declaration of elected GJDC representatives. The committee is disbanded upon the certification of results and submission of a final electoral report, until the next election cycle in three (3) years.



Constitution of the Electoral Committee

Functions and Responsibilities

The GJDC Electoral Committee is responsible for:

- Developing and publicizing the **election guidelines and timelines**
- Overseeing the **nomination and vetting** process
- Coordinating **voter registration and education**
- Managing the **voting process**, including electronic voting systems and paper ballots
- Ensuring **compliance with the rules** and resolving any electoral disputes
- Certifying and **announcing official results**



Election Timeline

Election process begins:

- **60 days** before term expiration
- Each region elects its allocated Council Members.

DATE	ELECTORAL ACTIVITY
31 st July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of sensitization campaign
1 st September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of Electoral Committees
22 nd September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of Voter Registration and Nomination Period
28 th October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Nomination Period
30 th October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Final Slate of Candidates
30 th October – 6 nd November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaigning Period
3 rd November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Voter Registration Period
7 th November - 30 th November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting Period (Paper voting on Day 1 only)
1 st December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certification of Election Results
2 nd December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement of Election Results

¹¹ Section 8(3) of the Election Process Document. The Electoral Committee shall register only eligible voters and shall cease registration 4 days prior to the start of the Voting Period.



Voting Period Guidelines

- Elections held over a **24-day Voting Period**.
- The Electoral Committee selects the exact start date.
- Voting must begin in the **same week across all three (3) regions**.
- Timing decided by the Electoral Committee.
- The Electoral Committee shall **register only eligible voters and shall cease registration four (4) days prior to the start of the Voting Period**.

PART C – NOMINATION OF GJDC CANDIDATES AND ELIGIBILITY



Nomination Process Overview

- **Call for nominations** must be issued **at least 20 days** before voting starts.
- Nominations accepted only from **Jamaican Diaspora community members**.
- Must use the **Nominators Declaration Form**





Candidate Eligibility Criteria – Part I

- To be eligible, a person must:
- Be Jamaican or of Jamaican heritage.
- Be **18 – 35 years for the Youth Council.**
- **Be at least 21 years or older for the GJDC**
- Possess experience, skills, or influence in one or more of the **thematic areas** in the National Diaspora Policy.
- Not be bankrupt or declared so by a court in any jurisdiction.

Candidate Eligibility Criteria – Part II

To be eligible, a person must also:

- Be registered as a candidate by the Electoral Committee.
- Have demonstrated **management or leadership experience**.
- Not be under **disciplinary sanction** or facing proceedings.
- Have **time and commitment** to serve on the Council.
- Be properly **resident in the region** of candidacy.
- Acknowledge that any **false declaration** voids the candidacy/election.





Nomination Requirements

To be successfully nominated, a candidate must:

- Meet all **eligibility criteria**
- Submit a **completed nomination form**. (Available on the GJDC election website.)
- Secure endorsement from **at least five (5) members** of the Diaspora community **residing in the same region**.
- Include names, addresses, and signatures.



Finalizing the Slate of Candidates

Electoral Committee must:

- Notify approved candidates directly.
- Publish final candidate slate on:
 - GJDC election website
 - Websites of Jamaican Overseas Missions
 - Social & traditional media outlets

Notification of Ineligibility

- Candidates and their nominators will be informed **separately** if a nomination is rejected.
- Written notice will include **evidence and justification.**
- Aims to ensure **transparency and fairness.**



Nomination Withdrawals and Disqualification



Withdrawal
allowed up to **1 week** before the
voting period.



Must be done **in writing** to the
Electoral
Committee.



Committee must
verify and inform public and nominators.



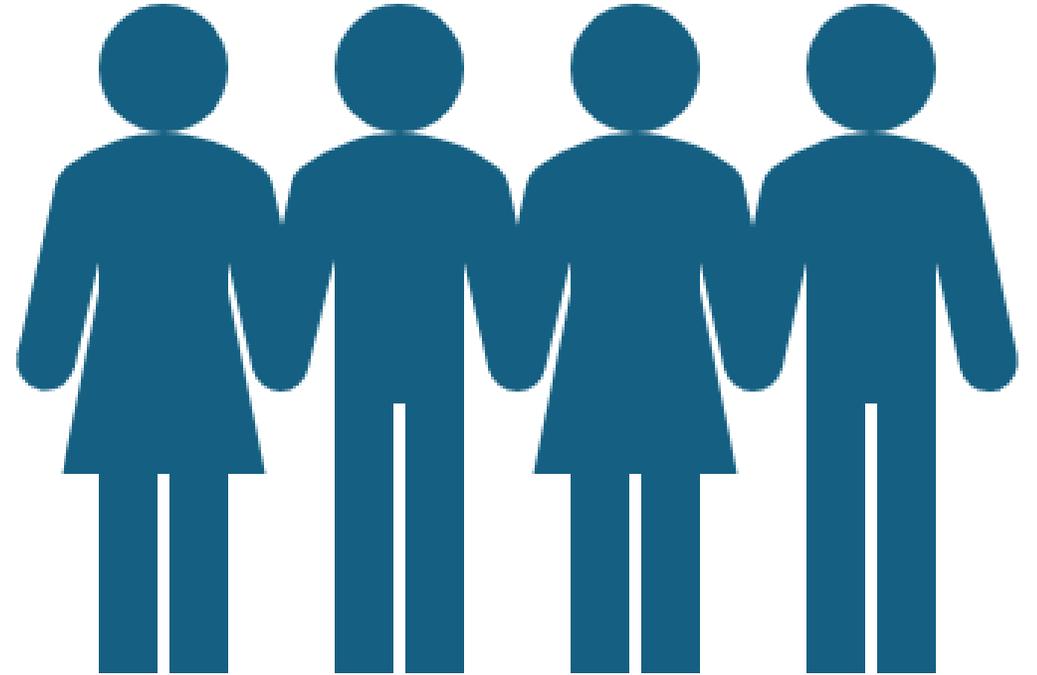
Ineligible nominations will be rejected;
reasons must be
sent via email.



Committee's decision is final.



PART D – VOTER ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION, VOTING & TIMELINES



Voter Eligibility Criteria

To vote in GJDC Elections, one must:

Be at least 18 years old

Be a Jamaican or of Jamaican heritage

Reside in the respective region
where the election is being held



Voter Registration Overview



Voter registration managed by the **Electoral Committee**



Registration via **Voter Registration Form**
(paper or electronic)



Registration methods:

Online (**22nd September –
3rd November, closing at
11:59 p.m.**)

In-person at designated
Overseas Missions



Registration closes **4 days before Voting
Period begins**

Voter Verification and Voters List

1

Only **eligible persons** will be registered

2

Duplicate registrations will be removed

3

A **final Voters List** will be produced before voting starts

4

Only **registered voters** can cast a ballot

Voting Methods – Electronic and Paper

**Electronic voting is primary
method during Voting Period**

Paper ballots allowed only if:

- Approved by the Electoral Committee
- Cast **on the first day** of Voting Period
- At designated polling locations
- Between **10 a.m. – 7 p.m.**
- Requires prior announcement

Voting Process Protocols

- Voting must be **by secret ballot**
- A person **cannot vote twice** (both paper and electronic)
- **Voting stations** are set up by the Electoral Committees
- Voting equipment and stations must be:
 - **Monitored and secured**
 - Staffed by **Committee members or approved volunteers**





Paper Ballot Voting Details

Permitted Locations:

- Designated polling places only
- Electronic/online voting portal

Voting Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

End of Day Procedures:

- Tally, secure, and report ballots
- Included in final results



Electronic Voting Platform

- E-voting done via the official election website.
- Must be **secure and tamper-proof**
- Best practices in cybersecurity will be applied

Ballot Security & Integrity



Secret Ballot: Mandatory

Dual Voting Prohibited:

- Vote either electronically or on paper, but not both

Monitoring:

- All voting stations supervised by Electoral Committee or approved volunteer
- Volunteer must be designated at least 2 weeks prior

Vote Counting and Results

- Sub-committee of **at least three (3) Electoral Committee members** will tally votes
- Tally done **in presence of a designee** from each candidate.
- **No sub-committee member may be related** to a candidate
- Vote results:
 - **Printed and signed** by the 3 sub-committee members and candidate reps
 - **Sent by email within 1 day** to the appropriate Jamaican Overseas Mission
 - Paper ballots are added with the online voting tally at the end of the election process to determine the winners.



