



Ensuring Standards in Politics

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF CAMPAIGN 2020

AUGUST 12, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Political Ombudsman has hereby issued Guidelines as set out below to be followed by all political parties, their members and supporters. Nomination Day is on Tuesday August 18, 2020 and General Elections will be held on Thursday September 3, 2020. In anticipation of the Prime Minister's announcement the Political Ombudsman met with officials of Jamaica's four (4) registered political parties, as set out below;

Jamaica Labour Party (JLP)

The Honourable Dr. Horace Chang, General Secretary

The Honourable Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness

Jamaica Progressive Party (JPP)

Mr. Gilbert Edwards, President

Mr. Robert Rainford, General Secretary

People's National Party (PNP)

Dr. Morais Guy, Opposition Minister of Health

Mr. Julian J. Robinson, General Secretary

United Independent's Congress (UIC)

Mr. Joseph Patterson, President,

and these Guidelines reflect their agreement and other research.

AUTHORITY

The Political Ombudsman is acting on her authority under the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act and the authority of the following legislation, code and guidelines:

1. The Political Code of Conduct
2. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2016
3. The Disaster Risk Management Act
4. The Disaster Risk Management Enforcement Measures
5. The Ministry of Health and Wellness *'Interim Guidelines for the Conduct of Election Campaign during Covid-19'*
6. The Electoral Office of Jamaica *'Covid-19 Protocol for the Conduct of a National Election'*



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NOMINATION

1. Each candidate is to ensure that no more than two (2) persons per Polling Division are invited to attend the Nomination Day events.
2. Those supporters invited are to travel and remain in branded transportation.
3. Persons in attendance must wear masks.
4. Masks must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer.
5. Marshalls will be tasked with the duty of ensuring that persons in attendance adhere to the laws on social distancing, sanitization and the wearing of masks.
6. The Electoral Office of Jamaica will direct how many may enter the Nomination Centre.

ELECTION DAY

1. There should be special consideration for the prompt assistance of persons who are elderly (65 and over), disabled or pregnant.
2. The parties can provide comfort items to persons outside the Election Centres, such as non-branded water and chairs.

THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION ON POLITICAL CONDUCT (CODE)

1. A code signing event will be held by the Custos of each parish.
2. Candidates and campaign managers are to sign their commitment to the Code.
3. The format may be remote or virtual.
4. The event will be held during the week of Nomination Day.
5. No more than twenty (20) persons are permitted to attend the signing.
6. All persons will be sanitized upon arrival at the location.
7. All persons in attendance must wear masks.
8. Masks must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer.
9. Organizers must ensure that all persons in attendance are wearing masks.
10. All persons in attendance must maintain proper social distance.

PUBLIC UTTERANCES/DIGITAL COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MEDIA

1. The leadership of the political parties agree that their Candidates will comply with the Code of Conduct on public utterances including social media.
2. Parties will make appeals to their supporters to refrain from making any statements in any medium that are inflammatory or likely to incite violence, be defamatory or malicious, in reference to opposing candidates, their families or Party officials.
3. Public utterances should not breach the Code of Conduct.

CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

Walkabouts & door-to-door

1. Political parties and candidates can participate in walkabouts and door-to-door campaigning.
2. Groups conducting walkabouts and door-to-door should consist of no more than five (5) persons.
3. Persons from each group should not mingle with each other and should maintain six (6) feet distance from other groups.
4. No more than two (2) persons should enter the dwelling house of a citizen.
5. No more than fifteen (15) minutes should be spent inside each dwelling house.
6. Persons participating in walkabouts and door-to-door campaigning must wear a mask, sanitize and maintain social distance.
7. Masks must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer.
8. Persons must minimise physical contact with persons outside of their walkabout group. This includes:
 - a. No hand shaking
 - b. No hugging
 - c. No holding/carrying children

Use of vehicles during campaigning

1. Persons (driver and passengers) travelling in motor vehicles must wear a mask.
2. Masks must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer.



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3. Masks must remain in place during the entire journey.
4. Vehicles must be sanitized.
5. No more than four (4) persons are to travel in a car.
6. Buses are only permitted to carry seated passengers. Passengers must be in the provided seats.
7. Persons travelling in conveyances including pickups, trucks, etc. must maintain social distance and sanitize.
8. Political parties must ensure that their supporters maintain a six (6) feet distance from any conveyance.

Handing out campaign paraphernalia

1. When interacting with the public all campaign team members must wear their masks and maintain proper social distance.
2. Masks must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer.
3. All persons handing out leaflets must maintain six (6) feet distance from other persons.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

1. The leadership agree that special attention to reporting all campaign contributions will be made by their candidates, as required by the Representation of the People Act. Notably, that there will be no vote buying.
2. The leadership reaffirm that funds derived from any source, public or private, will not be used to improperly influence electoral choices, (example vote buying, road works and bushing).
3. The leadership agree to ensure that all financial donations are derived from legitimate sources, in keeping with the tenets of the Code of Conduct.

CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

1. The leadership of the political parties agree that their supporters will refrain from placing flags and other campaign paraphernalia on private property without permission of the owner.
2. The leadership of the political parties agree that their supporters will refrain from placing flags and other campaign paraphernalia on public property without permission.
3. The leadership of the political parties must encourage their supporters to refrain from damaging any campaign materials owned by other political parties and to take steps to prevent and condemn such actions.

PLEDGE

The political parties publicly pledge and commit to obey the applicable laws, Codes and protocols including the Disaster Risk Management Enforcement Measures in their conduct of the Campaign and the Election for 2020.



Hon. Donna Parchment Brown, CD, JP
Political Ombudsman