

Election of Aldermen

The procedure for the election of Aldermen is outlined in section 13 1&2 (a) to (d) of the Municipal Corporations Act (MCA) 1990 as amended.

However, the number of Aldermen to be elected in the respective municipalities is set out in section 12 (1) to (3) of the MCA and the following applies:

- In the case of the Regional Corporations two (2) Aldermen are to be elected and one shall be a qualified person who is a member of a village or Community Council functioning within the Municipality
- With respect of the San Fernando City Corporation the number shall be three (3)
- In respect of the Port of Spain City Corporation, the number shall be four (4)
- With respect to the Chaguanas Borough Corporation the number shall be two(2)

The Election of Aldermen is presided over by the Chief Executive Officer

Qualifications for Aldermen

Before the voting commences, the qualifications for Aldermen must be established or declared, that is persons who qualify to be Councillors and who possess demonstrated knowledge

,expertise or experience in professional or vocational occupations suitable to the development focus of the municipality – The number of Alderman to be elected in the particular municipality and any other stipulation such as one being a member of a Village/Community Council in a Region must be declared

Voting procedures

- Before voting takes place, a voting paper must be prepared containing information for the inscription of the surname and other names, addresses and occupations of the number of prospective Aldermen who are to be elected.
- After nominations have been made and ceased for the election of Aldermen, the Chief Executive Officer shall proceed to distribute or cause to be distributed the voting paper to the councillors present who have taken the oath and subscribed to the declaration.
- When the Councillors have completed the voting paper, they shall return them to the Chief Executive Officer, who shall openly produce and read them or cause them to be read and the persons, not exceeding the number of vacancies (Aldermen to be elected) and who have obtained the most votes shall be declared to have been elected Aldermen.

Determination by lot Aldermen to be elected when there is equality of votes

- Where there is an equality of votes among the persons voted for as Aldermen, the meeting shall determine by lot that is by random choice which of the persons are to be elected as Aldermen. In such instance, the following is recommended.
- The surnames, names, addresses and occupations of the persons who appeared together in the previous voting paper are inscribed on a voting paper not exceeding the number of persons to be elected as Aldermen, shown to the members/Councillors present and place in a transparent receptacle
- The Councillors through the Chief Executive shall then choose by majority vote a person in the audience to select one of the voting papers in the transparent receptacle containing the surnames, addresses and occupations of persons to be selected as Aldermen.
- Before the person so selected choose one of the voting papers in question, the Chief Executive Officer shall juggle them around. After the person choose one of the voting papers in the transparent receptacle, it shall be handed to the Chief Executive Officer who then shall read aloud the surnames, names, addresses and occupations of such persons and they shall be declared as the duly elected Aldermen.(The oath of office should then be administered.

- All voting papers shall then be placed in an envelope and sealed, which shall remain sealed for twelve months.

NB: Aldermen are notified in writing of their election and invited to take the oath of office, as the first order of business on the date prescribed for the election of Mayor/Chairman, Deputy Mayor/ Vice Chairman and the appointment of standing and other committees.

NB: Please note that copies of the Holy Bible, the Bhagwad Geeta and the Koran or relevant religious books should be available for the taking of the oath of office