

Party Election Broadcasts

The BBC's criteria for allocation of PEBs at the following elections on 2 May 2024

1. In England (outside London) – Local government
2. In London – Greater London Authority

Ofcom's Rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts state:

Rule 13:

PEBs and PPBs may only be allocated to political parties registered by the Electoral Commission....

Rule 15:

Registered parties should qualify for a PEB if they are contesting one sixth or more of the seats up for election in the case of first-past-the-post, multi-constituency elections such as a General Election.

For proportional representation systems of election (such as the European Parliamentary Elections), the minimum qualifying requirement for the allocation of one PEB should be set, reasonably and fairly for each election, according to criteria which have regard to the particular system of voting, the number of seats available for election, the number of constituencies/regions, and the number of candidates nominated by the party.

BBC Threshold criteria in England (Local government elections outside GLA)

A registered party must stand candidates in a minimum of one-sixth of the seats being contested in the English local elections* outside the GLA.

(*it is estimated there will be approximately 2640 seats contested, so the qualification threshold is likely to be approximately 440 candidates – to be confirmed following close of nominations).

In London (Mayoral/Assembly election)

A registered political party must stand:

- (i) a candidate for Mayor
- AND
- (ii) a full slate of candidates in all constituencies OR a full slate of candidates for all list seats.

Exceptionally, a PEB may also be offered to:

- (i) a Mayoral candidate who can demonstrate evidence of significant past and/or current electoral support in London, representing a registered party which is not standing sufficient candidates for the Assembly

OR

- (ii) a registered political party without a Mayoral candidate but which is:
 - (a) standing a full slate of candidates in all constituencies OR a full slate of candidates in all list seats;
 - AND
 - (b) can demonstrate evidence of significant past and/or current electoral support in London.

Criteria for Additional PEBs

A party meeting the criteria for one PEB in the relevant electoral area may qualify for one or two additional PEBs if they can demonstrate substantial levels of past and/or current electoral support in that area.

Ofcom Rule 16: *Relevant Services should consider making additional allocations of PEBs to registered parties (which satisfy the criteria at Rule 15) if evidence of their past electoral support and/or current support at a particular election or in a relevant nation/electoral area means it would be appropriate to do so.*

BBC Services which will broadcast PEBs (Ofcom Rules 10 & 11).

On BBC One in England

In London on BBC London (Radio).

PEBs for London and English local elections

Where parties meet criteria for both the London election and English local government elections (and broadcasts were allocated for simultaneous transmission), they could deliver:

- either a single PEB for England including London; or
- alternate PEBs – one for London and one for the rest of England.

Notes

A party may be deemed to be standing a full list, or have met the relevant minimum, if it is clear that it intended to stand a full list but at a late stage failed to do so, for example, because a candidate had to withdraw.

All TV PEBs will be available online via iPlayer from first transmission at least until polling day.

No PEBs will be allocated for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, because they do not align with relevant transmission areas.

There are no elections with PEB qualification on 2nd May in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland,

Electoral Commission

As is required by section 11(3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the draft proposed criteria for the allocation of PEBs are sent to the Electoral Commission for comment.

Complaints

Representations regarding the provisional allocation should be made in the first instance to the Chief Adviser, Politics, as soon as possible.

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Complaints from political parties regarding the final allocation of party election broadcasts are referred to Section 5 of the BBC Complaints Framework and Procedures. https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/sites/default/files/2020-06/BBC_Complaints_Framework.pdf