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LDA Steering Committee mandate for 2026

November 2025

Steering Committee Composition

Up to **9** members comprising:

- **6** members appointed by local party members (2 LDE, 2 LDF, 2 LDO) based on an annual term starting on 1 January 2026 or when they are appointed
 - The three party chairs will be members of the steering committee, with the option of appointing a delegated representative should they wish, but who must be a member of the local party executive - **3**
 - The other delegate will be appointed by each local party's executive. - **3**
 - Local parties should strive to meet the principles of gender balance. Local parties should aim to have 50% of appointees from each gender
 - Up to **3** additional members may be appointed with the approval of a simple majority of the then steering committee members. These appointments to be focused on areas/ initiatives deemed to be of critical importance by the Steering Committee. Principles of gender balance set out above shall apply to additional members appointed

Overall Objectives

To set and pursue the strategic direction for LDA and its constituent parts and run global initiatives including:

Baseline

Develop a minimal infrastructure support package, with low financial investment from the Party, to make sure overseas supporters are not turned away or lost at key moments.

- Routine collection and use of overseas elector registration data
- Reliable overseas payment systems for donations and membership
- Adapt party website software to allow overseas citizens to sign up
- Make sure Lib Dem MPs don't exclude overseas supporters

Build

Demonstrate the potential of supporters abroad by building the overseas membership and activist base.growing our activist base

- Build strong membership networks where most Brits abroad live
- Pilot overseas voter outreach programs with Lib Dem MPs
- Commission research about low turnout in 2024 and work to improve future

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voter registration abroad

- Identify and Campaign on issues relevant to citizens abroad and submit policies to party conference for approval
- Identify and nurture new and existing activists, encouraging them to join committees and networks that promote key issues for overseas electors

Balloon

Capitalise on the value and impact of overseas supporters with additional investment from the Party to grow the overseas voter base.

- Extend campaigns to include frozen pensions, putting Britain back at the heart of Europe, improve consular support, overseas constituencies, and voting logistics
 - Realise the Party's commitment to being 'proud internationalists' by online and in-person connections acknowledging overseas voters
 - Create a casework network for MPs representing them
- Agree protocols covering working relationships amongst Steering Committee members

Roles & conduct of business by Steering Committee

- The Chair to be elected annually at the 1st meeting by a simple majority of steering committee members for an annual term. No individual may hold this position for more than 3 full annual consecutive terms and shall not be eligible for re-election as Chair for two terms after leaving Office
 - The Secretary to be elected annually at the 1st meeting by a simple majority of steering committee members
 - Other roles to be agreed by steering committee dependent upon the LDA objectives
- The Steering Committee will elect, by a simple majority of the steering committee members, official appointments to any Federal Committee e.g. FIRC, FPDC. Those representatives will usually be members of the Steering Committee, but are not required to be.
- Decision making to be consensus based. If a vote is required at a meeting then any resolution will be passed by a simple majority of those present
- Quorum for meeting $\frac{2}{3}$'s of committee members, including at least one member from each local party. A meeting may continue without a quorum if no member present objects

Local Parties participation & activities

- Any local party (LDF, LDO or LDE) can withdraw from the steering committee for a period of time (to be specified) following a resolution of their executive to that effect

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by giving 30 days notice of their withdrawal. On a withdrawal all steering committee members that are members of the withdrawing party will cease to be members of the steering committee until the withdrawing party rejoins the steering committee. That will include resigning as Steering Committee Chair or Secretary and stepping down from any LDA appointed positions on any Federal Committee.

- Each local party will be solely responsible for activities taking place within their geographic area using their knowledge of local conditions and priorities. They may choose to delegate responsibility of an activity or activities to LDA
- If a local party does not feel that projects proposed by the LDA Steering Committee are to their benefit, then they are free to work independently, whilst remaining within the overall framework of the Party's values and principles

On behalf of the Liberal Democrats Abroad Steering Committee 2025

Members (Steering Committee Role)

For Lib Dems in Europe

David Sapiro

Tom McAdam

For Lib Dems in France

Simon Marlow

Jenny Shorten (Chair)

For Lib Dems Overseas

Victoria Bateman (Secretary)

Terry Champion

info@libdemsabroad.org

www.libdemsabroad.org