

Residency requirement for Senedd election candidates

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 15 Tachwedd 2021
Petitions Committee | 15 November 2021

Reference: SR21/837-13

Petition Number: P-06-1186

Petition title: Prevent anyone who hasn't lived in Wales for at least 6 months from standing in Senedd elections

Text of petition:

Certain political parties are parachuting in candidates from all around the UK for the 2021 Senedd elections.

These candidates dilute the value of the Senedd by bringing in candidates that do not know the Welsh people let alone the constituents they are due to represent.



1. Candidates for 2021 Senedd Election

It was reported that at least 23 candidates standing in the May 2021 Senedd general election were not resident in Wales.

'Parachuting' candidates is an expression used to describe the practice of standing political candidates in constituencies or regions with which they do not necessarily have a connection.

2. No residency requirement for candidates

To stand as a candidate in a Senedd general election, a person must:

- be at least 18 years old,
- be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a qualifying foreign citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of the European Union who is resident in the United Kingdom; and
- not be disqualified by virtue of their job, bankruptcy or imprisonment.

There is no requirement in law for a candidate to be a resident and registered elector in Wales.

3. Competence to implement a residency requirement

The Senedd has legislative competence in relation to certain elements of devolved elections under the Government of Wales Act 2006 (as amended by the Wales Act 2017).

Standing requirements for candidates at Senedd elections is not expressly reserved under Schedule 7A to the Government of Wales Act 2006.

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Title:
