



Political Activities Ordinance

Guidance Note: Registration and Party Names

Following the enactment of the Political Parties Activities Ordinance (the Ordinance) which came into force on the 28th August 2012, the Integrity Commission assumed responsibility for ensuring political parties and candidates comply with their respective legal obligations under the Ordinance. All parties and independent candidates intending to contest seats in the 2016 General Election will therefore need to register with the Commission as soon as possible in any event by the .

We would urge all political parties to register without delay to establish the full campaign spending limit which will apply to their circumstances based on the formula in the Political Activities Ordinance.

There are administrative and financial advantages to political parties to register promptly. Until registration is completed a party's prospective candidates have to be treated as separate individuals for the purposes of political financing. This would place a personal reporting burden on each candidate and restrict the use of funds to the seat they plan to contest, i.e. a lower personal campaign limit would apply depending on if they are campaigning for a district or all-island seat, expenditures can only be incurred for the one district where they stand and each person would be required to make separate donation and expenditure returns.

Registration and Party Names: The Commission will make available the relevant forms which will need to be completed for registration purposes. These can be obtained from the Integrity Commission: deputydirector@integritycommission.tc or secretary@integritycommission.tc

What names can we not register?

Under S.6 of the Ordinance there are certain names we cannot register. These include the following, where the name:

- Is the same as that of a party which is already registered
- Is similar to another registered party and would be likely to result in electors confusing that party with a party that already appears on the register
- Is longer than 6 words
- Is obscene or offensive
- Is not in Roman Script
- Is likely to amount to an offence if published
- Could mislead a voter about the effect of their vote
- Includes a word or expression prohibited by order by the Governor after consultation with the Integrity Commission

Registration Process: The Integrity Commission will be responsible for accepting applications for registration and will issue the relevant forms for party registration upon request. Upon receipt of the application, the Commission will consider the application and carry out checks to ensure the proposed name and other particulars meet the criteria mentioned above. Parties must ensure their application is accompanied by a copy of their party's constitution. It is not intended to charge a fee for registration of parties for the forthcoming elections in 2016. Details provided in the application will also be retained by the Integrity Commission in the register of political parties which will be maintained for public inspection. Hard copies of the registration form must be lodged at the Integrity Commission's office;

It is advisable therefore that before you commence the application process that you think carefully about the precise party name to be used. Your identity should reflect your party and, most importantly provide voters with a clear understanding and recognition of who you are and what you stand for. You should check to ensure that the Name you are proposing to register is not used by pre-existing parties.

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Should you wish to contact the Commission in relation to the registration process, you can do so by using the following contact details:

General: 9461941, 941-7847, 338-3335 Richard Been or via e-mail: deputydirector@integritycommission.tc or secretary@integritycommission.tc

Integrity Commission
Franklyn Misicks Building
Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands
Or
Suite 206, Cabot House
IGA Plaza
Providenciales

Note: These guidance notes are issued to assist political parties and candidates in complying with their obligations under the Political Activities Ordinance. They are not intended to supersede the Ordinance and Regulations and in the event of any inconsistency, the Ordinance and Regulations prevail. This also applies to any future guidance notes provided by the Integrity Commission