

# Momentum Members' Democracy Ballot Results - 18

## September 2019

Momentum's democracy ballot was launched on Friday 23 August and ran until midnight on Friday 13 September, with over 4,150 members responding.

These proposals were initially put forward by Momentum's National Coordinating Group (NCG) on 23 March 2019 as key steps towards making Momentum more member-led. The NCG then did a consultation on the proposal with Momentum's most active members, the results of which went back to an NCG meeting on 20 July 2019. In line with our constitution, the NCG then conducted a ballot of members on the finalised proposal.

The proposals were as follows: 1. Increasing the number of regions represented on the NCG and increasing the number of elected members' representatives; and 2. Holding elections on a biennial basis (every two years). All Momentum members were eligible to vote. The full proposals and results are as follows:

### ***Question 1 of 2 - Increase the number of regions from 3 to 5 and expand the minimum number of members' representatives from 12 to 20***

*Members have often pointed out the problems caused by the excessive size and inconsistencies of the existing 3 regions. The consequence of this is that it is hard for NCG representatives to communicate with members, a problem identified by respondents to our recent groups audit. In addition, this structure creates the danger that some regions end up without having any representation on the NCG at all. Having the 5 smaller regions, which have been chosen to ensure balanced representation of members, could therefore improve representation and accountability between members and elected representatives. This would create the following regions: 1. North West and Wales 2. London 3. South East and South West. 4. Midlands and Eastern. 5. Yorkshire and the Humber, Northern, Scotland and International.*

*Currently at least 12 NCG representatives are directly elected to the NCG by members, along with 4 elected by Momentum members who are Labour public office holders (like councillors), and up to a further 12 who are representatives of affiliated trade unions and other left organisations.*

*Alongside increasing the number of regions, this proposal would increase the number of representatives directly elected by the membership at large to at least 20 members. This would guarantee a clear majority of representatives on the NCG would be elected by members under all circumstances and thus make Momentum more democratic. This proposal would come into effect before the upcoming NCG elections, scheduled to be in October.*

**Results: For: 3490 (98.06%) Against: 69 (1.94%)**

***Question 2 of 2 - Holding elections on a biennial basis***

Unusually for a committee of its size and responsibility, the NCG currently has annual elections. This means a relatively high level of resources are diverted into running elections rather than other activities. Annual elections also undermine the NCG members' effectiveness and ability to build relationships with grassroots activists, because it takes time for new representatives to develop the capacity to serve effectively on the NCG. Comparable bodies in the Labour Party like the NEC, CAC, and NPF, as well as the governing bodies of a number of trade unions, all have biennial elections. Therefore the suggestion of biennial elections is based on the desire to increase the effectiveness of the NCG and ensure a better allocation of staff resources.

If approved, this part of the proposal would only come into effect after this year's NCG elections.

**Results: For: 2902 (81.47%) Against: 660 (18.53%)**

Both proposals have been approved by more than half of the members who submitted a ballot, and therefore both proposals pass. As outlined in the initial consultation, proposal 1 will be brought into effect before the next NCG elections, which are scheduled for October, and proposal 2 will be introduced after those elections, meaning the next term for elected representatives will be a two year term.