Election Rules and Schedule 2020/2022
Rethinking Economics is at an exciting point in its history with groups and networks spreading across the world. As the Network grows, we are working to improve our governance and ensure we continue to best represent our global membership.

I am excited to be the Election Officer in the inaugural Members’ Council elections. The new council will represent the diversity and vibrancy of our community and support our members as we continue to expand and rethink economics in our classrooms, in our lecture-halls, in our places of work and beyond.

In my position as Elections Officer, I have a very simple task. To ensure that these elections take place in a free and fair manner. I will also announce the election results when voting has been tallied. If, in the course of the elections you feel the rules of the election are not being followed, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

As this is the first time that the Rethinking Economics network has conducted elections on such a global scale, please appreciate that this is a new process for everyone involved. The important thing is for candidates and Rethinkers to approach them with a sense of respect for everyone involved.

Best wishes,
Ben Pringle
Rethinking Economics Election Officer

elections@rethinkeconomics.org
Key Information

Purpose of this document

This document contains all the information you will need about standing in elections in the inaugural Members’ Council elections.

What these rules apply to

These rules apply to all Officer positions elected to:

- Rethinking Economics Members’ Council

For the avoidance of doubt, these election rules do not apply to elections within:

- Rethinking Economics Local Groups
- Rethinking Economics National or Regional Networks

The rules governing elections within autonomous RE groups are decided, internally by members of said groups.

Officer Roles Available

There are a number of Officer position available on the Members’ Council in this election process:

- Communications Officer (3 positions available) | Role description
- Membership Officer (3 positions available) | Role description
- Campaigns Officer (3 Positions available) | Role description
- Partnerships Officer (3 positions available) | Role description

These positions are voluntary and will support the Rethinking Economics Network to grow and achieve its aims.
Key Resources

Rethinking Economics Nomination Forms

Rethinking Economics Code of Conduct

Council Officer Role Descriptions
Council Officer Positions

This section outlines the process for election to a Council Officer, including the timeline for nominations and the process for submitting your intention to run.

Eligibility

- Ability to demonstrate at least 12 months involvement in a Rethinking Economics Local Group, National Network or Campaign.
- Current student of economics or economics with related social science (e.g. Political Economy; Politics Philosophy and Economics; History; International Relations etc) or graduate of the above within the previous 2 years.

Notes

It is recommended that Rethinkers that are successful in being elected do not carry on significant leadership roles within Rethinking Economics Local Groups, National Networks or Campaigns.

Application Process

There are 3 steps you need to follow to stand for election to Rethinking Economics Council positions.

Fulfil the steps below by completing the Rethinking Economics Council Application Form.

Step 1 | Your eligibility and personal details

You will need to provide us with your full name, address, phone number, email address and details of the Rethinking Economics group or campaign that you are part of.

You will need to confirm which Officer role you are applying for on the Members’ Council.

You need to make sure you read the role profile to understand what the role involves and what would be expected of you should you be elected [see links above].

Step 2 | Your nominations

You will need at least 2 people from that have worked with you within Rethinking Economics or your local group to agree to nominate you to the position you wish to stand in election for. You may not nominate yourself. These individuals may be other members of your local group or supporting members of a Rethinking Economics Campaign. Nominators do not need to abide by the same eligibility criteria as candidates in the election [see above].

Your nominators may only nominate one candidate in each election. We therefore recommend you check with the people nominating you that they have not nominated another candidate.

For each nominator you will need their full name and proof of their identity in the following ways:

1. A letter confirming your involvement in Rethinking Economics or one of its affiliated groups

Complete the Rethinking Economics Council Nomination form here
2. A scan of their student card or another proof of identification clearly shows their name

**Step 3 | Your supporting information**

**Election Statement**

Submit an Election Statement to support your nomination. The Election Statement gives you an opportunity to say why you are standing for the Officer position and what you hope to achieve. Election Statements will be shared to Rethinking Economics Group voting in the elections.

A submitted Election Statement can either be in written or video form.

If written, the Election Statement can be up to 300 words.

If in video format, the Election Statement can be up to 90 seconds long.

**Photo**

Submit a ‘heads and shoulders’ photo of yourself with a clear background. There must not be anyone else included in the photo and the image must be of a high quality for us to edit to the right size to uploaded onto our website.

**Biography**

Submit a short statement introducing yourself of no more than 100 words. We will be putting up online on the Rethinking Economics website along with your headshot and a link to your manifesto.

**Schedule of Elections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th October</td>
<td>Application window opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>Application window closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd November</td>
<td>Manifestos published online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd November</td>
<td>Voting Opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th December</td>
<td>Voting Closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week beginning 16th December</td>
<td>Results announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Election Rules and additional information

The Elections Officer has set out the following rules for the Conference. It should be noted that these rules are the property of the Elections Officer and their designates and they alone will be the interpreter of them.

In considering the rules candidates should be aware that they are responsible for the conduct of their campaign and supporters. Candidates for elections are governed by the Rethinking Economics Code of Conduct and a breach of this code by a candidate or their supporters may lead to disqualification, as may any breach of these campaigning rules.

Further rulings can be sought by candidates after nominations have closed. Rulings shall be circulated to all candidates at the same point.

Objections to the eligibility of candidates

Once nominations are closed the full list of eligible candidates will be published on the Rethinking Economics website along with their nominators. We will publish:

- Name of candidate
- Name of nominator

Any member of Rethinking Economics may object to the eligibility of candidates or their nominators. They may do this by contacting the Elections Officer in writing via elections@rethinkeconomics.org.

The Ballot

For each election, the Elections Officer will oversee the voting process. Ballots will display the chosen name of each candidate, the position they are standing for and links to their manifesto. Voting will be by secret ballot and be conducted by electronic vote.

Each affiliated Rethinking Economics Local Group and National Network is eligible to vote in the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council elections. Online ballots will be issued to the email address of each registered Rethinking Economics group (as specified at the point of registration) by the date stated in the election timeline. Current registered Rethinking Economics Local Groups, and therefore eligible voters, are displayed here: http://www.rethinkeconomics.org/re-groups/. If you believe entrants to this list are incorrect, please contact membership@rethinkeconomics.org.

The Count

The Elections Officer will arrange for the count to occur within one week of the close of polling. The Count will take place in the Rethinking Economics Support Team office.

Counts for the Council Officer roles will use Single Transferable Vote (STV) as there are three positions available under each Council Officer role.

Reserved places on the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council

Rethinking Economics is committed to ensuring that it represents the diversity of our network at all levels of its work. As such, the Members’ Council will aim to include:
- **Diversity of Identity** | At least 50% of the positions on the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council are provisionally reserved for women or non-binary people.

- **Geographic Diversity** | At least one position of each of the Officer roles on the Members’ Council will be reserved for members who are either resident in, or whose education has been primarily based in, the Global South.

If there are insufficient applicants to fulfil these diversity quotas, the nomination period will be extended by a further two weeks to provide suitable time for additional candidates to stand for a position.

There will be 2 counts to ensure this allocation:

1. Positions reserved for members who are either resident in or whose education has been based in the Global South.
2. All remaining candidates for the final positions.

If there are insufficient applicants to particular Council Officer roles, unsuccessful applicants from other Council Officer roles will be invited to take up the role with the highest-polling unsuccessful applicant being asked first.

**Additional Campaign Expenditure and Materials**

Candidates in all elections prevented from publicly campaigning for their election beyond the channels established in the electoral process (manifesto and supporting statement).

**Emails and Social Media**

The use of any official Rethinking Economics email list to advertise one candidate over another is strictly prohibited. This includes any official email networks or social networking groups (such as Facebook Workplace) and events both formal and informal that members use for another purpose, for example to discuss a type of campaign activity or community.

Individual emails and the general use of social networking sites and message boards is considered word of mouth communication, and beyond the need to be respectful of their opponents, candidates are free to use these as they see fit.

**Elections Complaints**

Elections complaints should be submitted to the Elections Officer via email to elections@rethinkeconomics.org.

For a complaint to be considered it must be submitted before the close of polling. Complaints should contain specific information in order to aid the Elections Officer in making a complaint. Information should be provided on the nature of the complaint and supported by evidence. If the complaint is about a candidate or campaign this should be stated in the complaint.

Consider whether your complaint is regarding Elections or the Rethinking Economics Code of Conduct. Code of Conduct complaints should be submitted via the process outlined below.

**Code of Conduct**

Candidates are reminded that as members of Rethinking Economics they are subject to the RE Code of Conduct which is available online on the Rethinking Economics Website:
The code of conduct sets out the protocol to be followed given any breach of discipline. A breach of discipline can include (but is not limited to):

- Threatening or harassing any other person, whether physically or verbally;
- Assaulting any other person;
- Discriminating/abusing another person on the basis of their race, religion, gender or beliefs;
- Damaging any property, whether deliberately or negligently;
- Acting without due regard for the safety of others;
- Acting with dishonesty or with intent to defraud;
- Infringement of equal opportunities, safe space, safeguarding, no platform or staff protocol policy

The Elections Officer has the right, at any point, to suspend a candidate to be investigated under the Code of Conduct which may cause them to be withdrawn from the election.

**Training for successful candidates**

Rethinking Economics believes in supporting its Council Officers and volunteers. As such we will provide a range of training and induction processes for successful candidates.

Council Officers will be invited to attend a formal induction two-day induction in January. This will take place online. Details of this will be shared with successful candidates.

As such, the formal start date for newly elected Council Members will be following the January induction.

**Diversity monitoring**

The Elections Officer wants to ensure that these election processes are as open as possible to the full diversity of our membership. You will be asked at the point of nomination to fill in an anonymized diversity monitoring form.
Appendix A: Election Rules

Rethinking Economics | Elections Rules

1. Application
   a. These rules will apply for all elections to Members. Variations or further definitions shall require approval of the Elections Officer.

2. Elections Officer (EO)
   a. The EO will be selected with the approval of the Members’ Council. Where the Members’ Council is not yet in operation, they will be selected from the Rethinking Economics Trustee Board.
   b. They will keep under review measures to enable and maximise participation in elections and measures to restrict activity of candidates and campaigns to ensure fairness.
   c. The EO will have the power to interpret all election regulations and issue rulings and interpretations to this effect to all members and appointed election officials.
   d. The EO will:
      i. Be the interpreter of the Elections Rules for that election, subject to any rulings from the Members’ Council.
      ii. Appoint (and dismiss if necessary) election officials to ensure the good conduct and administration of the elections.
      iii. Ensure oversight of the count and declare the results of the elections.
      iv. Set rules, regulations and guidelines other than these election rules to govern the conduct of the election.
      v. Seek legal advice by referring the matter to the Trustee Board if they believe that statements made or the contents of publicity could leave Rethinking Economics open to legal action.
      vi. Rule out of order any statement or the content of any publicity, which in their view is in breach of the constitution, the law or any other appropriate rules and guidelines.
      vii. Be empowered to issue warnings to candidates or remove candidates from the election at any point in accordance with these election rules and any rules and regulations issued under the above provision.
      viii. Be empowered to order recounts, or declare election processes null and void if they break the election rules.
      ix. Deliver, or ensure the delivery of, appropriate support and guidance to all election candidates.
      x. Make available information to potential candidates for each election outlining relevant rules and procedures.
   e. The EO will be entitled to select a Deputy Elections Officers who will deputise for the EO and will carry out tasks on the EO’s behalf.
   f. Any matters brought to a Deputy EO that fall under 2.d.i. - 2.d.x. will be referred to the EO.

3. Complaints
   a. For each election the EO is the ultimate official competent to deal with complaints regarding the conduct of candidates, their supporters and campaigns, and the administration of elections.
   b. Complaints regarding the conduct of an EO must be sent to a Co-Director of Rethinking Economics International (staff employed by Rethinking Economics) (Laurence.jones-williams@rethinkeconomics.org; tree.watson@rethinkeconomics.org)
4. Eligibility
   a. Eligibility for elected office too shall be restricted as follows and may be further restricted in the relevant rules:
      i. Current student of economics or economics with related social science (e.g. Political Economy; Politics Philosophy and Economics; History; International Relations etc) or graduate of the above within the previous 2 years.
      ii. And that can demonstrate at least 6 months involvement in a Rethinking Economics Local Group, National Network or Campaign

5. The Process of Elections
   a. For each election or set of elections the EO will produce an election timetable, which will outline:
      i. The process for nomination
      ii. Arrangements for the publication of accepted nominations
      iii. Arrangements for objections to the eligibility of candidates
      iv. Details for the submission of manifestos (if appropriate)
      v. Details of a question time (if appropriate)
      vi. Arrangements for the ballot
      vii. Arrangements for the count
   b. The EO will produce details of the arrangements for balloting and for complaints procedures, and ensure that they are publicised to all constituent members or delegates as appropriate.
   c. The EO will ensure that any additional details, or amendments to the arrangements, are publicised to all constituent members or delegates as appropriate in a timely fashion.

6. Nominations
   a. It will be the responsibility of nominees to ensure that nomination forms are completed accurately and submitted before the deadline.
   b. All nomination forms will require a minimum number of nominators from Rethinking Economics members. The minimum number of nominators in the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council election 2021-2022 is two.
   c. The EO will have the sole responsibility for declaring a submitted nomination form valid.
   d. In the event of two or more candidates having the same nominator in an election for a single position, the EO may allow up to 24 hours for the candidates to find fresh proposers.
   e. When the EO is satisfied, all valid nominations will be confirmed with the candidates and published.
   f. Any candidate completing a nomination form will also be required sign to accept any terms and conditions of employment relating to the post at the point of nomination

7. Manifestos
   a. Where appropriate manifestos must be submitted by the date laid down in the election timetable and must comply with any format requirements stipulated by the RO.
   b. The EO will ensure that manifestos are made available to voters.

8. Campaign Publicity
   a. Candidates in all elections prevented from publicly campaigning for their election beyond the channels established in the electoral process (manifesto and supporting statement).
b. The EO may draw up regulations for the conduct of candidates’ campaigns. Any breach of these regulations could lead to disqualification from the election.

9. Question Time
   a. The EO may arrange a question time for the candidates in an election.

10. Withdrawal
   a. Any candidate may withdraw from an election at any point before the start of the count by informing the RO.
   b. If a candidate withdraws during the ballot, or after a point at which the ballots cannot be amended, the EO will ensure that voters’ next preferences are counted.

11. Voting
   a. The EO will ensure that eligible Rethinking Economics Local Group are enabled to vote.
   b. The EO will decide the method of voting and publicise it appropriately.
   c. Elections with more than one position available will be conducted by STV.
   d. The voters will be able to express preferences for as few or as many candidates as they wish in any election.
   e. Ballots will bear the chosen name of each candidate and the position being contested.
   f. The order of names on the ballot will be decided alphabetically by surname.
   g. Voting will be by electronic secret ballot.

12. The Count
   a. The count will commence only after the EO is satisfied that all complaints relating to the conduct and administration of the election have been resolved.
   b. The count will be conducted in accordance with rules outlined by the Electoral Reform Society for running elections by Single Transferable Vote.
   c. Any candidate may request a recount within five (5) calendar days by writing to the Elections Officer. The Elections Officer’s decision is final in this regard.
   d. Rethinking Economics is committed to ensuring that it represents the diversity of our network at all levels of its work. As such, the Members’ Council will aim to include:
      i. Diversity of Identity | At least 50% of the positions on the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council are provisionally reserved for women or non-binary people.
      ii. Geographic Diversity | At least one position of each of the Officer roles on the Rethinking Economics Members’ Council will be reserved for members who are either resident in, or education has been primarily based in, the Global South.
   e. There will be 2 counts to ensure this allocation:
      i. Positions reserved for members who are either resident in or whose education has been based in the Global South.
      ii. All remaining candidates for the final positions.
   f. If there are insufficient applicants to fulfil these diversity quotas, the nomination period will be extended by a further two weeks to provide suitable for additional candidates to stand for a position.
   g. If there are insufficient applicants to particular positions on the RE Members’ Council, unsuccessful applicants from other positions will be invited to take up the role with the highest-polling unsuccessful applicant being asked first.

13. Declaration
   a. Results of the election will be declared by the EO in an appropriate manner when the count for each post has been successfully completed.
b. A list of successful candidates will be made available within one (1) week of the declaration of the results.

c. The Elections Officer will arrange for the count to occur within one week of the close of polling.

d. The Count will take place online.