

# 2019 International Mensa Election

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## **INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS - PLEASE READ BEFORE VOTING**

The 2019 Election allows national groups to offer their members the opportunity to choose to vote electronically or via postal ballot. You may have received an International Election Ballot Paper and an Envelope addressed to your Mensa Office, or you may have received a votekey for electronic voting, or you may have received both. If you wish to vote, you may vote using one of the two options offered, however you may not use both options.

Any member returning an electronic vote, and a postal vote will have the postal vote declared invalid by your national group.

### **Election of International Officers**

As there are more than 2 candidates for each office, a preferential voting system will be used for all four offices as follows:

- You will have **ONE** transferable vote for each office.
- Please put a 1 in the box of your preferred candidate. Your second choice should be marked with a number 2, your third choice with '3' and the fourth with a '4'.
- Please read the attached 'Explanation of Preferential Voting Procedures'.
- The ballot forms for electronic and postal voting are identical.

### **VOTING ELECTRONICALLY**

Your national group will have supplied you with a votekey consisting of two codes to enter the web site for electronic voting and may have provided you with a unique direct link to the site bypassing the requirement for codes. The web site is: [www.ersvotes.com/mensainternational2019](http://www.ersvotes.com/mensainternational2019)

Enter the web site either directly or using the provided codes depending on the advice received with your votekeys. On entering the site the instructions will be on the screen, with a Google Translate button to translate the instructions into your home language if necessary.

Follow the instructions on the screen. You will be able to review the candidate statements from the voting screen. When you have finished voting and have exited the site you will not be able to go back and vote again or change your vote. Once you exit the site after having voted you have nothing further to do. Your vote is cast.

### **VOTING BY POSTAL BALLOT**

#### **Returning your Ballot Paper**

1. Put your ballot into the envelope provided, then close and seal the envelope. If not already marked, write clearly in the **upper left front** corner of the envelope "**International Mensa Ballot**".
2. **ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE**, write your **name, address and membership number** in block letters as they appear in your Mensa records. Your national Mensa will use this information to verify that you are a member in good standing that is entitled to vote. **If this information is not on the back of the envelope, your vote will be invalid and WILL NOT BE COUNTED.** Should you be uncomfortable with this information being openly visible on the envelope, you may place this envelope into another one that you address to the national Mensa office (address below).
3. Put a stamp on the envelope suitable for Domestic Delivery.
4. If no envelope is provided use one of your own, complete the front and back as instructed in points 1 and 2 above and return to the following address, ensuring **that it will arrive** no later than the **15<sup>th</sup> of May 2019.**
5. If you also vote electronically your postal ballot will be invalidated.

The envelope should be addressed to: **[National Mensa Office address to be inserted here]**

**DO NOT SEND YOUR BALLOT ENVELOPE TO ANY OTHER ADDRESS.**

**EXCEPTION: Direct International Members** should send their envelopes directly to the MIL office at the following address: Mensa International Ltd., Slate Barn, Church Lane, Caythorpe, Lincolnshire, NG32 3EL, UNITED KINGDOM. Mail your ballot in time for it to reach the address by **May 15th, 2019.**

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If two or more members live at the same address but you received only one postal ballot form, each additional member may copy the postal ballot paper and vote following the above instructions using a separate envelope. **Any member who returns more than one ballot form will have the first received form declared valid and subsequent envelopes declared invalid.**

**Only ballots received by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 will be counted.** Do not place anything else in the envelope because it will be forwarded unopened to an independent counting agency, which will discard any other materials in the envelope

### Explanation of Preferential Voting Procedures

The ballot instructions ask you to vote preferentially by placing a 1 in the box of the candidate of your first choice, a 2 in the box of the candidate of your second choice, etc. You **can** vote for up to the number of candidates running in a preferential election, but you do not **have to**.

**NOTE:** Casting preferential votes will not harm the election chances of the candidate of your first choice.

The preferential system used for this election will have ballots sorted according to first choice- all the "1" are counted. If no candidate has reached the 50%+1 limit, then the one with the smallest number of votes is eliminated. His votes will then be redistributed to the other candidates, in accordance to the second choice- all the "2" marks from his ballots are added to the previous "1". This procedure is repeated until one candidate has a simple majority.

In the case of the current election there are four candidates for one post, so the procedure will be performed twice.

#### EXAMPLE:

For a particular office, there are four candidates: Anne, Ben, Charlie and Dave. On the ballot, Mensans have been asked to indicate their first, second (third and fourth) choices. Let us assume that 100 valid ballots have been cast.

The independent ballot-tallying agent divides the ballots into piles, according to voters' first choice:

Anne	Ben	Charlie	Dave
28	15	25	32

Since none of the four candidates have a majority of 51 valid ballots (50% + 1), a second sort is made. Ben, who had the fewest votes (1's) is out of the race. Ben's votes are divided according to the number of second choice- the 2's. In this case, of Ben's 15 votes, 5 were cast for Anne as second choice, 5 were cast for Charlie as second choice and 4 for Dave as the second choice, while 1 vote had no second choice marked. When the second-choice votes for Charlie are redistributed to Anne's pile and Charlie's pile and Dave's pile, the results are:

	Anne	Charlie	Dave
	28	25	32
votes redistributed from Ben after the first elimination	5	5	4
new totals including redistributed votes	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>

In this second count - since 1 vote had no second choice marked - there were only 99 valid votes.

Still no 50% + 1 has been reached, so the counting procedure had to be taken to the next level, this time eliminating Charly. His 3rd preference votes are distributed to Anne and Dave.

	Anne	Dave
	28	32
votes redistributed from Ben after the first elimination	5	4

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votes redistributed from Charlie after the second elimination	10	15
	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>

Dave now has a majority of 50% +1 vote and he wins the election.

**If the final result for any office is a tie the result will be decided on the toss of a coin.**