

Suggested rule change

Increasing democracy in leadership elections

The Labour Party Rule Book 2010, Section B, Chapter 4 Section B (Procedural rules for elections for national officers of the Party) Subsection 2B reads as follows:

- i. *In the case of a vacancy for leader or deputy leader, each nomination must be supported by 12.5 per cent of the Commons members of the PLP. Nominations not attaining this threshold shall be null and void.*
- ii. *Where there is no vacancy, nominations shall be sought each year prior to the annual session of party conference. In this case any nomination must be supported by 20 per cent of the Commons members of the PLP. Nominations not attaining this threshold shall be null and void.*
- iii. *Affiliated organisations, CLPs and Labour Members of the European Parliament may also nominate for each of the offices of leader and deputy leader. All nominees must be Commons members of the PLP.*

Section B, Chapter 4 Section B (Procedural rules for elections for national officers of the Party) Subsection 2D (ii) reads as follows:

When the PLP is in government and the leader and/ or deputy leader are prime minister and/ or in Cabinet, an election shall proceed only if requested by a majority of party conference on a card vote.

Insert in Section B, Chapter 4 Section B (Procedural rules for elections for national officers of the Party) Subsection 2B (ii) after “*Where there is no vacancy,*” the words “*and the party is not in government,*” and insert new subsection (iii) [and renumber existing subsection (iii) as (iv)] as follows:

‘When there is no vacancy and the party is in government and if either 20 per cent of the Commons members of the PLP or MPs, MEPs, CLPs and affiliated organisations whose combined votes constitute 30 per cent of the electoral college nominate a candidate (who accepts a nomination) for Leader or nominate a candidate (who accepts nomination) for Deputy Leader, then the NEC will timetable a motion at Party Conference so that Conference can decide whether it wishes to institute a full election procedure for the appropriate position(s) (in accordance with B Ch4 B 2D ii below). An election shall proceed only if requested by a majority of Party Conference on a card vote.’

Supporting Arguments

At the moment, if there is any challenge to a sitting Prime Minister, CLPs and affiliated organisations are not fully involved; only MPs can decide whether a Leader/Deputy Leader should be challenged while Labour is in government. The above rule change introduces more accountability for the two most important positions in our Party.

Closing date for constitutional amendments: 30 July 2010