

Frequently Asked Questions

Governing Council elections 2025 – Voting

September 2025



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1. Background

What is Governing Council and what is its role?

As the governing body of RICS, Governing Council has ultimate responsibility for RICS and it has power to act in all matters in the name of RICS. Governing Council sets the vision for RICS and is responsible for articulating the strategy to achieve this vision. Its powers are set out in RICS bye-laws, which are approved by the Privy Council, a formal body of advisers to the sovereign of the United Kingdom, and the membership.

The primary duties and functions of Governing Council are:

- Agreeing the Institution's strategy and vision
- Overseeing the delivery of that strategy via annual business plans
- Overseeing the effective delivery of standards and regulations
- Agreeing changes to bye-laws and regulations

Governing Council has up to 28 members, comprising 20 elected RICS member candidates in Geographic seats, Professional Group seats and a Next Generation seat, three Presidential Team office holders (the President, the President Elect and the Senior Vice President), a Senior Independent Governor and another appointed independent member, and up to three appointed members with relevant expertise or interests.

These currently include an independent member with accountancy/finance expertise and an independent member with legal expertise. Full details of the duties of Governing Council are set out in [RICS Regulations](#) (R6.1.2). Membership of the Governing Council is published on the [RICS website](#).

How often are elections to Governing Council held?

Ordinarily elections for all seats will take place every three years, with each seat term being for three years. However, Governing Council was newly constituted in 2023 following the Bichard Review and the terms were adjusted to align the terms of office to the adjustment in RICS' financial year. The new terms were for either 1 and a half years or 2 and a half years, thus subsequent terms of office in these seats would commence on either 1 January 2025 or 1 January 2026. The reason for this staggering was to ensure we maintained continuity of Governing Council, avoid simultaneous expiry and facilitate transfer of knowledge as membership of Governing Council changes in the future.

Following the last Governing Council elections for terms commencing on 1 January 2025, and this year's elections with terms commencing on 1 January 2026, future elections to Governing Council will take place 2 out of 3 years (starting with elections in 2027 for terms commencing on 1 January 2028).

Why are these elections being held now?

To ensure newly elected candidates are confirmed and have completed their appointment formalities ahead of their terms starting on 1 January 2026, the elections need to commence in June.

RICS now has an established election cycle to its Governing Council. Going forward, elections will take place 2 out of 3 years and will follow the election cycle below:

- Applications open: June
- Voting opens: September
- Election result announced: October
- Terms start on 1 January for a 3-year term.

2. Election process

What is the election process?

Please refer to the [guide](#) to the election process.

Why has the election process changed?

The election process was changed in 2023 following the Bichard Review so as to simplify the process and it resulted in establishing just one route to election. The process is reviewed after each election allowing refinements to be made where necessary.

Following the 2024 elections the following refinements were made/retained from 2023 review:

- Option to stand for election for up to two seats retained for a further year, this includes the Next Generation seat – although no individual shall hold more than one seat on Governing Council.
- Video statements remain optional.
- Number of supporters reduced from eight to two to make the process more accessible.
- Introduction of membership and regulatory checks for candidate's supporters to confirm they too are members in good standing
- Guidance provided to clarify eligibility requirements for the Professional Group seats.
- A new process introduced (in 2025) to verify candidates' eligibility to stand for election to their selected seat/s. This is in addition to the membership and regulatory checks, and background screening (on elected candidates only), checking video and election statements for inappropriate content. For more information on the verification process, please refer to the guide to the verification of candidates

How long are the terms for elected seats on Governing Council?

RICS members are being elected to Governing Council for three-year terms. However, following the Bichard RICS Review, RICS has committed to an independent review every five years to ensure that RICS and its governance structure continues to facilitate and support our purpose and objectives set out in the Royal Charter. This could result in changes to the composition or structure of Governing Council and other governance bodies. If this occurs, it may be necessary for us to alter the term of elected seats, according to the independent recommendations made.

Why are some candidates not able to serve the full 3-year terms?

A member can serve on Governing Council for a total combined period of six years in any continuous nine-year period. Where a candidate is a former or current member of Governing Council who has not yet served the full six years, they can stand for re-election. However, their next term length is dictated by the amount of time they have already served. For example, if a former or current member of Governing Council has already served 3.5 years they can only serve for a further 2.5 years, taking them to the full six-year total.

Can members vote for themselves?

Yes, members can vote for themselves.

Can members stand for election for more than one seat?

Yes, members are eligible to stand for election to up to two seats – although members are not able to hold more than one seat on Governing Council at any one time.

What happens if I win an election for more than one seat?

Where a RICS member stands for two seats, it is possible that they may be successful in elections for both seats. Where this situation arises, a panel comprising the Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, the President and Senior Independent Governor will be convened promptly after the election results are available to decide the seat allocation in accordance with question.

What is the process for allocating seats for Governing Council candidates who win an election for more than one seat?

In coming to a decision on seat allocation, the panel (referred to in the answer above) will abide by the following principles:

1. If a candidate wins a contested election for one seat, but the other seat the candidate stands for is uncontested, the candidate will be allocated the uncontested seat.
2. If a candidate stands for two seats that are both uncontested, the panel will allocate the most appropriate seat to that candidate having regard to the results of elections for other seats.
3. If a candidate wins contested elections for two seats, the panel will allocate the most appropriate seat to that candidate based on the candidate's preference. In such a scenario, the seat that is not allocated to the winning candidate will be allocated to the second-placed candidate in the election for that seat.

What happens in an uncontested election?

An election for a seat or seats will be uncontested where the number of candidate applications received does not exceed the number of seats available. Uncontested elections are not uncommon in professional bodies and are not unique to RICS. If there is an uncontested election for any seat(s), the candidate(s) standing for election to the seat(s) will be elected unopposed. This follows previous elections to Governing Council and aligns with the approach adopted in other organisations.

What happens in the event there are vacant seats?

Any vacant seats arising following the elections may be held as vacancies until the next scheduled elections. However, it is within the power of the President (in consultation with the Nominations and Remuneration Committee) to appoint a suitably qualified member to the seat on an interim basis should they wish for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6-months. Also, Governing Council may decide to fill the vacancy sooner by holding another election for the vacant seat/s.

3. Voting

What is the voting period?

Voting opens at midday (UK time) on the 10 September 2025 and closes at midday (UK time) 8 October 2025.

Who is eligible to vote?

All qualified RICS members (FRICS/MRICS/AssocRICS) are eligible to vote in the Governing Council elections. All eligible members can vote for all Professional Group seats and the Next Generation seat. However, members voting for the Geographic are only able to vote for the Geographic seat where they are based, for example, to vote for the Americas seat, members must be based in the Americas.

How do I vote?

Mi-Voice will provide all members eligible to vote with a unique voter code to access the voting website - <https://www.mi-vote.com/secure/rics>. You will receive your voting credentials by email; however, you can request paper ballots by contacting Mi-Voice at the details provided below.

The voter code is unique to each member and should not be shared with any other person. The ballot slip will be tailored to you and the seats you are eligible to vote for. Please note, eligibility criteria apply to the Geographic seats; members are only able to vote for the Geographic seats in the area they are based.

What do I do if I have not received my unique voting code?

If you have not received your unique voting code, you can request your code to be resent by visiting www.mi-vote.com/secure/rics.

Members can also contact the Mi-Voice support team directly, quoting their membership number and email address registered with RICS and they can resend them their code. In the first instance, Mi-Voice recommend members first request a resend from the landing page www.mi-vote.com/secure/rics before reaching out to the support team.

If you are using a different email address than the one registered with RICS and are unable to request your code by visiting the site above, please contact Mi-Voice support team directly, quoting your membership number at support@mi-voice.com or +44 02380 763987.

Can members vote for more than one seat?

Each member can vote once for each seat they are eligible to vote for. e.g. A member based in Asia Pacific is eligible to vote once for the Asia Pacific seat, and once for each individual Professional Group seat, and once for the Next Generation seat. Please note there are four available seats for the UK & Ireland region, therefore members based in the UK & Ireland can vote for up to four members for those seats.

Why have some candidate's details been redacted on their CVs?

Where candidates have included personal information in their CV, this information has been redacted to protect the candidates and their personal data.

What happens to my vote if a candidate I voted for decides to withdraw their candidacy?

If a candidate you voted for withdraws their candidacy before the election, your vote for that candidate will no longer count. You will also not be able to recast your vote.

4. Results

When and how will the results be announced?

The results will be announced after 10 October 2025. The published results will be the same as previous years and will include the following information for each seat:

- Overall voter turnout (as a percentage)
- Individual Geographic seat turnout - for Geographic seats only (as a percentage)
- Successful candidate and their voter turnout (as a percentage).

Candidates should note that the identity of successful candidates will be announced before background screening checks have been cleared, and that any issues highlighted in relation to a candidate as a result of the background screening checks may render that candidate ineligible to take up a seat. Please refer to the [Guide to membership and regulatory checks and background screening](#) for more information.

In the event that a successful candidate in a contested election fails to clear background screening checks, the candidate with the next highest number of votes would be elected to that seat (subject to satisfactory background screening and to the allocation of seats process followed when a candidate is elected to two seats – please refer to section 2 'The Election Process' - where the second-placed candidate would then be elected in two seats). If a successful candidate in an uncontested election fails to clear the checks, the seat would remain vacant until the next election.

When does the term of office begin?

The term of office for successful candidates begins on 1 January 2026. There will be the possibility of standing for re-election at the end of the term subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria for candidates applicable at that time.

5. Help and support

Where do I go for more information?

For more information on how to cast your vote please contact Mi-Voice:

- Email: support@mi-voice.com
- Telephone: +44 (0) 2380 763 987

For more information on the elections, the role of Governing Council/Governing Council member, please contact the Governance Team on governanceappointments@rics.org

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

General enquiries
contactrics@rics.org

Candidate support
candidatesupport@rics.org



[rics.org](https://www.rics.org)