



2025 GENERAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM CAYMAN ISLANDS

DOMESTIC OBSERVER MISSION FINAL REPORT

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Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of the Domestic Election and Referendum Observation Mission for the Cayman Islands General Election and Referendum 2025. Appointed by Her Excellency the Governor on 08 April 2025, the domestic, non-partisan team was tasked with observing the conduct of the election and referendum. This report is grounded in impartiality, accuracy, and commitment to democratic values.

Observers were present during the final Postal Ballot issuing on 19 April and across all 19 electoral districts, including early mobile polling conducted on 22-25 April and across all polling stations on Election Day, 30 April. A total of 1,037 postal ballots were issued, of which, 861 were received back in time to be counted. A further 1,345 mobile ballots were cast prior to Election Day. There were a total of 2,382 ballots issued across both postal ballots and mobile voting, this constitutes 9.3% of registered electors. On Election Day, a total of 16,457 ballots were cast bringing the total votes cast to 18,663, representing a voter turnout of 72.8%, demonstrating strong public confidence and civic engagement. All polling stations opened on time and were staffed by trained officials who implemented procedures uniformly and without disruption.

Building upon recommendations from the 2017 and 2021 Domestic Observers' Reports, this observation mission expanded its coverage, structured data collection, and conducted active stakeholder engagement. The mission's role was to observe and report, not to certify. We commend the Elections Office, its staff, the candidates and their agents, as well as the Caymanian public for their role in upholding and facilitating a credible, transparent, and efficiently run election.

This report reflects observations and recommendations based on observations from the Domestic Election and Referendum Mission appointment on 08 April 2025 up to, and including, Election Day, 30 April 2025. It also includes campaign expense reporting provided on 04 June 2025.



Introduction to Mission

At the request of Her Excellency the Governor, a Domestic Election Observation Mission was established to observe the Cayman Islands General Election and Referendum 2025. On 08 April 2025, a seven-member observer team was officially appointed to carry out this important democratic function. The mission was led by Head of Mission Deborah Ebanks, and included observers Nelva Ebanks, Briony Gallegos, Brittany MacVicar, Abraham Mathew, Marc Thomas, and Valerie Ritch. In addition, Jessica Anderson and Colleen Stoetzel were designated as alternate observers, to support the mission as needed.

The observation team was composed of a diverse group of professionals across various industries. This diversity provided a valuable combination of election process experience, local electoral knowledge, legal expertise, analytical skills, and insight into the political culture and history of the Cayman Islands.

Domestic election observation in the Cayman Islands was first introduced in 2009, marking a significant step in strengthening transparency and accountability in the electoral process. Since then, local observer missions have played an increasingly active role in safeguarding democratic standards during general elections and referendums.

The domestic, non-partisan observation team was tasked with monitoring the conduct of the 2025 General Election and Referendum to ensure adherence to democratic principles and electoral integrity. The observations were conducted with impartiality, accuracy, transparency, respect for the confidentiality of information, and non-interference in the electoral process.

All observers took an oath to maintain confidentiality and to refrain from disclosing any information regarding how an elector voted, should such information have been inadvertently revealed. This aligns with the legal obligations placed on all election officials under local laws and regulations.

To maintain impartiality, avoid any perceived conflicts of interest, and to preserve public confidence in the neutrality and integrity of the observation mission, observers agreed not to conduct observation activities within their own electoral constituency. Given the relatively small size of the constituencies, there was a reasonable concern that observers could have personal familiarity with local candidates. Additionally, observers who were eligible electors participated in mobile polling ahead of Election Day did so solely as electors, not in their capacity as observers.

This report includes observations made throughout appointment and presents a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing future electoral processes. It is hoped that these will be given thoughtful consideration by all election stakeholders, particularly the Parliament, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen democracy in the Cayman Islands.

Political Dynamics and Key Issues

The 2025 General Election and Referendum took place against the backdrop of a dynamic and evolving political landscape in the Cayman Islands. In the lead-up to the election, the United People's Movement (UPM), a coalition formed after the 2021 election in November 2023, experienced internal shifts that ultimately led to its dissolution. This period of political realignment was further marked by the retirement of several long-serving Members of Parliament, creating openings for a new generation of political figures and reshaping the composition of candidates contesting the election.

Notably, the 2025 General Election and Referendum saw the emergence of two newly established political parties: The Caymanian Community Party (TCCP) and the Cayman Islands National Party (CINP) join the already established People's Progressive Movement together with a number of independents to vie for a seat in Parliament. Their formation signaled a growing interest in formal party structures and collective governance strategies, in contrast to the 2021 General Election which was independent-dominated.

In this General Election there was the inclusion of three non-binding referendum questions. The decision to include a referendum alongside the 2025 General Election was made by Cabinet in late September 2024. The referendum is intended to gauge public opinion on matters of national importance. The three questions included in the 2025 General Election were:

- Should the Cayman Islands develop cruise berthing infrastructure?
- Do you support the introduction of a national lottery?
- Do you support the decriminalization of small amounts of cannabis?

The legislative process involved drafting and passing a specific referendum bill, The Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling And Cannabis) Act, 2025, as the Cayman Islands does not have a standing referendum law. The bill underwent a 28-day public consultation period before being debated and passed in Parliament on 06 February 2025.

Legal Framework

The elections were conducted in accordance with the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, the Elections Act (2022 Revision), Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling And Cannabis) Act, 2025, and related legislation.

The Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009 is the supreme law of the Cayman Islands, establishing the structure of government, the rights and freedoms of individuals, and the framework for democratic governance. It defines the separation of powers among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches and outlines the rules for elections, referenda, and public administration.

The Elections Act (2022 Revision) governs the conduct of elections in the Cayman Islands, detailing procedures for voter registration, candidate nominations, polling, vote counting, and election offences. It ensures that elections are administered fairly, transparently, and in accordance with democratic principles, setting clear guidelines for election officials, candidates, and electors.

The Referendum (Cruise Berthing Infrastructure, Gambling And Cannabis) Act, 2025 provides the legal basis for holding a national referendum alongside the 2025 General Election on three major issues: the development of cruise berthing infrastructure, the legalization of a national lottery, and the decriminalization of small amounts of cannabis. It outlines the referendum questions, voting procedures, and how results will guide future government decisions, though the outcomes are non-binding.

Electoral Framework

The Cayman Islands adopted the "one man, one vote" (OMOV) electoral system through legislative changes approved by the Legislative Assembly in October 2015. This reform transitioned the territory from multi-member constituencies to 19 single-member electoral districts, ensuring that each voter would cast only one vote. The first general election under this system was held on 24 May 2017.

The Cayman Islands Parliament comprises twenty-one members, with nineteen elected through single-member constituencies on a first-past-the-post basis. There are no term limits for members. The OMOV model, first used in 2017, remains the electoral standard.

Constituency Boundaries

The Electoral Boundary Commission (EBC) of 2015 recommended the number of Members of the Legislative Assembly be increased from 18 to 19 which was accepted and the current boundaries were established. A boundary review was conducted in 2023, after which a report with recommendations on how to address the imbalances of the Cayman Islands' democratic landscape was provided. In a meeting on 27 June 2024 the then UPM government rejected the EBC report and supported a motion to establish a new boundary commission to redo the review. We recommend that an urgent and thorough review be carried out, to address what is now considered a significant size differentiation in the current constituencies, ahead of the next general election to ensure fair and equitable representation across all constituencies.

The electoral system has been further supported by the development of detailed operational manuals and structured training programmes for polling staff. The Elections Office has emphasized enhancing public confidence by increasing transparency in electoral operations, strengthening voter education campaigns, and continually improving administrative procedures to uphold the integrity of the electoral process. The Elections Office demonstrated high levels of transparency, granting Observers full access and providing timely information.

Electors

A person may register as an elector if they were entitled to be registered on the day immediately before the Constitution commenced, or if they are a Caymanian, have attained the age of eighteen, are resident in the Cayman Islands on the date of registration, and have been resident in the Islands for a period or periods totaling at least two out of the four years preceding registration. Additionally, persons who are otherwise qualified but will reach the age of eighteen on or before polling day may also be registered.

As of 01 April 2025, there were 25,643 registered electors, an increase of 2,034 (8.6%) since the last General Election in 2021 of 23,609 registered electors. Of the 25,643 registered electors, 53% were women, and 19% were under the age of 35. The average age across all electors is 52 years old. Youth electors, aged 18-24 years, represented approximately 5.8% of the electoral roll, a 0.9% decrease from 01 April 2021 (6.7%).

In the lead-up to the 2021 General Election, a national voter registration campaign resulted in an 11.4% increase in registered electors. We recommend that similar campaigns be conducted consistently prior to every election cycle to maintain and improve voter participation. Additionally, we encourage the introduction of targeted school-based initiatives to educate younger generations on the importance of voting,

with the goal of increasing registration and turnout among first-time and younger electors.

Candidates

A total of 59 candidates were nominated for the 2025 General Election, 1 candidate withdrew. Of the 58 candidates, 12 were of the Cayman Islands National Party, 10 were of The Caymanian Community Party, 13 were of the People's Progressive Movement, and 23 were independents. Women candidates accounted for 29.3%.

Observers continue to recommend a legal review of candidacy eligibility, particularly relating to dual nationals and individuals with dated nonviolent convictions, to align Caymanian law with international democratic standards.

Electoral Integrity

The election campaign was vibrant and competitive. Campaign spending caps remained at CI\$40,000.00 per candidate as of nomination day, which does not include any pre-contracted arrangements. Candidates in the 2025 General Election are required to submit their campaign expense reports to the Supervisor of Elections by 04 June 2025. Of the 58 candidates, 10.3% did not file their expense reports as required under Section 69 (1) of the Election Act (2022). All 19 of the successful candidates have filed their reports by the due date, albeit some are tied to the party campaign allowance. As per Section 69 (3) the Supervisor of Elections, within ten days, shall publish a summary along with a notice specifying the time and place at which the return and supporting documents may be inspected.

To ensure greater transparency and equity in campaign financing, we recommend that the Elections Act (2022) be reviewed to address existing loopholes in campaign spending limits. We recommend that consideration be given to extending spending limits to include the pre-nomination period, as well as requiring full disclosure of any campaign-related expenditures incurred before nomination. Furthermore, clearer rules and reporting requirements should be established for third-party spending, in-kind contributions, and coordinated campaign efforts among affiliated candidates or parties. Enhanced auditing mechanisms and real-time spending disclosures would also improve enforcement.

Observers found no systematic evidence of vote buying. Isolated incidents of treating were noted at some rallies but did not constitute direct vote buying. Community and familial pressures to vote for certain candidates were observed but not widespread. Recommendations include reinforcing public education against electoral inducements and clarifying the legal definition of "treating".

Political and Referendum Rallies

Observers attended numerous political and referendum rallies. All events were peaceful and conducted without interference. Campaign topics commonly included economic development, cost of living, immigration, and infrastructure. Referendum rallies featured particularly passionate rhetoric. Observers found no credible evidence of misuse of public resources. Public engagement varied, with urban events drawing larger crowds. Overall, political rallies contributed positively to the democratic process by encouraging public engagement and voter participation. However, there were noted gaps in public education and informational resources regarding the referendum questions, particularly those related to the national lottery and cannabis, highlighting the need for more structured outreach in future referendums.

We recommend that future referendums be supported by comprehensive public education campaigns that provide clear, accessible, and balanced information on all referendum questions. This should include easy-to-understand guides, FAQs, and multimedia resources distributed through multiple channels, such as community meetings, social media, traditional media, and official government websites, to ensure electors are well-informed and able to make confident decisions. Enhanced outreach efforts are essential to promote transparency and civic engagement.



Media Environment

While radio broadcasts are regulated by the Utility Regulation and Competition Office (OfReg), other media outlets, such as social media platforms, are not subject to specific regulatory oversight concerning election content. There is no formal industry association or code of conduct governing media practices in the context of elections.

Social media played a significant role in the 2025 election, with most candidates and parties actively using online platforms to promote their campaigns. Electors and media outlets also used these channels to engage in public discourse around

electoral issues. There were observations of disinformation, as well as unsubstantiated claims and accusations that, in some cases, could be considered defamatory.

The mission recommends that steps be taken to improve transparency and accountability in the use of social media during election campaigns. At present, there is no regulatory framework to govern political advertisements, sponsored content, or unofficial publications. This creates an environment where disinformation and undeclared political endorsements can flourish without oversight. We recommend the introduction of clear guidelines or legislation requiring all online campaign material to disclose its source and any affiliation, direct or indirect, with a candidate or political party. This includes requiring paid advertisements or boosted posts on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to include disclaimers identifying the sponsoring individual or entity. Such provisions would enhance public trust in the electoral process and reduce the spread of misleading or anonymous political content online.

During the campaign there was media coverage about banners being damaged and destroyed. The only relevant regulation of this behaviour is damage to private property. In a statement, the Elections Office said, it “is aware of recent reports from political candidates regarding defaced or damaged campaign signs. We take these incidents seriously and remind the public that wilfully damaging property, including election and referendum signage, is a criminal offense under the Cayman Islands Penal Code (2022 Revision).”



Mobile Voting (Stationary and Static Voting)

Mobile voting was conducted between 22-25 April 2025 and was available to individuals who are unable to attend the polling station on Election Day to vote. This includes the following electors: hospitalized, geriatric, and physically impaired, or those who are unable to attend due to the nature of their occupation or service, including those working during Election Day. Procedures were followed uniformly, with agents present at many locations and strict adherence to ballot security.

Mobile voting was categorized by “stationary” and “static”. Stationary voting provided electors who were unable to attend the polls on Election Day the opportunity to visit a polling station ahead of time. Static voting was made available to electors unable to attend the polls, with election staff visiting them at their place of residence to facilitate voting.

There was no visible signage at the mobile (stationary) voting sites indicating the constituency or the type of voting taking place. The only identifiers were signs on the buses parked outside, which may not have been sufficient for all electors.

Clear and visible signage should be placed at mobile (stationary) voting locations to identify the constituency and type of voting. This is especially important as these venues can differ from those used on Election Day, and many electors rely on limited time, such as their lunch break, to vote. Proper signage would enhance accessibility and reduce confusion.

Although not directly observed, a polling agent noted that during mobile (stationary) voting at one location, the main office of the organization, whose premises was being used by the Elections Office, was open and operating during voting hours. While no direct observation was made of visitors entering the office, their main entry door was open upon the Domestic Observer’s arrival.

Facilities used by the Elections Office for any part of the electoral process should be dedicated exclusively to election-related activities during scheduled voting hours. This would help maintain the integrity, neutrality, and orderly conduct of the voting environment.

There were instances where election staff contacted electors scheduled for stationary voting and urged them to arrive as early as possible, despite the designated voting window being from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This appeared to be an effort to expedite the process so that teams could mobilize earlier to accommodate the high number of approved electors requiring static voting. We recommend that future planning take into account the number of approved stationary electors, with time slots adjusted

and communicated accordingly per district to reduce pressure on electors and improve logistical coordination for static voting. It is also recommended that the hours for mobile voting are posted at various high traffic points so that the public is aware and can adjust their schedule accordingly. This year the hours were only seen in an older newspaper article.

We recommend special considerations for static voting be included for the hospitalized, immunocompromised, and geriatric electors. Observations were made that caregivers and electors were uncomfortable with the influx of people attending their place of residency. Alternate polling arrangements or sanitization processes should be in place for those who are immunocompromised or at a high-risk of infection.

During a static voting visit, a Police Officer accompanied the Elections Office staff in the transport vehicle and was present inside the home while electors cast their votes. While in this instance the electors did not appear uncomfortable, it was previously observed in the 2021 General Election that the presence of uniformed police officers during voting can be intimidating, particularly in private residences.

As previously recommended, Police Officers should not enter homes during static voting unless absolutely necessary for safety reasons. Their presence should be limited to providing external support, in order to preserve voter privacy and comfort.

Postal Ballots

Postal voting was available for eligible overseas electors and persons who would be traveling on Election Day. The Elections Office issued 1,037 postal ballots. The observed issuance of the final postal ballots was organized and detailed. Although minor concerns regarding overseas delivery timelines were noted, we recommend increasing the window between the final postal ballot issuance and Election Day, to ensure adequate processing and shipping time.

It was observed that a voting booth was placed in the reception area of the Elections Office for electors collecting their postal ballot who chose to complete their ballots on-site. This space is a high-traffic area, with people frequently entering, exiting, and waiting, offering limited privacy, particularly on postal ballot issuing days.

To ensure consistency with mobile and Election Day procedures, we recommend that a private room be designated for electors collecting and completing their postal ballots at the Elections Office. This would enhance privacy, maintain uniform standards, and uphold the integrity of the voting process.

Election Day

On Election Day, candidates and/or their agents were present at all polling locations, observing the voting process without obstructing voter privacy. Polling staff demonstrated a strong understanding of the procedures, with stations opening and closing on time, and maintained effective communication with the Command Centre. The general conduct of Elections Office staff was detailed and professional.

Polling Station Check-In

Observations were made that electors addresses were not accurate or updated and it became apparent that there was misconception among electors on how the update process works. We recommend that a clean-up campaign be held to update electors addresses and assigned electoral districts. A complete review of the registered electors list should be prioritized before the next general election.

Long queues were observed in some electoral districts as electors waited to retrieve their mobile phones after voting. To prevent delays and reduce confusion, we recommend enhanced public awareness through media campaigns and clear signage at the entrances of restriction zones and parking areas. This should emphasize that mobile phones are not permitted within the polling area and encourage electors to leave their devices in their vehicles or at home.

Polling Station

There were noticeable inconsistencies in how poll clerks executed their duties across various polling stations. In some locations, clerks announced electors' full details including: name, address, and occupation, while others limited the announcement to only the elector's name. The delegation of responsibilities also varied, with some polling stations demonstrated clear role assignments and smooth coordination, while others appeared disorganized, leading to delays during the close of polls and clerks needing to catch up on outstanding tasks.

We recommend implementing and ensuring the enforcement of standardized procedures and clearly defined responsibilities for each poll clerk across all polling stations to promote consistency, accuracy, and efficiency in the voting process.

To eliminate inconsistencies and improve line flow and wait times, the Elections Office may wish to consider producing a standardized demonstration video on how to vote. This video could cover the processes for in-person voting on Election Day, mobile voting, and postal voting, using generic names and examples similar to those

used in official training. Such a resource would help ensure electors are well-informed and confident in the process before arriving to vote, contributing to a smoother and more efficient experience at the polls.

Candidates were observed walking through polling stations during voting hours to check on their agents. While this process is intended as oversight, it can inadvertently lead to perceptions of influence or intimidation among electors. To preserve the neutrality and integrity of the polling environment, we recommend that candidates not be permitted to enter polling stations on Election Day unless casting their own vote. Furthermore, it is advised that candidates be encouraged to vote in advance, through early voting options, to minimize their presence and reduce any potential for perceived interference.

Accessibility and Security

Polling stations were generally accessible to persons with accessibility needs, with no observed barriers to wheelchair access and the presence of designated voting booths for individuals requiring accommodations. When electors required assistance with voting, some officers asked electors to whisper their choice rather than point to it, which may raise concerns around transparency and voter intent. To promote consistency and uphold best practices, we recommend the implementation of a standardized approach, particularly regarding procedures for assisting electors with accessibility needs, across all electoral districts.

Concerns were noted regarding the distance between available parking and some polling stations. In several electoral districts, limited parking and no directional signage made access more challenging. We recommend detailed signage and the development and publication of a parking plan for each electoral district to enhance accessibility, improve safety and the overall experience for electors.

Counting and Results

Electors were not required to vote on both the candidate selection and all referendum questions; if the candidate portion or an individual referendum question was left blank, that specific selection was considered “Rejected” during the counting process. Each component of the ballot, the candidate vote and each referendum question, was counted independently. We found the process to be well-designed and comprehensive, supporting both the accuracy of statistical reporting and the ability of electors to cast their votes according to their preferences. The addition of referendum questions significantly extended the counting process. Moving forward, considerations and clearly documented procedures should be developed based on

this experience to determine the most efficient approach for managing future general elections and referendums.

An incident was noted in which three postal ballots intended for one electoral district were found in the ballot box of another electoral district. We recommend a thorough review of the postal ballot receipt and handling procedures to ensure accurate labelling and the correct placement of ballots into their designated boxes.

There were regularly scheduled updates on Compass TV. Results were published online through the official Elections Office statistics page. Although there were delays in updating several Electoral Districts, the website was noted to be functional in most areas.

Concerns were raised in the media regarding candidate behavior at polling stations and details regarding the transport and handling of ballot boxes in specific electoral districts. While no observations were made by Domestic Observers on these matters, we recommend that the Elections Office consider reviewing these reports to determine their validity and whether further investigation or clarification is warranted.

A total of 18,839 electors cast their ballots on Election Day, with 87.2% having voted by 3:00 PM. During the counting process, election staff showed visible signs of exhaustion, with some working nearly 24 hours straight. Based on the voting statistics, we recommend amendments to the Elections Act (2022) to shorten the voting window to close at 3:00 PM. This adjustment would allow for earlier commencement of the counting process and help reduce the workload and stress on election officers. If a shortened window is not adopted, additional measures such as rotating shifts or increasing staff capacity during counting should be explored to safeguard both the integrity of the process and the well-being of election staff.



Domestic Election Observer Mission Team

There was a general misconception among the public that the Domestic Election and Referendum Observer Mission served as a platform for voicing their concerns or opinions, particularly in the days following Election Day. Additionally, some confusion was noted regarding the distinction between Domestic and International Observer Missions.

To enhance public understanding and manage expectations, clearer communication is needed regarding the roles and responsibilities of Domestic Observers. Public education efforts should include definitions and explanations of both Domestic and International Observer Missions to prevent future misunderstandings.

To allow for more in-depth and continuous observation, it is recommended that a standing Domestic Election Observation Mission be established. This mission should consist of 3–5 members with prior experience as domestic observers or relevant prior experience working with the Elections Office. Their involvement would ensure consistent, informed observer coverage throughout the pre-election period. Additionally, the mission would serve as an established body to monitor and publicly report on the status of recommendations from previous observation reports, helping to ensure these remain visible, prioritized, and accessible to the public. While implementation ultimately rests with Parliament and relevant authorities, the mission can play a valuable role in maintaining momentum and transparency around these reforms.

During an election year, the mission should be expanded to include additional members, bringing the total number of observers to at least nine. These observers should be appointed through an open application process, with applications accepted either during the first week of February or immediately upon the dissolution of Parliament, whichever occurs first. Shortlisting should take place the day after Nomination Day to ensure that individuals with close ties to nominated candidates are excluded. Final observer appointments should be made within 14–21 days of Nomination Day.

Appointing observers closer to Election Day limited the time available to fully understand the Terms of Reference, develop observation plans, and conduct thorough monitoring. As a result, some important campaign activities, such as rallies and the initial issuance of postal ballots, were not observed.

Summary of Recommendations

1. Constituency Boundaries

- An urgent and thorough review of constituency boundaries should be carried out before the next general election to address size imbalances and ensure fair representation.

2. Electors

- Conduct consistent voter registration campaigns prior to each election cycle.
- Introduce targeted school-based initiatives to educate younger voters and increase participation.

3. Candidates

- Undertake a legal review of candidacy eligibility, particularly regarding dual nationals and individuals with dated nonviolent convictions, to align with international democratic standards.

4. Campaign Finance / Electoral Integrity

- Review the Elections Act (2022) to:
 - Extend campaign spending limits to include the pre-nomination period.
 - Require disclosure of pre-nomination expenditures.
 - Establish clear rules and reporting requirements for third-party spending, in-kind contributions, and coordinated campaigning.
 - Implement stronger auditing mechanisms and real-time spending disclosures.
- Reinforce public education on electoral inducements.
- Clarify the legal definition of "treating."

5. Referendum Public Education

- Support future referendums with comprehensive public education campaigns, including:
 - Easy-to-understand guides, FAQs, and multimedia resources.
 - Distribution through community meetings, social media, traditional media, and official websites.

6. Social Media and Disinformation

- Introduce legislation or guidelines requiring all online campaign material to:
 - Disclose the source and political affiliation (if any).
 - Include disclaimers on paid advertisements or boosted posts.

7. Mobile Voting

- Provide clear and visible signage at mobile (stationary) voting locations to indicate constituency and type of voting.
- Ensure facilities used by the Elections Office are dedicated solely to election purposes during voting hours.
- Adjust stationary voting time slots per district based on approved electors and communicate this clearly.
- Post mobile voting hours at high-traffic public locations.
- Include special considerations for hospitalized, immunocompromised, and geriatric electors (e.g., alternate polling or enhanced sanitization).
- Police officers should not enter homes during static voting unless absolutely necessary for safety reasons.

8. Postal Voting

- Increase the time between the final postal ballot issuance and Election Day to allow for processing and delivery.
- Provide a private room at the Elections Office for electors completing postal ballots on-site to enhance privacy and consistency.

9. Polling Station Check-In

- Launch a campaign to update electors' addresses and assigned districts.
- Conduct a complete review of the registered electors list before the next election.
- Improve signage and public awareness to deter electors from bringing mobile phones into polling areas.

10. Polling Station Operations

- Implement and enforce standardized procedures and role definitions for poll clerks.
- Produce a standardized “how to vote” demonstration video covering in-person, mobile, and postal voting processes.
- Prohibit candidates from entering polling stations on Election Day unless casting their own vote.

- Encourage candidates to vote early to reduce their presence at polling stations.

11. Accessibility and Security

- Standardize procedures for assisting electors with accessibility needs (e.g., whispering vs pointing).
- Develop and publish parking plans with directional signage for each electoral district.

12. Counting and Results

- Develop and document procedures to manage the extended counting process caused by referendum questions.
- Review postal ballot receipt and handling procedures to prevent ballot misplacement.
- Investigate or address concerns raised in the media regarding candidate behavior and ballot box transport.
- Amend the Elections Act (2022) to allow polls to close earlier based on elector polling statistics or implement staff rotations to reduce fatigue during counting.

13. Observer Framework

- Improve public education on the roles of Domestic vs. International Observer Missions.
- Establish a **standing Domestic Election Observation Mission** with 3–5 experienced members to:
 - Monitor political activity leading up to Nomination Day.
 - Track and publicly report on recommendation statuses from past reports.
- Expand the mission to at least 9 members during an election year through an open application process:
 - Applications open the first week of February or upon dissolution of Parliament.
 - Shortlisting occurs immediately after Nomination Day to avoid conflicts of interest.
- Final observer appointments should be made within 14-21 days of Nomination Day to allow adequate preparation time.

End of Report

The 2025 General Election and Referendum Cayman Islands Domestic Observer Mission Final Report

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Legal Notice:

Each 2025 Domestic Election and Referendum Observer (Domestic Observer), jointly and severally, exercised care and diligence in making observations and preparing this Report, relying on information believed to be accurate and reliable. Other than an honorarium, no Domestic Observer received payment for their participation.

As volunteers, each Domestic Observer undertook their responsibilities in good faith and to the best of their abilities.

No Domestic Observer, nor any of their agents or heirs, makes any representation, warranty, or accepts any liability in connection with their appointment as an Observer or the contents of this Report, including its suitability for any particular purpose.

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