

# QUESTIONS MEMBERS ASK ABOUT BECOMING AN AFFILIATED SUPPORTER



## WHY SHOULD WE SIGN UP?

Our union was there when the Labour Party was founded, it's the right of GMB members to have a say in who leads it. In the months ahead lots of Lords and Baronesses, journos and think tanks will have their say, we want to make sure GMB have theirs too.

## WHAT DOES SIGNING UP ALLOW ME TO DO?

Signing up means you'll become a Trade Union Affiliated Supporter of the Labour Party, that means you can:

- Vote in the contest to choose Labour's Leader
- Vote in the contest to choose Labour's Deputy Leader
- Vote to choose Labour's London Mayoral candidate (if you're a member living in London)
- Receive invitations to Labour Party meetings and events and if you'd like to, you can attend Labour Party branch meetings and attend Party conference.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I SIGN UP?

When you sign up (either on a paper form or online) GMB will pass your details to the Labour Party. You'll be signing up as what's called a 'Labour Party affiliated supporter'. Unless you've opted out of the GMB political fund, you already pay a political levy to the Labour Party so signing up is completely free.

The Labour Party will check you're registered to vote (that's a requirement of getting a vote in the contest) and if you're registered you'll be added to their system as an Affiliated Supporter. You'll get information from the Labour Party from time to time and they might get in touch to check you're happy to be a Labour Party Affiliated Supporter from GMB.

## DOES IT MATTER WHO LEADS LABOUR?

Yes. Just from the plans announced by the Tory government already, we know that many members will be hit by a freeze in working families tax credits and child benefit, making household budgets even tighter. That's just one of the reasons why it's incredibly important that working people have a say in politics. Our link to the Labour Party means that the voices of hundreds of thousands of people like us are heard. That's why we're asking GMB members to sign up to have a say in where Labour goes next.

## CAN I SIGN UP IF I'M ALREADY A PARTY MEMBER?

There's no need to. Your Party membership gives you full rights within the Party. The leadership contests will be run using a 'one member, one vote' system so signing up again wouldn't get you an extra vote. You'll get your Party ballot paper as usual.

**ONLINE SIGN UP TO BE A SUPPORTER:**  
[www.unionstogether.org.uk/our\\_voice](http://www.unionstogether.org.uk/our_voice)

**UNIONLINE**  
YOUR TRADE UNION LAW FIRM  
0300 333 0303  
[www.unionline.co.uk](http://www.unionline.co.uk)