

Simpol



Simpol-UK

The simultaneous policy



Elections and candidates

Simultaneous Policy Supporters pledge to vote for any candidate at elections, within reason, who pledges to implement Simpol alongside other governments when all, or sufficient, other governments have made the same pledge, or to encourage their preferred party to make the pledge. To qualify to receive the votes of Simpol Supporters, candidates are required to sign the candidate's pledge (see *The candidate's pledge form*). To encourage candidates to sign the pledge, and to ensure Simpol supporting candidates are elected, campaigners need to develop a strategy for before and during elections.

Build a relationship with candidates

At all times Simpol supporters and local groups can raise awareness of Simpol to increase the number of Adopters (see the sheet *Raising awareness of Simpol*).

It is also important to encourage sitting politicians, political parties and potential election candidates to support Simpol, even if the next election is a long way off. Remember Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) can sign the candidate's pledge at any time (see *Persuading politicians to sign the pledge to implement Simpol*).

As an individual Simpol Adopter you can write to your MP, MEP, political parties and party candidates. Remember, implementing Simpol will benefit politicians as it frees them from destructive competition with other nations to enable them to address global problems in a cooperative way. It is far better for the campaign if politicians support Simpol on its merits and it is best to approach them on this basis rather than simply warning them that they will not be elected if they do not sign the Simpol pledge. However, mention as well that as a Simpol Adopter you will vote only for politicians who sign the candidate's pledge or, if you are focusing on your preferred party, explain the voting strategy and encourage the candidate to sign up to be eligible for the votes of other Simpol Supporters. Check the updates on the Simpol-UK website and if you see they have already signed the pledge, welcome this. If they haven't yet signed, ask them to do so, even if another candidate has already signed. Ideally **all** candidates will support Simpol, then we are certain that one of them will be elected and the day for Simpol to be implemented will draw closer.

If your local group is organising a policy forum, you can invite politicians to participate. In this way they will learn more about Simpol and see that there is an active local campaign. Remember, politicians can also become Simpol Supporters (though they do not have to adopt to sign the candidate's pledge).

Once a politician has signed the candidate's pledge, your local group can involve them in local publicity events to demonstrate that the Simpol strategy is succeeding. Politicians thrive on publicity and will generally be pleased to be involved. However, remember to highlight that candidates from other parties can, and are, also supporting Simpol so your group is not linked too closely with one particular party.

Once an election is called

Once an election has been called Simpol really does need to mobilise. Leafleting door-to-door is a great way to raise awareness of Simpol. There are regulations limiting how much candidates can spend on their election publicity. If you are publicising the names of Simpol-supporting candidates, this may be counted in their election expenses. It is better, therefore, not to name candidates in your leaflets (Simpol-UK can help with templates for leaflets to adapt for local use). Leave it to candidates to publicise their support for Simpol in their own materials. You can publicise names of candidates on websites, in press releases and at public meetings. These can be readily updated as more candidates come on board.

Your local group will coordinate leafleting. It is a good idea to use a photocopier to blow up a map of the area covered by your local group, so that streets can be assigned to teams of volunteers using a code, such as shading in a particular colour. Once leaflets have been delivered, fill in the street with another colour, so you can easily see how much has been done. Your local group will receive details of new Adopters from Simpol-UK and can request feedback on how many people are accessing your group website home page to gauge impact.

You can attend question-time events run during the election campaign to ask candidates questions about Simpol, call phone-in programmes and write letters to the local press. The more the public and candidates hear about Simpol, the better.

Once you have managed to persuade a candidate to sign the candidate's pledge, your Simpol campaign will go through a gear change in publicity and support. Those who questioned the Simpol strategy will see that it is making progress. Simpol will become an election issue and the media will pay more attention to the stance of all candidates on Simpol. This will encourage other candidates to sign the pledge.

Choosing who to vote for

Voting is conducted in the secrecy of the voting booth and no-one can dictate how someone votes. Simpol Supporters undertake to vote for any candidate, within reason, who has signed the pledge to implement Simpol, or to encourage your preferred party to support Simpol. It is for each Supporter to decide whether a candidate is 'within reason' or other factors make it impossible to vote for them.

Given a choice of several Simpol-supporting candidates, Supporters could vote based on the other policies these candidates have for the more immediate term, policies for the period before Simpol is implemented. Though politicians are restricted in their action by the present global system, they will still run the country in different ways.

Alternatively, you can choose between Simpol supporting candidates based on their support for Simpol. Your local group should pursue this route. A candidate may have signed the candidate's pledge only to gain votes, while another may give Simpol their whole-hearted support. The local group can highlight these differences by questioning the candidates on what they will do in the shorter term to promote Simpol and Simpol values. In European Parliament elections, where people vote for parties rather than the individual candidates, the local group can recommend Simpol Supporters support the party with most Simpol supporting candidates on their list. You may also wish to consider how long a candidate has supported Simpol. If the sitting representative signed up long before the election, this may carry more weight than if they only sign when they see rival candidates doing so.

The candidate's pledge

When presenting the candidate's pledge to politicians, it is important to make it clear that making the pledge is not the same as Supporting SP. Occasionally politicians have been put off supporting Simpol in the belief that it means they must vote in line with Simpol policies and candidates rather than their own party's. Some have suggested, incorrectly, that Simpol is a political party and they cannot support a party other than their own. To give clarity, the candidate's pledge makes it clear that it is a provisional undertaking to vote, when the time comes, to implement Simpol and to encourage members of their party to support Simpol. Candidates can, of course, also become Simpol Supporters. In both cases, they sign in their own names, not in the name of their party. If the party wishes to support Simpol as official policy it should discuss this directly with Simpol-UK.

Remember to send completed candidates' pledges to Simpol-UK!