

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

The Commission has sought the advice of the Solicitor General who advised as follows:

“While there is no express prohibition in law against the use of an outline map of Tobago as a party symbol, the Commission should consider that it is generally recommended that symbols used by political parties should be of a neutral design, without religious, racial, political or sentimental significance.

On that basis, the use of an outline map of Tobago as a political symbol may be regarded as being inappropriate.

Consequently, the Commission, in the exercise of its discretion should not approve the application.

Additionally, as requested Symbol that is similar to what was previously assigned another Political Party will not be approved by the Commission. If a Symbol was not approved by the Commission, the Political Leader is asked to consider the use of another Symbol. The Process starts over when a revised Symbol is submitted.

Political Parties that have already been assigned Symbols by the Commission may also request an amendment to the Name of the Party and/or Symbol.

You are invited to visit the Commission’s website at www.ebctt.com for a list of symbols approved by the Commission.

ASSIGNMENT OF SYMBOLS TO POLITICAL PARTIES



INTRODUCTION:

There is a grave misconception that the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Commission) registers Political Parties. The fact is the Commission does not register Political Parties, rather, the Commission assigns Symbols to Political Parties.

Election Rule 23(2) of the Representation of the People Act chapter 2:01, Laws of Trinidad & Tobago, states as follows:

23(2) “On the application of any political party desirous of using at an election the same symbol for all its candidates at the election (in these Rules referred to as the party symbol”), which application shall be made not later than three days after the publication of the election notice for the election, the Commission may assign to such party the party symbol so applied for, and the symbol shall thereupon become the party symbol of the party for the election and all subsequent elections, unless and until, on application made as above, another party symbol is assigned to the political party.”

The following five (5) steps provide information on the process of assigning a Symbol to a Political Party.

Step 1

Political Parties requesting the use of a Symbol are required to submit a signed letter addressed to either the Chairman or Chief Election Officer of the Commission. The letter must contain the following:

- Name of the Party and Acronym, if any;
- Political Leader or Senior Member in the party;
- Name and short description of the Symbol;
- Copy of Symbol; and
- Contact information

Step 2

The request is sent to the Commission for approval at its regularly scheduled meetings on the last Thursday of every month.

Step 3

Once approved, the Political Leader/Senior Member of the party will be notified and the Symbol is sent to the Government Printer for preparation of the “Line Drawing”.

Step 4

The completed “Line Drawing” is sent to the Political Leader/Senior Member of the Party for written approval.

Step 5

When the Commission receives approval of the “Line Drawing” it is returned to the Government Printer for publication in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette.