

# Kingston Business Choice Award 2026 FAQ

## 1. Who can vote?

Anyone can vote, including Kingston residents, businesses and supporters of the finalists. Each person may vote once.

## 2. How do you ensure the voting process is fair?

The Kingston Business Choice Award is designed to reflect the voice of our local community while maintaining a transparent and fair process.

To ensure this, the following measures apply:

- **One vote per person.** Each individual may submit a single vote.
- **Email verification.** Voters are required to provide an email address to help ensure fair participation.
- **Monitoring for duplicate or automated votes.** Voting activity is reviewed to identify duplicate submissions or unusual patterns\*.  
\*Large clusters of votes submitted within seconds; repeated votes from very similar email formats; automated-style addresses (randomised characters), etc.
- **No incentivised voting.** Finalists may encourage their communities to participate, but offering rewards or incentives for votes is not permitted (*see Q4 for further information*).
- **Organiser oversight.** The organisers reserves the right to review and remove votes that appear duplicated, automated, or inconsistent with fair participation.

## 3. How is the winner selected?

Finalists have already been chosen by an independent judging panel across the awards categories. The Kingston Business Choice Award is an additional recognition determined by public vote.

## 4. Can finalists promote the vote?

Yes, finalists are welcome to share the voting link with their communities, customers and networks.

However, to maintain a fair voting process, finalists must not offer incentives, rewards or benefits in exchange for votes (including competitions, discounts, giveaways or similar promotions).

The independent organisers (Kingston Chamber of Commerce) will monitor voting activity and promotional behaviour. Where incentivised voting or other attempts to unfairly influence the outcome are identified, the organisers reserve the right to review the votes received and disqualify the finalist (and associated votes) from the Kingston Business Choice Award if necessary.

## 5. Does this influence the judged awards?

No; the Kingston Business Choice Award is separate from the judged categories.