

Candidates and agents Briefing

Local government elections

Topics

- who's who
- key dates of the election timetable
- staying safe – covid considerations
- qualifications
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- nominations
- agents
- postal votes
- the poll
- counting of votes
- candidate spending
- contacts

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Who's who

- **The Returning Officer** is the person responsible for running the elections. The Returning Officer is Sara Todd.
- **The Electoral Registration Officer** is responsible for maintaining the register of electors and absent voters' lists. The Electoral Registration Officer is Sara Todd.
- Contact details are provided later

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Election timetable

Publication of Notice of Election	Not later than Monday 28 th March
Nominations commence	10 am - Tuesday 29 th March
Close of nominations	4pm – Tuesday 5 th April
Notification of appointment of election agents	4pm – Tuesday 5 th April
Publication of statement of persons nominated	4pm – Wednesday 6 th April
Deadline for applications to register to vote	Midnight – Thursday 14 th April
Deadline for new postal vote applications /changes to existing postal or proxy vote applications	5pm – Tuesday 19 th April
Publication of notice of poll/situation of polling stations	Tuesday 26 th April

Election timetable (cont'd)

Deadline for applications for new proxy votes	5pm – Tuesday 26 th April
Appointment of counting and polling agents	Wednesday 27 th April
Polling day	Thursday 5 th May – 7am to 10pm
Deadline to apply to vote by proxy on grounds of medical emergency or if unexpectedly called away because of employment or service	5pm – polling day
Replacement for lost/spoilt postal votes ends	5pm – polling day
Alterations to register to correct clerical error	9pm – polling day
Return of election expenses	+ 35 days from result

Staying safe – Covid considerations

General public health principles that everyone should follow in all aspects of daily life, including participating in elections:

- Limit close contact with others
- Clean hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Wear a face covering where appropriate
- No-one should attend any electoral events if they are unwell, symptomatic with COVID-19, or are legally required to self-isolate

Qualifications

- Candidates must satisfy criteria on the day they are nominated **and** on polling day:
 - be at least 18 years of age
 - be a British, qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or national of an EU member state.
- Also at least one of the following:
 - Registered local government elector for local authority area
 - Occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the local authority area during the whole 12 months preceding nomination
 - Principal or only place of work (including unpaid) during last 12 months in local authority area
 - Lived in the local authority area during the last 12 months

Disqualifications

A person **cannot** be a candidate if they:

- are **employed by the local authority** or hold a paid office under the authority (including joint boards or committees). Candidates may be ‘employed by the local authority’ if they work at certain schools, fire services, police or health services
- are subject of a **Bankruptcy Restrictions Order** (or interim restrictions order)
- have been sentenced to a term of **imprisonment** of three months or more (inc. suspended sentence) without option of a fine, during the 5 years before polling day
- are serving a disqualification due to being found guilty of a **corrupt or illegal practice** by an election court
- hold a **politically restricted post**

Submitting nomination papers

- The documents that must be submitted by all candidates by 4pm Tuesday 5th April are
 - the nomination form
 - their home address form
 - the consent to nomination
- Party candidates will also need to submit, by 4pm:
 - A certificate authorising the use of a party name/ registered description on the ballot paper
 - A written request to use one of the party's emblems on the ballot paper (optional)

Submitting nomination papers

- Take care when completing your nomination papers, as mistakes may invalidate your nomination
- Complete nomination papers early and arrange for us to provide an informal check
- The nomination form, home address form and consent to nomination **must be delivered by hand** and cannot be submitted by post, fax, email or other electronic means.

Nomination form

- Include your full name
- Optional: use commonly used name box(es) if commonly known by a name other than actual name and wish to use it instead. But you cannot use your first name as a commonly used name to exclude your middle name.
- Description field – 3 options:
 - leave blank
 - Independent
 - party candidates can use party name or description authorised by a certificate issued by or on behalf of the Nominating Officer

Nomination form

- Subscribers: 10 subscribers are required for elections
- Must sign & print and after their names. Check details of subscribers against electoral register
- Only ask subscribers to sign **after** completing the name, address and description fields on the form
- When collecting signatures, it is important that you follow the latest government guidance on how to stay safe and stop the spread of coronavirus
- Data protection requirements

1a – Nomination paper		Office use only			
Local government election in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
*ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS / A COUNCILLOR for the					
electoral division/ward of the					
county/district/London borough of *Delete whichever is inappropriate					
Date of election:					

We, the undersigned, being local government electors for the said *electoral division/ ward, do hereby nominate the under-mentioned person as a candidate at the said election

Candidate's Details	
Candidate's surname	Mr/Mrs/Miss/ Ms/Dr/Other
Other forenames in full	
Commonly used surname (if any)	
Commonly used forenames (if any)	
Description (if any) Use no more than six words (see note 5)	

	Signature	Print name	Electoral number	
			Polling District	Elector Number
Proposer				
Seconder				
We, the undersigned, being local government electors for the said *electoral division/ ward, do hereby assent to the foregoing nomination				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Home address form

- Part 1 of the home address form must state:
 - your full name and home address in full
 - your qualifying address, or, where you have declared on your consent to nomination that you meet more than one qualification, your qualifying addresses
 - which of the qualifications your qualifying address or addresses relate to (a, b, c and/or d)
 - the full name and the home address in full of the witness to your consent to nomination

1b – Home address form		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
*ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS / A COUNCILLOR for the					
		*electoral division/ward of the			
*county/district/London borough of *Delete whichever is inappropriate					
Date of election:					

You must complete Part 1

Only complete Part 2 if you do not wish your home address to be made public

Part 1: To be completed by all candidates in England	
Full name of candidate	
Home address (in full)	
Qualifying address: Add your qualifying address, or qualifying addresses (in full) to each of the relevant qualifications below (you can complete more than one qualification).	
Qualifications that apply (tick those which apply)	Address
(a) I am registered as a local government elector for the area of the *county/district/London borough named above	
(b) I have during the whole of the preceding 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the area named above	
(c) my principal or only place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the *county/district/London borough named above	
(d) I have during the whole of the preceding 12 months resided in the *county/district or London borough named above	
Witness details	
Full name of the person who will witness the candidate's consent to nomination form	
Full home address of the person who will witness the candidate's consent to nomination form	

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Home address form (cont.)

- Part 2 of the home address form must be completed if you do not want your address to be made public:
 - The name of the relevant area in which your home address is situated (if your home address is in the UK),
 - if you live outside the UK, the name of the country in which your home address is situated.

Part 2: To be completed only if you do not wish your home address to be made public.	
Note: Please submit this part (part 2) of the home address form with your nomination papers, even if your home address is to be made public.	
If you request that your home address is not made public then your address will not appear on the statement of persons nominated, notice of poll or the ballot paper. Instead the name of the relevant area in which your home address is situated (or country, if outside the UK), as explained below, will appear on the statement of persons nominated, notice of poll and the ballot papers.	
Statement: I require my home address not to be made public	
The relevant area my home address is situated in:	(insert name of relevant area) ²
OR	
My home address is situated outside the UK. My home address is situated in:	(insert name of country)
Signature of candidate (only required where Part 2 above has been completed)	
Candidate's signature:	
Date:	

Deliver both Parts 1 and 2 with the nomination paper to the Returning Officer by no later than **4pm** on the last day to deliver nominations

² the name of the "relevant area" in which your home address is situated (if your home address is in the UK)

- **For home addresses in England:**
 - if the address is within a district for which there is a district council, that district;
 - if the address is within a county in which there are no districts with councils, that county;
 - if the address is within a London borough, that London borough;
 - if the address is within the City of London (including the Inner and Middle Temples), the City of London; and
 - if the address is within the Isles of Scilly, the Isles of Scilly
- **For home addresses in Wales:**
 - if the address is within a county, that county;
 - if the address is within a county borough, that county borough
- **For home addresses in Scotland:**
 - the local government area in which the address is situated
- **For home addresses in Northern Ireland:**
 - the local government district in which the address is situated

Note: The relevant area should be given in the format described above and is not the ward or parish, nor should the local authority name be given in full

Consent to nomination form

- Must include:
 - name
 - which area standing in
 - confirmation of qualification(s) that apply (at least 1, but select all that apply)
 - date of birth & signature
 - date of consent
 - witness' name, and signature

1c – Candidate’s consent to nomination	Office use only			
Local government elections in England	Date received	Time received	Initials	No

*You must declare that you meet at least one of the listed qualification(s) below. **To do this, strike through any that do not apply.** Any qualification(s) that apply must match the information given on your home address form.

Date of election:			
I (name in full):			
hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate for election as councillor for the:		*electoral division/ ward	
of the *county/district/London borough of:			
I declare that on the day of my nomination, I am qualified and that, if there is a poll on the day of election, I will be qualified to be so elected by virtue of being on that day or those days a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, who has attained the age of 18 years and that:			
*a. I am registered as a local government elector for the area of the *county/district/London borough named above; or			
*b. I have during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day, or those days, occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the area named above; or			
*c. my principal or only place of work during those 12 months has been in the *county/district/London borough named above; or			
*d I have during the whole of those 12 months resided in the *county/district or London borough named above.			
I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief I am not disqualified for being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in, or decision made under, section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 or section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 (copies of which are printed overleaf), and I do not hold a politically restricted post, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, under a local authority, within the meaning of that Part.			
Date of birth:	Signature:	Date of consent:	
Witness: I confirm the above-mentioned candidate signed the declaration in my presence.			
Witness (name in full):			
Witness's signature:			

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Certificate of authorisation

- Party candidates must have written permission to use the party name/description from the Nominating Officer (or a person authorised to act on their behalf)
- The certificate may:
 - allow the use of the party name or a particular description
 - allow candidate to choose whether to use the party name or any of the descriptions registered with the Electoral Commission
- Must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday 5th April

2 – Certificate of authorisation	Office use only			
Local government elections in England	Date received	Time received	Initials	No

To accompany the nomination of a candidate standing on behalf of a registered political party. (Note: candidates standing on behalf of two or more parties require a certificate from each party and each must allow the same registered joint description to be used).

This certificate must be issued by the registered Nominating Officer of the party or by a person authorised to sign on their behalf.

This certificate authorises the candidate to use a specific registered description or the name of the party as registered with the Electoral Commission, or to use 'any registered description or the party name as registered with the Electoral Commission'.

This authorised party name or description can then be included by the candidate on the nomination form. It is this which will appear as their description on the ballot paper. Party names and registered descriptions are listed on the Electoral Commission's website (<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk>).

Details of candidate to be authorised and the allowed description/party name	
Ward/division name:	Date of election:
The candidate (name in full):	
Name of political party:	Political party registered with the Electoral Commission
I hereby certify that the candidate may include the following registered description or party name in their nomination form:	
Note: it is an offence to sign this form if you are not the party's registered nominating officer or authorised to do so by the party's registered nominating officer	
Signature of party's registered Nominating Officer (or person authorised by the registered Nominating Officer):	
Name of person signing this form:	
Date:	

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Emblem request form

- Party candidates can ask for an emblem to be printed on the ballot paper
- Emblem request form must be submitted by 4pm Tuesday 5th April
- Party candidates should supply an electronic version of the emblem to the Returning Officer if required

3 – Request for a party emblem Local government elections in England	Office use only			
	Date received	Time received	Initials	No

This form is for a candidate of a political party who is subject to a certificate of authorisation and who wishes to have a party emblem printed on the ballot paper next to their name.

Party emblems are listed on the Electoral Commission's website (<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk>).

This form must be signed by the candidate.

Candidate's request for use of an emblem			
Ward/division name:		Date of election:	
Candidate name in full:			
I request that the ballot paper shall contain, against my name, the following registered emblem (please identify which emblem if the party has registered more than one):			
Emblem to be used (Please use name or description as on the Electoral Commission's website):			
Candidate's signature:			
Date:			

Joint candidates

- Nominated by **more than one party**
- May use registered joint descriptions
 - must be supported by certificate of authorisation **from each party**
- May use one emblem of one of the parties but there are no joint emblems

Election agent

- Responsible for the proper management of your election campaign; particularly its financial management.
- Notification of appointment must reach the RO by 4pm - Tuesday 5th April. Form is included in nomination pack.
- You will become your own agent by default if none is appointed.

4 – Notification of an election agent		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
Ward/division name					
Date of election:					

Candidate's notification of their election agent	
I, (Candidate name in full):	
Hereby declare that the name and address of my election agent is:	
Agent's name:	
Agent's address (in full):	
The office address of my election agent to which all claims, notices, legal process and the other documents may be sent is:	
Agent's office address (in full):	
Candidate's signature (or of person authorised to act on behalf of candidate):	
Date:	
Confirmation of acceptance by election agent	
I [agent named above] confirm my acceptance as the election agent for the above named candidate. I understand that I must carry out my duties according to law. I understand that there are penalties if I fail to fulfil my duties according to law.	
Agent's signature:	
Date:	

Agent's other details in case of query (optional – will not be published)	
Home telephone:	
Work telephone:	
Mobile telephone:	
Email address:	

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Other agents

- Other agents can be appointed to attend postal vote openings, polling stations and the count on your behalf:
 - You must give notice in writing of any people appointed as polling and counting agents by Wednesday 27th April
 - The appointment of postal voting agents attending a particular opening session must be made before the start of the session. We will give 48 hours' notice.

Access to electoral register/absent voting lists

- Access by candidates – once you **officially** become a candidate:
 - earliest, on Monday 28th March if you, or others declared yourself a candidate
 - once you or others have declared yourself a candidate after this date / date you submit your nomination papers
- Make **written** request to the ERO – forms are available from the office / are included in your nomination pack.

Access to
electoral
register /
absent voting
lists

- Only use data for permitted purposes
 - to complete the nomination form
 - to help you campaign
 - to check that donations/loans are permissible

Registration

- As a candidate you are uniquely placed to encourage people to register to vote.
- You should encourage people to register as soon as possible.
- The deadline for applying for the election is Thursday 14th April.
- Individuals can apply to register online at **<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>**. It only takes a few minutes.

Registration

- When discussing registering to vote with individuals, you will need to make them aware that they will need to provide:
 - their National Insurance number
 - date of birth and address
- People who do not have / cannot retrieve their National Insurance number can still register, but they may need to provide further information. If so, they will be contacted by the ERO.

Absent voting

- If you are encouraging people who don't have a postal (or proxy) vote to apply for one, make sure you explain that they will only qualify for one in time for the elections if they are (or will be) registered in time to vote at the elections.

Campaigning dos and don'ts

- Do use imprints on all your campaign material, including websites.
- Do comply with planning rules relating to advertising hoardings and large banners.
- Do make sure outdoor posters are removed 2 weeks after the election.
- Do not produce material that looks like a poll card.
- Do not pay people to display your adverts (unless they display adverts as part of their normal business).

Electoral registration and absent vote applications

- Ensure forms fully conform to the requirements of electoral law
- Include the ERO's address for the return of forms
- Ensure unaltered applications are sent to ERO within **two working days**.
- Make sure electors understand implications of applying for an absent vote.
- Do not encourage postal ballot pack redirection.
- Do not encourage electors to appoint a campaigner as proxy.

Code of conduct for campaigners

- Postal ballot packs:
 - Never touch a postal ballot paper
 - Never observe electors completing their postal vote.
 - Never handle or take any completed ballot paper or postal ballot pack from voters
- Campaigning outside polling stations:
 - You are allowed to put your messages to voters on polling day, including public spaces outside polling places.
 - Keep access to polling places and the pavements around polling places clear to allow voters to enter.

Polling day

- We have put arrangements in place to ensure that polling stations are safe places to vote
- Most of the measures that will be in place will be familiar to us all from visiting other public places such as shops and banks, for example the provision of hand sanitiser on entry and exit
- Voters will be encouraged to bring their own pen or pencil for use in polling stations, but pencils will also be made available for anyone who needs one
- Voters should be encouraged to check their poll card before polling day, to see if their polling station has changed since previous elections.

Polling day

- Polling stations open from 7am to 10pm
- Office open 6.45 am to 10.15 pm for queries or problems relating to the administration of the election
 - for queries relating to election finance issues, contact the Electoral Commission (*contact details shown later*)
- Voters in the polling station or in a queue outside the polling station at 10 pm can apply for a ballot paper
- Postal votes – can be handed into polling stations within ward or delivered to the elections office until 10pm.
- A person in a queue at a polling station at 10pm waiting to hand in a postal vote can do so after 10pm.

Counting of votes

- The count will be held in:
 - The Point, Lancashire County Cricket Club
- Count centre will open to candidates and agents from 8.45 am on Friday 6th May 2022
- Candidates, election agents, counting agents and one other person appointed by the candidate are entitled to attend.
 - limits to counting agents will be advised after close of nominations

Spending issues

Candidate spending

- Defined as certain expenses ‘used for the purposes of the candidate’s election’ during the regulated period.
- Responsibility of **election agent**
- Limit on expenses:
 - £806 + 7 pence per elector in ward/division on register in force on 1st March 2022
 - reduced for joint candidates
- Must get and keep receipts (over £20)

Candidates' spending returns

- Returns due 35 calendar days after result of election
- Returns made public by **Returning Officer**
- Sample of returns may be reviewed by the **Electoral Commission**
- Failure to submit a spending return is a criminal offence enforceable by police
- No spending will be reimbursed

Contacts

Key Contact Details

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Sara Todd	Returning Officer	0161 912 1900
Dominique Sykes	Lead Deputy Returning Officer	0161 912 4293 Dominique.sykes@trafford.gov.uk
Sara Saleh	Deputy Returning Officer	0161 912 4009 sara.saleh@trafford.gov.uk
John Addison	Elections Manager	0161 921 1815 john.addison@Trafford.gov.uk
Nicola Quinn	Senior Elections Officer	0161 912 4005 nicola.quinn@trafford.gov.uk

Electoral Commission contact: 0333 103 1928

Questions

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Thank you