

# Elections to the new Unitary Councils for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire

7th May 2020

**How to stand as a candidate**



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## Can you stand for election?

This document contains guidance on whether or not you can stand for election at a unitary authority election.

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## Qualifications for standing for election

To be able to stand as a candidate at a local government election in England you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union<sup>2</sup>, and
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:

You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the local authority area in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.

You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the local authority area.

You have lived in the local authority area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

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## Disqualifications

In addition to meeting the qualifications for standing for election, you must also not be disqualified in any of the following categories.

You are employed by the local authority or hold a paid office under the authority (including joint boards or committees). Note that you may be 'employed by the local authority' if, for example, you work at certain schools, fire services, police or health services. This list is not exhaustive.

You hold a politically restricted post.

You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.

You have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three months or more (including a suspended sentence), without the option of a fine, during the five years before polling day.

You have been disqualified under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which covers corrupt or illegal electoral practices and offences relating to donations). The disqualification for an illegal practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for three years. The disqualification for a corrupt practice begins from the date a person has been reported guilty by an election court or convicted and lasts for five years.

A person may also be disqualified from election if they have been disqualified from standing for election to a local authority following a decision of the First-tier Tribunal (formerly the Adjudication Panel for England).

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<sup>1</sup>An eligible Commonwealth citizen is a Commonwealth citizen who either does not need leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or has indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup>This qualification has not changed even though the UK left the European Union on 31/01/2020

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## Can I stand for election in more than one ward within the same local authority?

While you may submit nomination papers for more than one ward, you cannot stand for election in more than one ward within the same local authority after the deadline for withdrawals.

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## Standing as an independent candidate

If you wish to stand as an independent candidate, you may do so providing you are qualified as detailed above. If you want the word 'Independent' to appear on the ballot paper underneath your name, you need to state this on the nomination form. No other descriptions are allowed for candidates who are not standing on behalf of a registered political party.

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## Standing on behalf of a registered political party.

If you wish to stand for a Political Party, that party must be registered with the Electoral Commission. You would need to contact the Party yourself, but the local Council's Elections Office should be able to help you with contact information or advice. You could also set up your own Political Party if you wish but you would need to register it with the Electoral Commission. More details are available at:

**[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/political-parties/registering-and-maintaining-a-party](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/party-or-campaigner/political-parties/registering-and-maintaining-a-party)**

Political parties authorise candidates to stand for

them by issuing a certificate of authorisation. This must state that the named candidate can stand on their behalf and allow them to use one of the following:

- the exact party name as registered with the Commission
- one of the party's registered descriptions
- your choice of either the registered party name or one of the registered descriptions. Particular care should be taken by the Nominating Officer (or someone authorised to act on their behalf) when completing the certificate of authorisation. If the certificate explicitly authorises a particular party name/description and this does not match the party name/description on the nomination paper, the whole nomination will be invalid.

The certificate of authorisation must be signed by the registered Nominating Officer of the political party or by someone authorised by the Nominating Officer to act on their behalf.

If you have been authorised by a political party to use the party name or a registered description on the ballot paper, you can also request that one of the party's official emblems is printed on the ballot paper next to your name.

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## Completing your nomination papers

You can obtain nomination papers from the local elections office. For contact details see page 5.

To become nominated as a candidate at a local government election in England, you need to submit a valid completed set of nomination papers to the place fixed by the Returning Officer on any day between 10am on the 27th March and 4pm on 8th April 2020 inclusive.

This deadline is set out in law and cannot be changed for any reason. The start date from which you will be able to submit nomination papers, as well as the times and place for delivery, will be set out in the notice of election published by the local Returning Officer.

There are three nomination papers that you must submit to make your nomination valid:

- the nomination form (giving your name, the party's name on behalf of which you are a candidate, or indicating that you are an independent candidate, and signed by a proposer and seconder plus 8 assenters who are registered electors for the area in which you are standing.
- a home address form<sup>4</sup>
- your consent to nomination (stating that you are willing stand to stand, and are qualified to do so, which is signed by yourself and witnessed)

You should note that any information you provide on your nomination papers must be true to the best of your knowledge. It is an offence to provide a false statement on your nomination papers. Providing a false statement could invalidate your election and is also punishable by an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

The Returning Officer will be able to offer informal checks of your completed nomination papers before you submit them.

Should you change your mind and wish to withdraw a submitted nomination paper, then you should contact your local elections office prior to the statutory deadline( which is the same date and time as the final deadline for submitting nomination papers) and request a copy of the appropriate form to complete and submit.

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<sup>3</sup>The local Returning Officer will notify you of the actual date.

<sup>4</sup>Legislation removing the requirement for candidates to have their home address published on the ballot paper, statement of persons nominated and notice of poll at principal area elections has now been made and will apply for all principal area elections held in England.

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## Who to contact?

Please note that each of the existing Borough/District Councils will be responsible for the administration of the nomination process for the electoral divisions situated in each area. (For details of electoral areas see next page).

If you wish to enquire about standing as a candidate you should contact the relevant electoral services team for the area you wish to be a candidate for as detailed below:

North Northamptonshire	LRO	Telephone	Email
Corby	Norman Stronach	01536 464012	electoral.Services@corby.gov.uk
East Northants	David Oliver	01832 742119	elections@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk
Kettering	Graham Soulsby	01536 410333	elecereg@kettering.gov.uk
Wellingborough	Liz Elliot	01933 213513	elections@wellingborough.gov.uk
West Northamptonshire		Telephone	Email
Daventry	Ian Vincent	01327 302515	electoralservices@daventrydc.gov.uk
Northampton	Francis Fernandes	0300 330 7000	elecereg@northampton.gov.uk
South Northamptonshire	Richard Ellis	01327 322106	elections@southnorthants.gov.uk

*NB: Please note that Northamptonshire County Council does not have an electoral services function.*

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## Other Useful Information

For more general information about elections and standing as a candidate, you should look at the Electoral Commission's website

**[www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk)**

A copy of the timetable for the election can be accessed on that website at

**[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england)**

No deposit is payable to stand as a candidate at local government elections.

Information in respect of other important events relating to these elections will be provided to you once your candidature is confirmed.

The Returning Officer is required to publish a list of candidates nominated for each electoral division in the Council areas shortly after nominations close

## Details of the Council areas

### North Northamptonshire Council

Existing Council area	Electoral Division	No. of Seats
Corby	Corby Rural, Corby West, Kingswood, Lloyds, Oakley.	3 for each Electoral Division (= 15)
East Northants	Higham Ferrers' Irthlingborough, Oundle, Raunds' Rushden Pemberton West, Rushden South, Thrapston.	3 for each Electoral Division (=21)
Kettering	Burton and Broughton, Clover Hill, Desborough, Ise, Northall, Rothwell and Mawsley, Wicksteed, Windmill.	3 for each Electoral Division (=24)
Wellingborough	Brickhill and Queensway, Croyland and Swanspool, Earls Barton, Finedon, Hatton Park, Irchester	3 for each Electoral Division (=18)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26 Electoral Divisions</b>	<b>78 seats</b>

### West Northamptonshire Council

Existing Council area	Electoral Division	No. of Seats
Daventry	Braunston and Crick, Brixworth, Daventry East, Daventry West, Long Buckby, Moulton, Woodford and Weedon	3 for each Electoral Division (= 21)
Northampton	Abington and Phippsville, Billing and Rectory Farm, Boothville and Parklands, Castle, Dallington Spencer, Delapre and Rushmere, Duston East, Duston West and St Crispin, East Hunsbury and Shelfleys, Headlands, Kingsthorpe North, Kingsthorpe South, Nene Valley, Riverside Park, Sixfields, St. George, Talavera.	3 for each Electoral Division (=51)
South Northamptonshire	Brackley, Bugbrooke, Deanshanger, Hackleton and Grange Park, Middleton Cheney, Silverstone, Towcester and Roade	3 for each Electoral Division (=21)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31 Electoral Divisions</b>	<b>93 seats</b>

*Published by the Returning Officer.*