

Subscribers for candidate nomination forms at May 2021 elections

As outlined in the Government's Election Delivery Plan for the May 2021 elections, the Government is changing the nomination rules for candidates who wish to stand for election. This note is to aid clarity and certainty on the numbers of signatures required, to assist candidates and their supporters and those administering elections.

This is a time-limited change, and is intended to reduce the need for person to person contact in March ahead of the May elections. The number of signatures required will be reduced. Some signatures will still be required as it provides a democratic check that a candidate has a degree of local support.

The Government has laid before Parliament two statutory instruments:

- The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) Order 2021 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2021/9780348219913>

and

- The Local and Greater London Authority Elections (Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) Rules 2021 – <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/160/contents/made>

which change temporarily the nomination process to reduce the number of signatures that candidates are required to collect for almost all types of poll due to be held on 6 May 2021. This includes local council elections, Mayoral elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

The changes will also apply for subsequent by-elections for relevant polls up to the end of April 2022.

The changes will reduce the amount of movement and person to person contact that might otherwise be necessary as part of the nominations process, and therefore reduce the risk of exposure to and transmission of the Coronavirus.

Forms will be available via the Electoral Commission and relevant Returning Officers / elections offices as usual.

Under the statutory instruments, the number of subscribers (i.e. signatures) that a candidate will require for their nomination form is as follows for the following elections:

- **Local council: 2** (instead of 10).
'Local' council elections cover election of councillors for divisions for county elections and wards for district elections and London borough elections. Changes are not being made for **parish council** elections which already require two subscribers only for each candidate.
- **London Mayor: 66** (instead of 330).
That is to comprise of two subscribers from each of the London Boroughs and from the City of London.

There is no requirement for candidate nomination papers to be subscribed at **London Assembly** elections and no changes are being made for those elections

- **Mayor for a single local authority area: 2** (instead of 30)
- **Combined Authority Mayor (CAM):** twice the number of local authorities in the Combined Authority area, and there must be two subscribers from each local authority. (see Mayoral table below)
- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):** twice the number of local authorities (or part of such an authority) in the police area. (see Police and Crime Commissioner table below)

The tables below set out the specific number of subscribers needed for candidates standing in each of the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners and Combined Authority Mayors and for the election of the London Mayor, confirmed by relevant local authorities. These are polls where the election is for an area covering a number of local authority areas and the table sets out the total number of subscribers that candidates will need in these areas and whether a specific number is required from each constituent authority or not.

Combined Authority and Greater London Authority Mayoral elections

2 signatures need to be obtained from subscribers registered to vote within each constituent local authority area.

Area	Type of Election	No of Local Authorities (LAs) within Area	Total signatures required	Signatures required from each LA
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	CAM	7	14	YES - 2 from each
Greater London	London Mayor	33	66	YES - 2 from each
Greater Manchester	CAM	10	20	YES - 2 from each
Liverpool City Region	CAM	6	12	YES - 2 from each
Tees Valley	CAM	5	10	YES - 2 from each
West of England	CAM	3	6	YES - 2 from each
West Midlands	CAM	7	14	YES - 2 from each
West Yorkshire	CAM	5	10	YES - 2 from each

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

The signatures can be obtained from subscribers registered to vote anywhere in the overall electoral area

Area	Type of Election	No of Local Authorities (LAs) within Area on day of poll	Total signatures required	Signatures required from each LA
Avon and Somerset	PCC	8	16	NO
Bedfordshire	PCC	3	6	NO
Cambridgeshire	PCC	6	12	NO
Cheshire	PCC	4	8	NO
Cleveland	PCC	4	8	NO
Cumbria	PCC	6	12	NO
Derbyshire	PCC	9	18	NO
Devon and Cornwall	PCC	12	24	NO
Dorset	PCC	2	4	NO
Durham	PCC	2	4	NO
Dyfed-Powys	PCC	4	8	NO
Essex	PCC	14	28	NO
Gloucestershire	PCC	6	12	NO
Gwent	PCC	5	10	NO
Hampshire	PCC	14	28	NO
Hertfordshire	PCC	10	20	NO
Humberside	PCC	4	8	NO
Kent	PCC	13	26	NO
Lancashire	PCC	14	28	NO
Leicestershire	PCC	9	18	NO
Lincolnshire	PCC	7	14	NO
Merseyside	PCC	5	10	NO
Norfolk	PCC	7	14	NO
North Wales	PCC	6	12	NO
North Yorkshire	PCC	8	16	NO
Northamptonshire	PCC	2	4	NO

Northumbria	PCC	6	12	NO
Nottinghamshire	PCC	8	16	NO
South Wales	PCC	7	14	NO
South Yorkshire	PCC	4	8	NO
Staffordshire	PCC	9	18	NO
Suffolk	PCC	5	10	NO
Surrey	PCC	11	22	NO
Sussex	PCC	13	26	NO
Thames Valley	PCC	13	26	NO
Warwickshire	PCC	5	10	NO
West Mercia	PCC	9	18	NO
West Midlands	PCC	7	14	NO
Wiltshire	PCC	2	4	NO

Note - the difference in requirement for two subscribers to be from each local authority for elections of combined authority mayors and the London mayor, and not for Police and Crime Commissioner elections, is because the former have a specific link to the local authority areas whilst Police Areas are distinct areas.