

STANDING FOR ELECTION IN THE ARUN DISTRICT

How to become a Councillor

Introduction

To become a candidate at a local government election, you must be sure you are eligible to stand and then submit a set of nomination papers before the statutory deadline.

This note provides guidance on the qualifications for election, the nomination process and includes contact details for further information.

Qualifications

To qualify as a candidate for a local election, on the day of nomination and on the day of the election, you must be:

- at least 18 years old; and
- a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union

In addition, on the day of nomination and on the day of the election, you must meet at least one of the following:

- you are registered 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;
- for the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election, you have occupied any land or other premises as owner or tenant in the local authority area; **or**
- for the whole of the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election, your main or only place of work has been in the local authority area; **or**
- for the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election, you have lived in the local authority area.

Notes

1. *For West Sussex County Council candidates, the local authority area means anywhere in West Sussex*
2. *For Arun District Council candidates, the local authority area means anywhere in the Arun District*
3. *For Parish Council candidates, you need to live within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the Parish boundary*
4. *The qualification to be a registered elector is an ongoing qualification that must be satisfied, unless the candidate is qualified under another criterion, for the duration of the term of office should a candidate be successfully elected. It is therefore important to mark all of the qualifications that the candidate satisfies when completing the nomination paper*

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Disqualifications

Certain people are disqualified from being elected to a local authority. You will be unable to be elected and to serve as a Councillor if:

- you are employed by the local authority or hold a paid office under the authority
- 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 practices and offences relating to donations)

As the full range of disqualifications for candidates at local elections is complex, candidates are advised to take legal advice on their individual circumstances.

Getting Nominated

The Notice of Election will explain how copies of nomination forms can be requested and give the deadlines for when nominations can be received. This is published at least 25 working days before the election is to be held.

To stand for West Sussex County Council, the nomination paper must be signed by 10 registered electors from the Electoral Division in which you are standing.

To stand for Arun District Council, the nomination paper must be signed by 10 registered electors from the Ward in which you are standing.

To stand for a Parish Council, the nomination paper must be signed by 2 registered electors from the Parish (and Ward if applicable) in which you are standing.

For more information

1. *Electoral Services*

You can seek guidance from the Electoral Services Team at Arun District Council. The contact details are:

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Returning Officer

Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive

Tel: 01903 737601

Deputy Returning Officer

Jackie Follis, Group Head of Policy

Tel: 01903 737580

Nomination, general queries, register of Electors queries

Lauren Fairs-Browning

Electoral Services Manager

Tel: 01903 737615

Or you can email us on: elections@arun.gov.uk

2. Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent body that was set up by Parliament. Its aim is integrity and public confidence in the democratic process.

The Electoral Commission publish guidance for Candidates and Election Agents which can be downloaded from their website. To view current information, please follow this link:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england-and-wales>

The Commission's contact details are:

The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row

London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 0333 103 1928

Email: infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Web: www.electoralcommission.org.uk

3. Sussex Association of Local Councils

The Sussex Association of Local Councils (SALC) is a good source of information if you are interested in standing as a Town or Parish Councillor. SALC aims to protect and promote the interests, rights, functions and privileges of its member councils; to assist Parish Councils in the performance of their duties; and to promote widespread and well informed interest in local government.

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Contact details are:

SSALC Ltd
Suite C 2nd Floor Sackville House
Brooks Close
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 2FZ
Tel: 01273 830200
Email: jacqui.simes@ssalc.co.uk
Web: www.sussexalc.org.uk

4. Political Parties

If you wish to contact one of the main political parties, their local contact details are:

Conservative Party
Conservative Office
2 Flansham Business Centre
Hoe Lane
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO22 8NJ
Tel: 01243 587016 or 01243 585506
Email: brlca@btconnect.com

Labour Party
Councillor Michael Northeast
Email: cllr.mike.northeast@arun.gov.uk

Liberal Democrat Group
Councillor Francis Oppler
39 Marshall Avenue
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 2TL
Tel: 01243 824382
Email: cllr.francis.oppler@arun.gov.uk

UK Independence Party [UKIP]
Cllr. Mrs Ann Rapnik
94 Stroud Green Drive
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 5TJ
Tel: 01243 820121
Email: cllr.ann.rapnik@arun.gov.uk

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Enquiries for those wishing to stand as an Independent can be directed to:

Councillor James Brooks

1 Argyle Road

Bognor Regis

West Sussex PO21 1DY

Tel: 01243 861066

Email: Cllr.Jim.Brooks@arun.gov.uk