

# Candidates & Agents' Information Briefing

Leicestershire County Council Election(s)  
Thursday, 1 May 2025

Oadby | North Wigston

East Wigston | South & West Wigston



# Topics

- Who's who
- Overview
- Election timetable
- Qualifications and disqualifications
- Nominations
- Agents
- Access to electoral register etc.
- Registration
- Absent voting
- Voter ID
- Accessibility
- Campaigning
- Polling day
- Verifying and counting of votes
- Spending issues
- Questions and answers
- Contacts and further guidance

# The Electoral Commission



Approx.  
60 - 90 mins

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# Who's who



# Who's who



- John Sinnott (Chief Executive - LCC)
  - Returning Officer



- Anne Court (Chief Executive - OWBC)
  - (Lead) Deputy Returning Officer
  - Electoral Registration Officer



- David Gill (Head of & Law Democracy - OWBC)
  - Deputy Returning Officer
  - Deputy Electoral Registration Officer



- Samuel Ball (Legal & Democratic Services Manager - OWBC)
  - Deputy Returning Officer
  - Deputy Electoral Registration Officer

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## Who's who (Cont'd)

- The **Returning Officer (RO)** is the person responsible for running the election.
- The **Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)** is responsible for maintaining the register of electors and absent voters' lists etc.
- The **(Lead) Deputy Returning Officers (DRO)** and **Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DERO)** deputise for and assist the RO / ERO in carrying out responsibilities (for the 4 electoral divisions in Oadby & Wigston).

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# Overview



## Overview

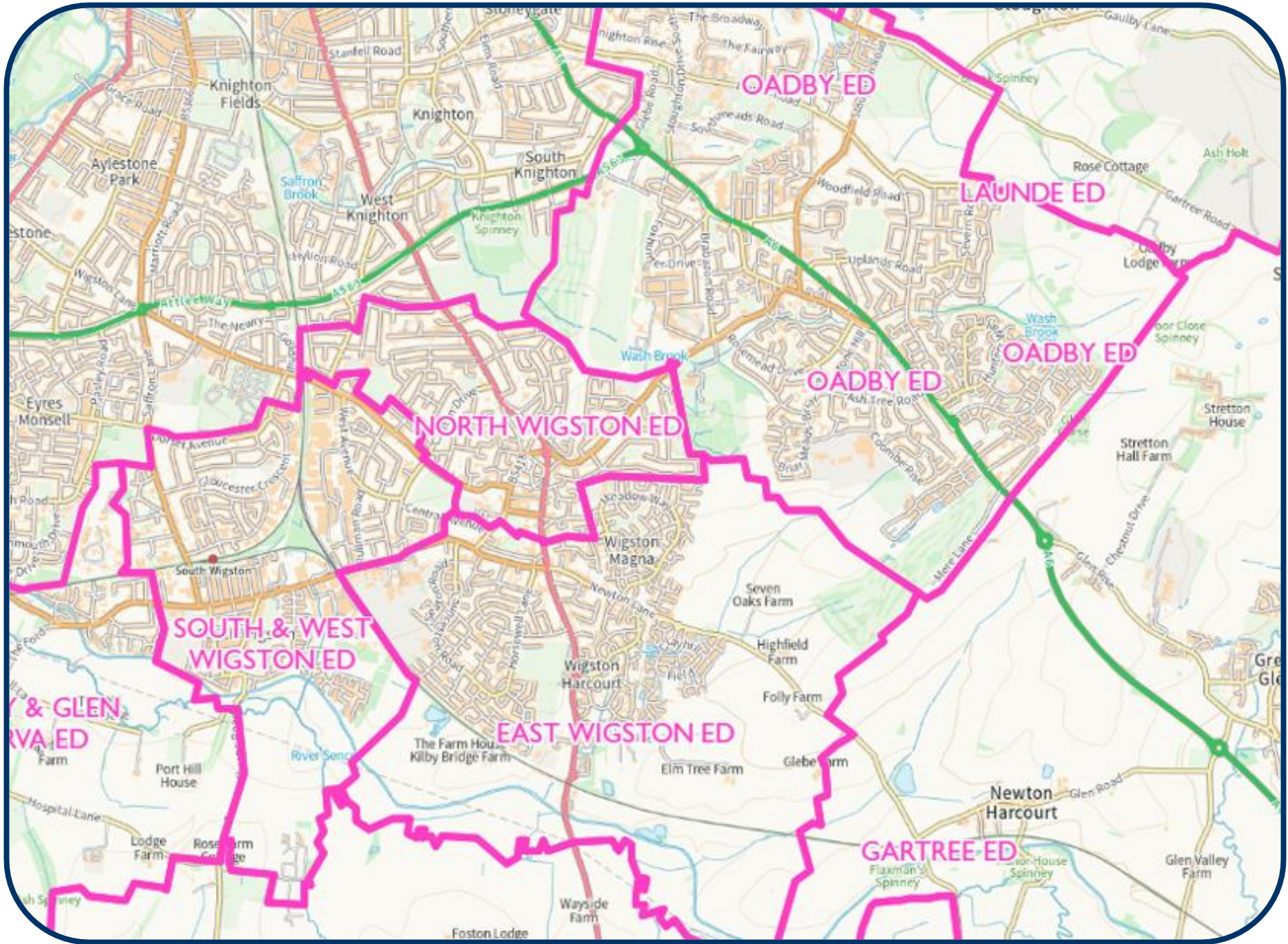
- Election of County Councillors (5) for **Leicestershire County Council**
- **Four (4) electoral divisions** in the Borough

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Electoral Division(s)	No. of County Councillors
Oadby	2
North Wigston	1
East Wigston	1
South & West Wigston	1

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# Overview (Cont'd)

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## Oadby Division

### Wards (Polling Districts)

Oadby St. Peter's (A & B)  
Oadby Grange (C & D)  
Oadby Uplands (E1 & E2)  
Oadby Woodlands (F1 & F2)  
Oadby Brocks Hill (G1 & G2)

## North Wigston Division

### Wards (Polling Districts)

Wigston St. Wolstan's (H, I & J)  
Wigston Meadowcourt (K2)  
Wigston All Saints (N2)  
Wigston Fields (P1)

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## East Wigston Division

### Wards (Polling Districts)

Wigston Meadowcourt (K1, L)  
Wigston All Saints (M & N1)

## South & West Division

### Wards (Polling Districts)

Wigston Fields (O, P2)  
South Wigston (Q, R & S)

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## Borough of Oadby and Wigston (as of March 2025)

	Oadby	North Wigston	East Wigston	South & West Wigston
Polling Station	13,591	6,832	7,446	5,530
Postal	3,835	1,641	1,959	1,226
Proxy	6	1	0	1
Eligible Electorate	17,426	8,473	9,405	8,684
Combined Eligible Electorate		<b>43,988</b>		

## Eligibility to vote

- To vote in this election, electors must:
- Be **registered** to vote
- Be **18** or over on the day of the election
- Be a **British** or **Irish** citizen
- Be a qualifying or retained **EU** citizen
- Be a qualifying **Commonwealth** citizen
- Be **resident** at an address in the Borough

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## Eligibility to vote (Cont'd)

### – Qualifying & retained

- Permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man - or do not need permission - and a:
- **Commonwealth** citizen (qualifying)
- Citizen of **Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain** (qualifying)
- Citizen of **another EU country**, if have had permission to enter or stay - or not needed permission - since **31 December 2020**, and continued without a break (retained)

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# Election timetable





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## Key dates

<b>Timetable process</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Publication of notice of election	24 March by 4:00 pm
Nominations commence	25 March from 10:00 am
Close of nominations and notice of appointment of election agents	2 April at 4:00 pm
Publication of statement of persons nominated, including notice of poll and situation of polling stations	2 April by 5:00 pm
Deadline for applications to register to vote	11 April at 11:59 pm
Deadline for new postal vote applications / changes to existing postal or proxy vote arrangements	14 April at 5:00 pm
Deadline for applications for new proxy votes	23 April at 5:00 pm

## Key dates (Cont'd)

<b>Timetable process</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Deadline for applications for Voter Authority Certificate or Anonymous Elector's Document	23 April at 5:00 pm
Appointment of polling and counting agents	24 April at 11:59 pm
Appointment of postal voting agents	Upon reasonable notice
<b>Polling day (1 May)</b>	7:00 am - 10:00 pm
Deadline to apply for an emergency proxy	1 May by 5:00 pm
Replacement for lost/spoilt postal votes ends	1 May by 5:00 pm
Verifying and counting of votes	2 May from 9:00 am (arrival from 8:30 am)
Return of election expenses	6 June by 11:59 pm

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# Qualifications and disqualifications



## 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** citizen, an eligible **Commonwealth** citizen, a **qualifying EU citizen** or an EU citizen with **retained rights**
- Also at least one of the following:
  - Registered **local government elector** for local authority area
  - Occupied as **owner or a tenant of 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



Disqualifications  
(cont'd)

- are serving a disqualification due to being found guilty of a **corrupt or illegal practice** by an election court
- hold a **politically restricted post**
- are subject to the **notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003**

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# Nominations



## The nomination papers

- Three nomination papers must be submitted by all candidates by 4:00 pm on 2 April:
  - the nomination form
  - the home address form
  - the consent to nomination
- Party candidates only will also need to submit by 4:00 pm on 2 April:
  - 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

## Completing and submitting nomination papers

- **Take care** when completing your nomination papers as mistakes may **invalidate** your nomination
- Complete and submit your nomination papers **as early as possible** (time to correct any mistakes)
- The nomination, consent to nomination and home address form(s) must be **delivered by hand** - cannot be submitted by post, fax or other electronic means and, wherever possible, **by advance appointment**
- The nomination and home address form may only be delivered by:
  - **you**
  - your **proposer** or **seconder**, or
  - by your **election agent** (if DRO has previously received notification of their appointment).

## Nomination form

- Include your **full name**
- Optional: Complete **commonly used name** box(es) if commonly known by a name other than full name and wish to use it instead
  - Commonly used names are the only names shown on official notices and ballot papers
  - Candidates may use commonly used names to use one or more of their names given on the nomination paper in a different manner
  - For example, if Andrew John Smith-Jones is more commonly known as John Smith-Jones, they could ask for this name to be used



## Nomination form (Cont'd)

- 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 (Cont'd)

- Subscribers: **2 subscribers** from the electoral division are required.
- Must **sign** and should **print** their names.
- Check details of subscribers against **electoral register** that is in force on the last day for publication of notice of election.
- If they are not on that register, they can't subscribe your nomination.
- Only ask subscribers to sign **after** completing the name and description fields on the form
- Data protection requirements in packs

## 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 (i.e. **select all** that apply - a, b, c and/or d)
  - the **full name** and the **home address in full** of the **witness** to your consent to nomination

## Home address form (Cont'd)

- **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) (e.g. Oadby & Wigston)
  - If you live outside the UK, the name of the country in which your home address is situated.

## Consent to nomination form

- Must include:
  - name in full
  - which electoral division 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



## Certificate of authorisation

- Party candidates must have **written permission** to use the **party name / description** from the Nominating Officer (or a person appointed to act on their behalf).
- The certificate may:
  - allow the use of the **party name** or a description
  - allow the candidate to choose whether to use the party name or any of the **descriptions registered** with the Electoral Commission
- Must be submitted with the other nomination papers by **4:00 pm** on **2 April**

## Emblem request form

- Party candidates can ask for an **emblem** to be printed on the ballot paper
- Emblem request form must be submitted by **4:00 pm** on **2 April**
- Party candidates should supply an electronic version of the emblem to the DRO (if required)
- Asked to **sign print off** of emblem to confirm it is correct when submitting form

## 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

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# Agents



## Election agent

- Responsible for the proper management of your election campaign, particularly its financial management.
- Notification of appointment must reach the DRO by **4:00 pm** on **2 April**. This form is included in nomination pack.
- You will become your own agent by default if none is appointed, **however**:
  - If a correspondence address is not provided, your home address must by default appear on the notice of agents

## Other agents

- Other agents can be appointed to attend postal vote openings (1 only), polling stations (up to 4) and the count (up to 2) on your behalf:
  - You must give notice in writing of any people appointed as polling and counting agents by 24 April at 11:59 pm  
Relevant appointment forms provided.
  - The appointment of postal voting agents attending a particular opening session must be made before the start of each session. We will give 48 hours' notice by letter and e-mail (where provided)

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Access to electoral  
register / absent voting  
lists etc.



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**Oadby & Wigston**  
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## Access to electoral register / absent voting lists

- Access by candidates – once you **officially** become a candidate:
  - earliest, on **24 March 2025** (last date for publishing notice of election) if you, or others, have declared yourself a candidate on or before this date
  - After **24 March 2025**, once you or others have declared yourself a candidate or you submit your nomination papers, whichever is earliest
- Make **written** request to the ERO (including by e-mail) – forms are available on Council's elections **webpage** and **included in your information pack** – most up-to-date
  - **1 x** Register for the relevant Electoral Division
  - **1 x** Absent Voters List for the relevant Electoral Division
- **Electronic supply encouraged and preferred** – allow such requests to be expedited quicker



Access to  
electoral  
register /  
absent voting  
lists etc.  
(Cont'd)

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

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# Registration



## 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 **11 April at 11:59 pm.**
- Individuals can apply to register online at **[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**. It only takes a few minutes.

## Registration (Cont'd)

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

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# Absent voting



## Absent voting

- Electors can **apply online** at [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote) or [www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote) - **encourage online apps**
- When talking to electors about applying to vote by post or proxy, you should make them aware of the **relevant deadlines** and advise them to apply early.
  - The postal vote deadline is **14 April at 5:00 pm**
  - The proxy vote deadline is **23 April at 5:00 pm**
- You will need to make them aware that they will need to provide their **National Insurance number (NINO)**, **date of birth**, **signature** and **address to register**.
- People who don't have / cannot retrieve their (NINO) or cannot provide a signature can still apply, but may need to provide further information. If so, they will be contacted by the ERO.
- If you are encouraging people to apply for a postal (or proxy) vote, make sure you explain that they will only qualify for one if they are (or will be) registered in time to vote at the elections.

- Absent voting -  
campaigners
- Campaigners **cannot handle postal votes** for other electors who are not close relatives or someone for whom they provide regular care
  - Campaigners may handle postal voting documents if that's a feature of a job they hold (e.g. a postal worker)
  - Limits on the number of postal votes that can be handed in – a maximum of **five (5) plus their own (1)** for each poll

Absent voting –  
Who is a  
campaigner?

A campaigner is:

- a **candidate** at the election(s)
- an election **agent** (or sub-agent)
- **employed** by the candidate (for the purposes of the candidate's activities at the election)
- a member of a **registered political party** who is carrying out **activity to promote a particular outcome** at an election
- someone **employed** by a registered political party **in connection** with that party's political activities



## Completed postal votes handed in to council offices

- **Restrictions** on the numbers of returned postal votes and who may hand in postal votes are the **same** as for polling stations
- An individual may hand in a maximum of 6 electors' postal votes (**their own and five others**) per poll
- Postal votes for all contested electoral areas may be returned by hand **to the Brocks Hill Council Offices**.
- Staff authorised by the DRO may assist anyone wishing to hand in postal votes to complete the **relevant form**, and satisfactorily.
- Postal votes dropped off to reception or other desks or locations or any posted into council external letter boxes without completing the postal vote return form will **be rejected and will not be counted**.

## Completed postal votes handed in to polling stations

- Postal votes can be handed into **polling stations** within the **voting area**
- Anyone returning postal votes by hand must **complete a postal vote return form**, otherwise the postal votes will be rejected
- Polling station staff may assist anyone wishing to hand in postal votes to complete the relevant form.
- An individual may hand in a maximum of 6 electors' postal votes (**their own and five others**) per poll
- If the individual is a campaigner they may only handle their own postal vote and those that belong to close family members or people for whom they provide care
- Polling station staff will not be able to provide advice about whether someone is a campaigner, but they may reject postal votes if they have **reasonable cause** to believe an individual is a campaigner
- If postal votes are handed in not in accordance with the rules, then **they will be rejected**

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# Voter ID



## Voter Identification

- Voters in this election will need to provide a **form of accepted photographic ID** if they wish to vote in person at a polling station.
- Voters will be able to present **out of date** photographic ID so long as the photograph is still a **good likeness**.
- If a voter fails to present a form of accepted photographic ID they will **not** be issued with a ballot paper.
- This includes those who act as a proxy for another person.

## Accepted forms of Voter ID

- Voters should be encouraged to check whether they have one of the forms of accepted photographic ID well in advance of the election
- If a voter does not have an accepted form of photographic ID, they can apply for a **Voter Authority Certificate** either online [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) or using a paper application form.
- Electors who are registered anonymously must have an **Elector's Document** to vote in person
- Any applications must be received by the ERO by **23 April at 5:00 pm.**

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## Accepted forms of Voter ID (1)

### International travel

- Passport (issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country)
- Irish Passport Card

### Driving and parking

- Driving licence (issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state)
- A Blue Badge

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## Accepted forms of Voter ID (Cont'd)

### **Local travel**

- Older Person's bus pass
- Disabled Person's bus pass
- Oyster 60+ Card
- Freedom pass
- Scottish National Entitlement card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Disabled person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Senior SmartPass issued in NI
- Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in NI
- War Disablement SmartPass issued in NI
- 60+ SmartPass issued in NI
- Half Fare SmartPass issued in NI

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## Accepted forms of Voter ID (Cont'd)

### **Proof of age**

- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

### **Other Government issued documents**

- Biometric immigration document

- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identify Card)
- Nationality identity card issued by an EEA state
- Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document



## Voter ID at the polling station

- An adequate number of poll clerks per station relative to electorate will be provided to assist and advise voters, manage any queues etc.
- Polling station staff required to complete:
- **Ballot Paper Refusal List (BPRL)** - An audit trail of the Presiding Officer's decisions whenever they refuse to issue a ballot paper.
- **Voter Identification Evaluation Form (VIDEF) and VIDEF Notes Sheet** - Tallies and collects data used to produce a record of specific issues relating to the checking of photo ID.

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# Accessibility



## Accessibility

- DRO requirement to provide each polling station with such equipment as is **reasonable** to enable or make it easier for disabled voters to vote **independently** and **in secret**. This includes:
  - Chairs / seating
  - Magnifiers
  - Tactile voting device
  - Polling booth at wheelchair level
  - Badges identifying polling station staff
  - Pencil grips
  - Ramps
  - Appropriate lighting
  - Disabled parking (where parking is available)

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# Campaigning



## Campaigning dos and don'ts

- Do use **imprints** on all your campaign material
- 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)
- Do **not handle any postal voting** documents you are not entitled to

## Code of conduct for campaigners

Campaigners are an essential element of a healthy democracy, but their activities should not bring into question the integrity of the electoral process.

- **Electoral registration and absent vote applications:**
  - Ensure forms fully confirm to the requirements of electoral law
  - Ensure electors are aware they can apply to register or for an absent vote online
  - Include the EROs address for the return of any paper 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
- **Voter Authority Certificate applications:**
  - Should not handle paper based Voter Authority Certificate applications and should encourage electors to send them directly to the ERO

## Code of conduct for campaigners (Cont'd)

- Postal voting documents:
  - **Never touch** any of an elector's postal voting documents
  - **Never observe** electors completing their postal vote
  - **Never handle** or take any completed ballot paper or postal ballot packs from voters.
- Campaigning outside polling stations:
  - You are allowed to **put your messages** to voters on polling day, including in **public spaces** outside polling places
  - Keep access to polling places and the pavements around polling places **clear** to allow voters to enter, and avoid **gatherings in large numbers** etc.

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# Polling day





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## Polling day

- Polling stations open from **7:00 am** to **10:00 pm**
- Offices open **6:30 am** to **10:30 pm** for queries 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 10:00 pm** can apply for a ballot paper
- Voters in this election will need to present **photographic ID** in the polling station
- Voters can request to have their ID checked **in private**
- Postal votes – can be handed into polling stations or delivered to the Council Office(s) until **10:00 pm**.
- **Periodic turnout figures** may be given to candidates and agents by polling staff (when availability permits)

## Polling stations

- There are 25 polling stations across the **Borough of Oadby & Wigston** (1–25)
  - Additional (double) non-coterminous stations
  - **Meadow Community Primary School (K1 & 2)**
  - **Little Hill Primary School (N1 & 2)**
  - **Bethel Evangelical Free Church (P1 & 2)**
- Information relating to the numbers and addresses of polling stations are contained in the **information pack** and available via the **Councils' webpages**.
- The total number of polling agents that may attend at any particular polling station is four at any one time.

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# Verifying and counting of votes



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**Oadby & Wigston**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Verifying and counting of votes

- Both the verification and count will take place in the **Function Suite** at **Parklands Leisure Centre**, Washbrook Lane, Oadby on **2 May**.
  - Verification will commence at **9:00 am**
  - Count will commence at **11:30 am**
- Candidates, election agents, counting agents and one other guest appointed/notified by candidate are entitled to attend Parklands from **08:30 am**.
- A limit of **2 counting agents** per candidate. Notice in writing of any people appointed as counting agents by **24 April** at **11:59 pm**

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## Verifying and counting of votes (Cont'd)

- There will be 4 x count teams, consisting of:
  - 1 x Count Supervisor
  - 1 x Count Table Leader
  - 10 x Count Assistants (Oadby ED) or
  - 6 x Count Assistants (Wigston ED's)
- Each team will verify and count a single allocated Electoral Division
- Declarations expected to be made by 3:00 pm (estimated)

## Verification

- Checking against **Ballot Paper Account (BPA)** to ensure the correct number of ballot papers in the corresponding ballot box(es) – including postal ballot box(es)
  - 1 ballot box per polling station
  - 1 postal vote ballot box per division
- There is **no sorting** of the votes between parties and/or candidates at this stage.
- Ballot papers **face-up** during verification.
- If the figures **do not reconcile**, it may be necessary to re-count the ballot papers.

Count - 1 CC  
(Wigston ED's)

- **Sorting** of the votes between parties and/or candidates at this stage
- Ballot papers **face-up** during count
- Adjudicate on and allocate any doubtful ballot papers by count team accordingly
- Share **provisional result** and consider and **re-count requests** accordingly
- Declaration made (once agreed)

## Count – 2 CC's (Oadby ED)

- Three-stage (3) counting process will be adopted when counting the Oadby ED.
  1. **‘Block Vote’** Stage (Conforming BP's)
  2. **‘Kangaroo Board’** Stage (Other BP's)
  3. **‘Counting Sheet’** Stage (Doubtful BP's)
- Ballot papers remain face-up during count.
- Reconciliation checks back to the verified number of ballot papers and number of votes (both used and unused) will be undertaken for accuracy.
- If the figures do not reconcile, or if the result is close, it may be necessary to re-count the votes.



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## 'Block Vote' Stage

## (Conforming Ballot Papers)

- There is often a pattern of voting along party political lines.
- Count staff sort '**conforming**' ballot papers into labelled trays for each political party (i.e. all votes cast for all candidates of the same party).
- Ballot papers counted and the number of votes to each candidate allocated.
- Block counting is only possible where parties have fielded a full complement of candidates in any given ward.

# 'Block Vote' Stage (2)

## 3-Member Ward Example

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ASHDOWN	Liberal Democrats	
BLAIR	Labour Party	
CAMERON	Conservative Party	X
CLEGG	Liberal Democrats	
CORBYN	Labour Party	
FARAGE	UKIP	
LUCAS	Green	
MAY	Conservative Party	X
THATCHER	Conservative Party	X
WILSON	Labour Party	



All 3 x Votes Used for  
All 3 x Conservative  
Candidates

ASHDOWN	Liberal Democrats	
BLAIR	Labour Party	X
CAMERON	Conservative Party	
CLEGG	Liberal Democrats	
CORBYN	Labour Party	X
FARAGE	UKIP	
LUCAS	Green	
MAY	Conservative Party	
THATCHER	Conservative Party	
WILSON	Labour Party	X



All 3 x Votes Used for  
All 3 x Labour  
Candidates

ASHDOWN	Liberal Democrats	
BLAIR	Labour Party	X
CAMERON	Conservative Party	
CLEGG	Liberal Democrats	X
CORBYN	Labour Party	
FARAGE	UKIP	
LUCAS	Green	
MAY	Conservative Party	
THATCHER	Conservative Party	
WILSON	Labour Party	



'Other'  
1 x Labour Candidate  
1 x Lib-Dem Candidate  
1 x Unused Vote

# 'Kangaroo Board' Stage

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- To count all 'other' ballot papers



- An open and transparent counting method for observers

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## ‘Counting Sheet’ Stage (1)


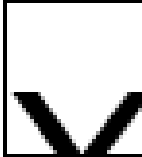

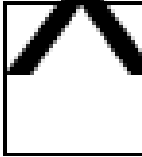



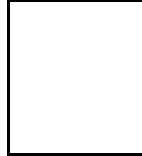

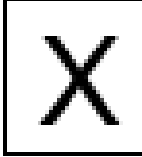
## (Doubtful Ballot Papers)

- Tally of ‘allowed’, ‘rejected’ and ‘rejected in part’ ‘doubtful’ ballot papers.
  - want of official mark
  - voting for more candidates than the voter is entitled to
  - writing or mark by which the voter could be identified
  - unmarked or void for uncertainty
  - rejected in part
- Adjudication process to involve the DRO’s, candidates and election agents only.
- Adjudication in the DRO’s final discretion (whilst noting any candidates’ and agents’ objections).

# 'Counting Sheet' Stage (2)

## The Electoral Commission

### Rejected in Part Example

<p><b>FARAGE, Nigel Paul</b> 24 Dukes Ride, AEA Town AE7 3AE <b>UK Independence Party (UKIP)</b></p>		
<p><b>LUCAS, Caroline Patricia</b> 9 Millbank, AEA Town AE7 1AE <b>Green Party</b></p>		
<p><b>MAY, Theresa Mary</b> 11 Morden Road, AEA Town AE7 1AE <b>Conservative Party</b></p>		
<p><b>THATCHER, Margaret Hilda</b> 3 Gwerant Drive, AEA Town AE7 1AE <b>Conservative Party</b></p>		
<p><b>WILSON, James Harold</b> 2b Broomshills Road, AEA Town AE7 3AE <b>Labour Party</b></p>		

The  
Electoral  
Commission

# 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:
  - £960 + 8 pence per elector in the division on register in force on **24 March**.
  - reduced for joint candidates
- Must get and keep receipts (over £20)

## Candidates' spending returns

- Returns due 35 calendar days after result of election (**6 June** by **11:59 pm**)
- Returns made public by **RO (County)**
- Sample of returns may be reviewed by the **Electoral Commission**
- Failure to submit an expenses return is a criminal offence enforceable by the police
- No spending will be reimbursed
- Elections agents to access and complete returns – DRO will not provide advice!



The  
Electoral  
Commission

# Questions and answers



The  
Electoral  
Commission

# Contacts and further guidance



# Contacts and further guidance

# The Electoral Commission

- **Electoral Services**
  - (0116) 257 2722 / [electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@oadby-wigston.gov.uk)
- **Useful Election Information (OWBC & LCC)**
  - [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/elections](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/elections)
  - [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/election2025](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/election2025)
- **Electoral Commission (EC)**
  - 0333 103 1928
  - [infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk) (General)
  - [partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:partyreg@electoralcommission.org.uk) (Party Registration)
  - [pef@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk) (Finance & Spending)
- **Full EC Guidance**
  - <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-local-government-elections-england>

# Thank you

Please ensure you take a candidate's pack

- Important Information Letter(s)
- Nomination Pack (incl. Agent Notification)
- Register & AVL Request Form(s)
- List of Polling Stations
- Secrecy Requirements

Also at [www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/elections](http://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/elections)