

How to stand for elections

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Objective

To encourage Labour Party members from a wide range of backgrounds, and those in under-represented groups, to consider standing for Labour at local and national elections.



What we'll be covering

- How can you represent The Labour Party?
- Why do you want to stand?
- Are you eligible?
- Application form to stand as an MP
- Some example questions asked in council selections meetings
- About you
- Council selection process
- Building your story
- Filling the gaps
- Next steps
- Further resources

Introduction

- Ahead of a likely early general election, Labour opened selections for parliamentary candidates in its remaining vacant seats in England in early September. The announcement was made via an email from general secretary Jennie Formby.
- The deadline for applications was extended to 10am on Monday 9th September.
- 12,000 people submitted applications to be Labour candidates in the remaining seats where parliamentary candidates have not yet been selected. Trigger ballots of sitting MPs are taking place and are resource-heavy. The NEC asked for a timetable and process to be produced for the remaining selections so members can select their candidates as soon as possible.

How you can represent The Labour Party



- Parish & Town Council
- Local Government; District, Unitary, Metropolitan, County
- Parliamentary
- London Assembly
- Directly-elected Mayors
- Welsh Assembly
- Scottish Parliament
- Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC)
- MEPs



Q: What does The Labour Party mean to you and why do you want to stand for election?

Before you start...

Are you legally entitled to stand for election?

- Residency rules
- Bankruptcy, sentenced for more than 3 months for an offence
- Politically restricted job

Do you meet the Labour Party requirements?

- 12 month minimum membership
- Party membership in LG area

Some example questions asked on the application form to be a parliamentary candidate:

Why should you be the candidate for the seat in question?

What do we need to do to win this election?

What's your Labour Party experience and other life experience, including work and study?

What makes you a great campaigner?

Give some examples of your communication skills?

Describe the particular skills you have which will help you as an elected representative, for example, in problem solving?

Give examples of interpersonal, teamwork & liaison skills?

Potential questions asked at council selection meeting:

What in particular do you have to offer our ward?

What do you think are the key issues for the ward?

What experience do you have of campaigning?

What experience do you have of other community or voluntary work?

How would you work with members of the ward during the campaign?
And after you are elected?

How would you build and sustain relationships with local residents?

To whom would you feel accountable as a councillor (eg local ward members and/or the local community)?

How would you handle a difference of opinion between the Labour group and the branch?

Your application

Trade Union Activity

Labour Party Experience
CAMPAIGNING
Roles in the Labour Party

Community Activity
Roles or positions
you've held
Helping people
Knowing an area

Experience of public office

Why YOU want to do it

Labour values in action



- School governors, PTAs
- Faith groups
- Community groups
- Health boards
- Safer neighbourhood, neighbourhood watch
- School Council/ Youth Parliament
- Magistrates
- Shop steward or Trade Union rep
- Trustees
- Charity boards
- Running local voluntary clubs, e.g. sports clubs
- Residents' Associations
- User groups, e.g. friends of a local park
- Volunteering
- Social Action Projects

Interview for council elections



- Normally three panel interviewers who will question on the same areas as the application form.
- Branch report / Whips report.
- Do a little research beforehand about the council democracy (i.e. democratic structure, whose in control etc) and any challenges it may be facing.
- Council terms like 'scrutiny', 'standards board' and 'best value' may come up.
- If you don't understand a question, ask the panel to explain what it means.
- If you lack experience in any area; talk about your future plans. Remember the panel should be looking for potential as well as experience.
- Be enthusiastic!

Interview for council elections



At the end of the interview you may be asked if you are willing to abide by certain rules and if there is anything else you need to declare.

This a skeleton in the closet question and is important. If there is something your concerned about; talk to Regional Office (in confidence).

Next steps: The Selection Meetings



- If you are interested in a ward, find out who the branch secretary is and send them your CV.
- Be proactive. Don't rely on the branch doing the work.
- If short listed you will need to attend the branch selection meeting.
- Selection meetings can have very small numbers and the CLP exec may need to make up the quorum.
- Bring sufficient copies of your CV to hand out to attendees
- The meeting may ask for a small speech followed by questions. Make your speech ward specific and try to get your enthusiasm across.
- If you get into trouble with questions bring the topic around to an answer that you have knowledge on.

Don't forget what the potential questions asked at Council selection meeting!



What in particular do you have to offer our ward?

What do you think are the key issues for the ward?

What experience do you have of campaigning?

What experience do you have of other community or voluntary work?

How would you work with members of the ward during the campaign? And after you are elected?

How would you build and sustain relationships with local residents?

To whom would you feel accountable as a councillor (eg local ward members and/or the local community)?

How would you handle a difference of opinion between the Labour group and the branch?

Workshop: how to build your story



Q: Why do you want to stand?

Q: Why should they vote for you?

Q: What have you done before?

Q: What will you do?

If you have gaps...

- What can I do to fill any gaps?
- What roles can I take on?
- Think about other experiences.
- How can I turn a negative into a positive?
- Where can I volunteer to gain experience?
- Can I shadow people to gain experience?

6 Steps to take now

- 1). Get involved locally with your CLP or take on more responsibility if possible.
- 2). Ensure you are involved with or take a lead in local Labour campaigns.
- 3). Be involved with your local community and the issue that are important.
- 4). Increase your social media presence but be aware your social media will come under scrutiny if selected as a candidate.
- 5). Ask about further training or shadowing opportunities.
- 6). Don't wait to be asked – ask your CLP or LCF secretary.

Be part of the wider movement



Affiliates

Trade Union member

Sister Party

Co-op Party member

Socialist Societies

BAME Labour

Chinese for Labour

Christians on the Left

Disability Labour

The Fabian Society

Jewish Labour

Movement

Labour Animal Welfare Society (LAWS)

Labour Business

Labour Campaign for International

Development

Labour Housing Group

Labour Movement for Europe

Labour Party Irish Society

Labour Students

Labour Women's

Network

LGBT Labour

Scientists for Labour

Socialist Educational

Association

SERA - Labour's

Environment

Campaign

The Socialist Health

Association

Society of Labour

Lawyers

Further resources

Parliamentary Selections

This section contains information on selection procedures, and what selections are currently open in various areas. Below, you can read and download the Code of Conduct for Parliamentary Candidates and the Parliamentary Selections Procedures document.

<https://labour.org.uk/activist-hub/governance-and-legal-hub/selections/>

Being a councillor

This section takes you step by step from being an interested member, to being selected as a candidate for the Labour Party. It's a lot to take in but don't worry, it's not as intimidating as it sounds and we offer a great deal of support along the way.

<https://labour.org.uk/members/councillor-applications/>



Useful contacts and sites to visit

Training Team - training@labour.org.uk | labour.org.uk/training | achieve.labour.org.uk

Labour Party Fundraising and Development Team - development@labour.org.uk

Legal Hotline - legal_queries@labour.org.uk | 020 77831498

Telephone: 0345 092 22 99

Option 3 | Campaign Technology | campaigntechnology@labour.org.uk
Monday – Friday 9:30am – 6:00pm

Option 3, Option 2 | The Organise Team | organise@labour.org.uk
Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm

Option 5 | Labour Membership | labourmembership@labour.org.uk
Monday – Thursday 9am–5pm, Friday 9am–4:30pm

TRAINING