

Local Elections – May 2026

Prospective Candidates and Agents Briefing



11 March 2026

What we are going to cover:

- Counter terrorism/Operation Ford delivered by MET police
- The election timetable
- Qualifications
- Access to the Electoral Register
- Nominations
- Agents
- Candidates expenses
- Contacts



Introduction



Mandy Skinner: Returning Officer



Jake Bacchus: Deputy Returning Officer



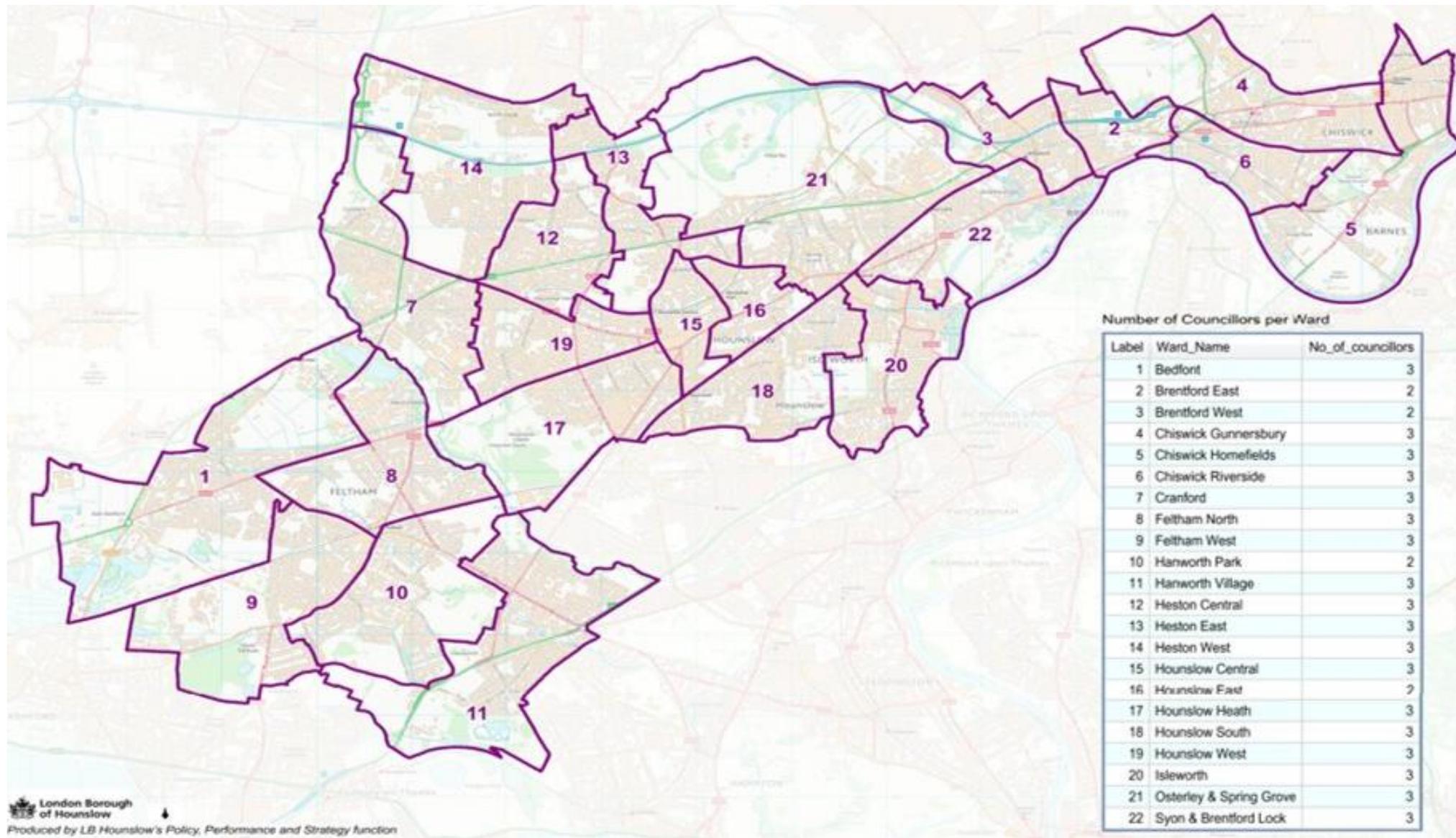
Kully Tumber: Deputy Returning Officer



Elections Team



- 22 Wards
- 62 seats
- 199,622 electorate
- 22,566 postal voters
- 104 polling stations



The Borough of Hounslow

**ONE
HOUNSLOW**

Key Dates

Event	Date
Notice of Election	Monday 30 March
Delivery of Nomination Papers	Monday 30 March –Thursday 9 April 10am – 4pm
Deadline to appoint Election Agents	Thursday 9 April, 4pm
Publication of Statement of Persons Nominated	Friday 10 April by, 4pm
Issuing of Postal Votes	From 21 April
Publication of Notice of Poll	Tuesday 28 April, 4pm
Appointment of Count and Polling Agents	Wednesday 29 April
Verification and Counting of Votes	Friday 8 May
Return of Election Expenses	Friday 12 June

Event	Date
Poll cards delivered	From 30 March
Last date to register to vote	Monday 20 April, midnight
Last date receive applications to vote by post or to amend an existing absent vote	Tuesday 21 April at 5pm
Last date to receive new applications to vote by proxy	Tuesday 28 April at 5pm
Last date to receive applications for a voter authority certificate	Tuesday 28 April at 5pm
First day to issue replacement postal votes	Thursday 30 April
Last date to receive applications to vote by emergency proxy	Thursday 7 May at 5pm
Polling day	Thursday 7 May 7am – 10pm

Qualifications and Disqualifications

- Use Electoral Commission guidance.
- Issues of qualifications and disqualifications to stand are a matter for the candidate.
- It is a criminal offence to make a false statement on nomination papers as to the qualifications for standing.
- If in doubt:
 - Consult legislation
 - Seek independent legal advice
- Electoral Services cannot and will not advise on whether a candidate qualifies or not.

Submitting Nomination Papers

- Nominations can be submitted from 10am on Monday 30 March 2026 until the deadline on Thursday 9 April at 4pm (on weekdays days only, excluding bank holidays).
- The following nomination papers **must** be hand delivered only:
 - ✓ Form 1a: Nomination paper
 - ✓ Form 1b: Home address form, part 1 and part 2
 - ✓ Form 1c: Candidates consent to nomination (including additional pages of legislation)
- The following papers can be delivered by hand or post (not email)
 - ✓ Form 2 – Certificate of authorisation
 - ✓ Form 3 – Request for party emblem
 - ✓ Form 4 – Notification of election agent

1A - Nomination Paper

Delete to show if there is more than one vacancy in the ward.

Elections Office Use ONLY.

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted.

1a – Nomination paper		Office use only			
Local government election in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
*ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS / A COUNCILLOR for the					
INSERT WARD NAME		electoral division /ward of the			
county/district /London borough of *Delete whichever is inappropriate		HOUNSLOW			
Date of election:		7 MAY 2026			

Delete to read 'London borough of'.

'Hounslow' should be added in this section.

Enter the date of the election.

1A - Nomination Paper

This section must be completed in full before any electors sign the nomination paper

Candidate's Details	
Candidate's surname	Mr/Mrs/Miss/ Ms/Dr/Other
Other forenames in full	
Commonly used surname (if any)	
Commonly used forenames (if any)	
Description (if any) Use no more than six words (see note 5)	

Delete as appropriate. Titles will not appear on the ballot paper or other notices.

FULL name must be included. Prefixes like Sir and suffixes like Jnr cannot be used.

OPTIONAL:

If commonly known by a **DIFFERENT** name to the actual surname or forename listed, enter it here. This commonly used name will appear on the ballot paper and other notices.

OPTIONAL:

This box can be left blank

OR – use the description 'independent'

OR – if standing as a political party candidate, the registered party name or description as authorised by the party can be entered here. This must be as registered with the Electoral Commission and must match exactly with the description authorised on the Certificate of Authorisation – Form 2.

1A - Nomination Paper

Subscribers

We, the undersigned, being local government electors for the said ~~electoral division/~~ ward, do hereby assent to the foregoing nomination
 *Delete whichever is inappropriate

	Signature	Print name	Electoral number	
			Polling District	Elector Number
Proposer	Signature 1	Full name 1	PD	123
Seconder	Signature 2	Full name 2	PD	124

Delete

To be successfully nominated, the form must be signed by two registered electors, (a proposer and seconder), from the relevant ward.

If assistance is needed with finding elector numbers, contact elections@hounslow.gov.uk with the full name and address of the proposer/seconder.

An elector must not sign more nomination papers than there are vacancies in the ward. If they do, their signature will only be valid on the first nomination paper delivered to the Returning Officer.

Ask the proposer/seconder to sign here.

The full name of the proposer/seconder must be printed here.

Include the polling district reference and elector number. The Register of Electors in force at the time the Notice of Election is published must be used.

For further information visit:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-local-government-elections-england>

1B - Home Address Form

1b – Home address form		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
*ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS / A COUNCILLOR for the					
INSERT WARD NAME		*electoral division /ward of the			
* county/district /London borough of *Delete whichever is inappropriate		HOUNSLOW			
Date of election:		7 MAY 2026			

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted.

Elections Office Use ONLY.

Delete to read 'London borough of'.

The date of the election should be added in this section.

Write 'Hounslow' in this section.

1B - Home Address Form

Part 1

All candidates must complete Part 1 of Form 1B

Must be the actual full name, **NOT** commonly used name.

The home address must be given here, in full, with no abbreviations. It must not be a business address (unless a business is run from home).

Part 1: To be completed by all candidates in England	
Full name of candidate	Full name
Home address (in full)	Address line one, address line two, town/city, postcode
Qualifying address: Add your qualifying address, or qualifying addresses (in full) to each of the relevant qualifications below (you can complete more than one qualification).	
Qualifications that apply (tick those which apply)	Address
(a) I am registered as a local government elector for the area of the *county/district/London borough named above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address line one, address line two, town/city, postcode
(b) I have during the whole of the preceding 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the area named above	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) my principal or only place of work during the preceding 12 months has been in the *county/district/London borough named above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address line one, address line two, town/city, postcode
(d) I have during the whole of the preceding 12 months resided in the *county/district or London borough named above	<input type="checkbox"/>
Witness details	
Full name of the person who will witness the candidate's consent to nomination form	Full name
Full home address of the person who will witness the candidate's consent to nomination form	Address line one, address line two, town/city, postcode

Delete the words county/district.

A full address must be written next to each qualification that apply.

If relevant, a different address may be used for each qualification.

At least one address must match the information provided on Form 1C.

The witness must complete this section with their full name and full address. There are no restrictions on who can be a witness, but the same person will need to witness Form 1C.

1B - Home Address Form

Part 2

Candidates who do NOT want their home address printed on the ballot paper must complete and sign Part 2 of form 1B.

Part 2 must be submitted, regardless if it is completed

The relevant area is the county/district/London borough in which the home address is situated.

For example, if the address is in the London Borough of Hounslow, then the name of the relevant area is Hounslow.

Part 2: To be completed only if you do not wish your home address to be made public.	
Note: Please submit this part (part 2) of the home address form with your nomination papers, even if your home address is to be made public.	
If you request that your home address is not made public then your address will not appear on the statement of persons nominated, notice of poll or the ballot paper. Instead the name of the relevant area in which your home address is situated (or country, if outside the UK), as explained below, will appear on the statement of persons nominated, notice of poll and the ballot papers.	
Statement: I require my home address not to be made public	
The relevant area my home address is situated in:	HOUNSLOW (insert name of relevant area) ²
OR	
My home address is situated outside the UK. My home address is situated in:	(insert name of country)
Signature of candidate (only required where Part 2 above has been completed)	
Candidate's signature:	SIGNATURE
Date:	DATE

If either of the above two boxes have been completed, then the form **MUST** be signed and dated.

1C - Consent to Nomination

Don't forget to submit the 5 pages of legislation

Enter the date of the election.

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted.

Delete the words county/district.

Enter date of birth here. Candidates must be 18 or over on the date of submitting the nomination paper.

Sign name here and include the date. The date must not be earlier than one month before the deadline for nominations to be submitted.

1c – Candidate's consent to nomination		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
*You must declare that you meet at least one of the listed qualification(s) below and may declare more than one qualification, if applicable. To do this, strike through any that do not apply. Any qualification(s) that apply must match the information given on your home address form.					
Date of election:	7 MAY 2026				
I (name in full):					
hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate for election as councillor for the:	INSERT WARD NAME			*electoral division/ ward	
or: *county/district /London borough of:					
I declare that on the day of my nomination, I am qualified and that, if there is a poll on the day of election, I will be qualified to be so elected by virtue of being on that day or those days a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, who has attained the age of 18 years and that:					
*a. I am registered as a local government elector for the area of the *county/district /London borough named above; or					
*b. I have during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day, or those days, occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the area named above; or					
*c. my principal or only place of work during those 12 months has been in the *county/district /London borough named above; or					
*d I have during the whole of those 12 months resided in the *county/district or London borough named above					
I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief I am not disqualified for being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in, or decision made under, sections 80 or 81A of the Local Government Act 1972 or section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 (copies of which are printed overleaf), and I do not hold a politically restricted post, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, under a local authority, within the meaning of that Part.					
Note 1: A candidate who is qualified by more than one qualification may complete any of those which may apply.					
Note 2: Disqualifications set out under s.81A of the Local Government Act 1972 only apply to a person who is subject to any relevant notification requirements, or a relevant order, made on or after 28 June 2022.					
Date of birth:					
Signature:					
Date of consent:					
Witness: I confirm the above-mentioned candidate signed the declaration in my presence.					
Witness (name in full):					
Witness's signature:					

Enter full name – NOT any commonly used names.

Strike through qualifications that do not apply. The qualification(s) must match those provided on Part 1 of Form 1B.

The witness must include their name and signature here. It must be the same person who witnesses Part 1 of Form 1B.

2 - Certificate of Authorisation

For party candidates only

2 – Certificate of authorisation		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
Details of candidate to be authorised and the allowed description/party name					
Ward/ division name:	INSERT WARD NAME			Date of election:	7 MAY 2026
The candidate (name in full):					
Name of political party:	Political party registered with the Electoral Commission				
I hereby certify that the candidate may include the following registered description or party name in their nomination form:					
Note: it is an offence to sign this form if you are not the party's registered nominating officer or authorised to do so by the party's registered nominating officer					
Signature of party's registered Nominating Officer (or person authorised by the registered Nominating Officer):					
Name of person signing this form:					
Date:					

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted, along with the date.

Insert name in full here.

Insert the name of the political party here.

If authorised to use a specific registered description or the party name, then it must be written here. It must match the description on Form 1A.

Or, if authorised to choose, it should say any registered description or the party's name as registered with the Electoral Commission.

This must be signed by the party's Nominating Officer, or someone authorised by them, including their full name and date.

3 - Request for a Party Emblem

For party candidates only - to request an emblem as registered with the Electoral Commission

3 – Request for a party emblem	Office use only			
Local government elections in England	Date received	Time received	Initials	No

Candidate's request for use of an emblem	
Ward/division name:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">INSERT WARD NAME</div>
Date of election:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7 MAY 2026</div>
Candidate name in full:	
I request that the ballot paper shall contain, against my name, the following registered emblem (please identify which emblem if the party has registered more than one):	
Emblem to be used (Please use name or description as on the Electoral Commission's website):	
Candidate's signature:	
Date:	

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted.

Insert name in full here.

The date of the election should be added to this section.

This should be the name of the emblem, as registered with the Electoral Commission. E.g., Emblem ID 0000).

This form must be signed and dated by the candidate.

4 - Notification of an Election Agent

OPTIONAL: If no agent is appointed, the candidate becomes their own agent.

Enter the ward for which a nomination is being submitted.

Insert name in full here.

This section must be signed and dated by the candidate.

This section must be signed and dated by the election agent.

If the candidate is appointing themselves as the election agent but are withholding the home address from the ballot paper and do not want it to appear on the Notice of Election Agents, an office address which is different than the home address can be provided.

4 – Notification of an election agent		Office use only			
Local government elections in England		Date received	Time received	Initials	No
Ward/division name	INSERT WARD NAME				
Date of election:	7 MAY 2026				
Candidate's notification of their election agent					
I, (Candidate name in full):					
Hereby declare that the name and address of my election agent is:					
Agent's name:					
Agent's address (in full):					
The office address of my election agent to which all claims, notices, legal process and the other documents may be sent is:					
Agent's office address (in full):					
Candidate's signature (or of person authorised to act on behalf of candidate):					
Date:					
Confirmation of acceptance by election agent					
I [agent named above] confirm my acceptance as the election agent for the above named candidate.					
I understand that I must carry out my duties according to law. I understand that there are penalties if I fail to fulfil my duties according to law.					
Agent's signature:					
Date:					
Agent's other details in case of query (optional – will not be published)					
Home telephone:					
Work telephone:					
Mobile telephone:					
Email address:					

The date of the election should be added to this section.

Insert the name and address of the agent in full.

This must be a physical address within the Council area or in a constituency within the local government area, or in a district, borough or county borough adjoining it.

The agent's office address will appear on the Notice of Election Agents.

It is useful to provide this information in case of a query or follow up contact.

Agents

The Election Agent

- Is responsible for the proper management of the candidate's election campaign, particularly the financial management.
- A candidate becomes their own election agent by default if one is not appointed.
- The deadline to appoint an election agent is 4pm on Thursday 9 April.

Other agents

- Polling agents (deadline Wednesday 29 April)
- Counting agents (deadline Wednesday 29 April)
- Postal vote agents (must be made before the start of each session)

Access to the Electoral Register and Absent Voting Lists

Access for Candidates

- Only once officially a candidate.
 - The earliest to become a candidate is on Monday 30 March 2026, or once you declare yourself to be a candidate.
 - The request must be in writing to the ERO – a form may need to be completed; this can be returned via email.

- The information may only be used for permitted purposes:
 - To complete a nomination form
 - To help with campaigning
 - To check that donations are permissible.

- Those affiliated with political parties can obtain registers earlier through the party.

Electoral Registration

- Household notification letters were posted to all residential properties end of January 2026.
 - Deadline to register to vote is midnight on Monday 20 April.
 - Easiest way to apply is online – www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
 - If residents need a paper application form, one can be sent out.
-
- A valid form of photo ID must be presented when voting in person.
 - If a resident does not have one, they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.
 - The deadline to apply is 5pm on Tuesday 28 April.



Absent Votes

- Electors can apply online: www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote or www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote
- The deadline for receiving new postal vote applications and for amendments to existing absent votes is 5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026.
- The deadline to receive applications to vote by proxy is 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

- This year was the first renewing postal votes under the new Elections Act 2022 legislation.
 - Postal votes last a maximum of three years and must be renewed by 31 January on the third year.
- Around 25,000 required renewal.
- Residents were contacted by letter and email in April, May and July with final letters posted to all outstanding postal voters to renew in October with a paper application form and a return envelope.
- Cancellation notices were sent to 7,003 postal voters, with instructions on how to apply and the deadline to apply in time for the local elections.



Campaigning Do's and Don'ts

Do

- ✓ Use imprints on all printed and digital campaign material.
- ✓ Ensure the imprint is clear and visible.
- ✓ Comply with planning rules relating to advertising boards and large banners.
- ✓ Ensure that outdoor posters are removed promptly after the election and no later than 2 weeks after the day of poll.

Don't

- ✗ Produce material that looks like poll cards.
- ✗ Pay people to display adverts, unless they display adverts as part of their normal business.
- ✗ Handle any postal voting documents that candidates/agents are not entitled to.

Campaign material must have the name and address of:

- The printer
- The promoter
- Who it is being promoted for (e.g. party or candidate)

Candidate Spending

The spending limit for this election is £960 plus 8p per local government elector in the ward registered to vote on the last day for publication in the ward.

Spending limits for joint candidates

You are a joint candidate if you stand in the same ward and one of the following applies:

- You have the same election agent
- You use the same campaign rooms
- You publish joint material



Joint candidates have lower spending limits, as they are sharing some of the costs. You should calculate your spending limit as explained above and then reduce it by

- 25% for 2 candidates
- 33% for 3 candidates

Candidate Spending Example



Candidate spending worked example, if the electorate were to be 7,500 electors:

Single candidate:

$$£960 + (7,500 \times 0.08) = £1,560$$

Two candidates:

Two candidates standing in the same ward decide to issue joint campaign material. This makes them joint candidates. There are 7,500 electors in the ward in which they are standing.

To calculate each joint candidate's spending limit, first calculate the spending limit for a single candidate:

$$£960 + (7,500 \times 0.08) = £1,560$$

$$\text{Then calculate 25\% of this amount: } £1,560 \times (25 \div 100) = £390$$

$$\text{Take this amount off the spending limit for a single candidate: } £1,560 - £390 = £1170$$

This is the spending limit for each of the two joint candidates.

Three candidates:

$$33\% \text{ reduction for 3 or more candidates. } £1560 \times (33 \div 100) = £514.80.$$

$$£1560 - £514.80 = £1045.20 \text{ for each of the three or more joint candidates}$$



What's Next?

Briefing for candidates and election agents only

 Tuesday 14 April 2026

 18:30

 6th Floor, Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3EB.

Topics being covered include:

- The code of conduct for campaigners
- Postal votes
- Polling day
- Integrity
- The count
- Candidate spending returns

www.hounslow.gov.uk/elections

elections@hounslow.gov.uk

Any Questions?

Key Contacts

Elections Office

 020 8583 2840 (candidates and agents)

 020 8583 2828 (public enquiries)

 www.hounslow.gov.uk/elections

Kully Tumber

 020 8583 2095

kully.tumber@hounslow.gov.uk

Electoral Commission

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