

## Be a Councillor – steps to standing for election

[www.beacouncillor.co.uk](http://www.beacouncillor.co.uk)

To become a councillor you have to stand at local elections and compete with other candidates to gain the most votes from the local electorate.

Below are some of the most important steps that you will need to go through and contacts who can support you with further information and advice.

1. Find out when the next local government elections are in your area (check with your local council).
2. Make sure you are registered on the electoral role with your local council.
3. If you are interested in independent politics, you can get resources and advice from the Local Government Association's Independent Office [www.local.gov.uk/lga-independent](http://www.local.gov.uk/lga-independent)
4. As an independent, you will also need to start working out your views on local issues and services.
5. To stand for a political party, you'll need to be a member of the party, get involved locally and go through their selection process before you can be put forward as their candidate for election. You can find out more on each party's website.
6. Almost anyone can be a councillor but to check that you are eligible, take our eligibility quiz [www.beacouncillor.co.uk](http://www.beacouncillor.co.uk)
7. Hear more about the role as well as tips and inspiration from existing councillors at <https://beacouncillor.co.uk/meet-them/> <https://beacouncillor.co.uk/meet-her/>
8. Get in touch with an existing councillor for an informal chat to hear about the role.
9. Watch the Be a Councillor film <https://beacouncillor.co.uk/>
10. Use our Be a Councillor worksheets to see how you would handle life as a councillor at [www.beacouncillor.co.uk](http://www.beacouncillor.co.uk)
11. Explore, research and keep up to date about your local area, different communities, services, issues and ideas.
12. Attend a council meeting and other council events to find out more about local government and your local area.
13. Read the guidance from the Electoral Commission about the process of standing for election <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england>
14. Contact Democratic Services at your council to get the necessary paperwork and find out the deadline to submit.
15. You will need to get 10 people (in the ward where you wish to stand) to sign your nomination papers.
16. Build your local profile, reputation and campaign.

Becoming a councillor can be both rewarding and stimulating. And while there is no template for an 'ideal' councillor, those who excel in the role are likely to be committed, determined, talented and willing to learn. Could that be you?

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## Be a Councillor – further information and advice

### Electoral Commission

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

0333 1031928

[pef@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:pef@electoralcommission.org.uk)

### Local Government Association (LGA)

Be a Councillor

[beacouncillor@local.gov.uk](mailto:beacouncillor@local.gov.uk)

### Independent or Alternative Parties

Independent Group, LGA

0207 664 3206

[Independent.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk](mailto:Independent.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk)

### Labour

Labour Group Office, LGA

Martin Angus

020 7664 3134

[martin.angus@local.gov.uk](mailto:martin.angus@local.gov.uk)

### Conservatives

Conservative Group Office, LGA

020 7664 3264

[lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk](mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk)

### Liberal Democrats

Liberal Democrat Group Office, LGA

Terry Stacy

0207 664 3235

[terry.stacy@local.gov.uk](mailto:terry.stacy@local.gov.uk)

Rob Banks

020 7664 3204

[rob.banks@local.gov.uk](mailto:rob.banks@local.gov.uk)

[www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk)

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