

Local Elections 6 May 2010

In addition to the General Election, 6 May 2010 sees local elections across many parts of England. This briefing outlines who will be voting and on what issues.

Will we be voting where I live?

All 32 London boroughs will be voting for all council seats, and three of them will be also voting for elected Mayors. All 36 Metropolitan Districts and 20 Unitary Authorities will be voting for a third of their seats, as will most of the 78 District Councils. There are no local elections for Council Councils, nor will there be local elections in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. *A full list of councils facing elections can be found at the end of this briefing.*

What are we voting for?

Your local council for will have different responsibilities depending on whether you live within a single tier authority, which has responsibility for all council services, or within a district and a county council which share responsibilities. Councils provide the services listed below and set priorities and budgets for these services, although their actions will be affected by central government strategies and funding. Your vote will decide how these services are delivered locally.

Single tier authorities	Metropolitan Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Social services • Planning • Waste disposal, recycling and collection • Trading standards • Roads, highways and transportation • Housing • Environmental Health • Parks, open spaces and countryside • Libraries • Licensing
	London Borough	
	Unitary or Shire	
Two tier authorities	Council Council and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Social services • Trading standards • Waste disposal • Highways and transport • Strategic land use planning • Libraries
	District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • licensing • planning • waste and recycling • environmental health

I don't know if I am registered to vote. Am I too late?

To vote in this election you need to be on the electoral register, listed at the address you live in. If you are unsure if you are registered, contact your local returning officer. If you are not registered, you have **until 20 April 2010** to register. All details about registering, or verifying that you are on the register, to vote can be found on the Electoral Commission website (www.aboutmyvote.org.uk). The deadline for registering for a postal vote is also 20 April. If you want to register for a proxy vote (where someone casts a vote on your behalf) you have until 27 April 2010.

What can I do if there are extremist parties standing locally?

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church have made clear their conviction that the policies of extremist and racist political parties are incompatible with an understanding of God's love for all people. We call on all Christians to see politics as an outworking of our Christian beliefs and work actively to counter those who stir up hatred. We can do this by using our votes to support parties which reject racism and intolerance. Some Christians take this personal commitment further and will be standing for election themselves.

Many local authorities face the prospect of a large number of candidates standing from extreme racist parties. Local elections historically have had a low turnout, and extremist parties perform proportionately better when fewer people vote. Whilst holding the General Election on the same day should increase voter turnout, it is important not just to focus our attention on Westminster but also consider the delivery of local services through local authorities.

Political arguments based on fear and prejudice may be better received during a time of economic downturn. Christians should respond to this with counter-arguments of hope and love.

Churches can work with other community based organisations to help mobilise local voters. Contact your local church, trade unions or Hope Not Hate (www.hopenothate.org.uk/) to find out how you can get involved.

One effective option is for local church leaders to issue a statement condemning policies and principles which are contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Examples of previous statements are available on the Countering Political Extremism website - www.methodist.org.uk/extremism For further information on making statements please contact:

- Graham Sparkes – Baptist Union of Great Britain - 01235 517728 or gsparkes@baptist.org.uk
- Rachel Lampard – Methodist Church – 020 7467 5248 or LampardR@methodistchurch.org.uk
- Frank Kantor – United Reformed Church – 020 7916 8633 or frank.kantor@urc.org.uk

This is a resource for all the churches. Please use the material and adapt it for your own use.

Further resources for the General Election can be found at www.churcheselection.org.uk

The Joint Public Issues Team

April 2010

For more information please contact John Cooper on cooperj@methodistchurch.org.uk

Where are the elections in 2010?

England

All 32 London Boroughs (all-up)

(M) = simultaneous mayoral election

Barking and Dagenham	Hammersmith & Fulham	Merton
Barnet	Haringey	Newham (M)
Bexley	Harrow	Redbridge
Brent	Havering	Richmond upon Thames
Bromley	Hillingdon	Southwark
Camden	Hounslow	Sutton
Croydon	Islington	Tower Hamlets
Ealing	Kensington & Chelsea	Waltham Forest
Enfield	Kingston-upon-Thames	Wandsworth
Greenwich	Lambeth	Westminster
Hackney (M)	Lewisham (M)	

All 36 Metropolitan Boroughs (by thirds)

Barnsley	Leeds	Solihull
Birmingham	Liverpool	South Tyneside
Bolton	Manchester	St Helens
Bradford	Newcastle upon Tyne	Stockport
Bury	North Tyneside	Sunderland
Calderdale	Oldham	Tameside
Coventry	Rochdale	Trafford
Doncaster	Rotherham	Wakefield
Dudley	Salford	Walsall
Gateshead	Sandwell	Wigan
Kirklees	Sefton	Wirral
Knowsley	Sheffield	Wolverhampton

20 Unitary Authorities (by thirds)

Blackburn-with-Darwen	North East Lincolnshire	Southend-on-Sea
Bristol	Peterborough	Stoke-on-Trent
Derby	Plymouth	Swindon
Halton	Portsmouth	Thurrock
Hartlepool	Reading	Warrington
Kingston upon Hull	Slough	Wokingham
Milton Keynes	Southampton	

No County Councils

78 District Councils (by thirds, except where indicated)

(M) = simultaneous mayoral election

Adur (one-half)	Gosport (one-half)	Rugby
Amber Valley	Great Yarmouth	Runnymede
Barrow-in-Furness	Harlow	Rushmoor
Basildon	Harrogate	St Albans
Basingstoke & Deane	Hart	South Cambridgeshire
Bassetlaw	Hastings (one-half)	South Lakeland
Brentwood	Havant	Stevenage
Broxbourne	Hertsmere	Stratford-on-Avon*
Burnley	Huntingdonshire	Stroud
Cambridge	Hyndburn	Swale
Cannock Chase	Ipswich	Tamworth
Carlisle	Lincoln	Tandridge
Castle Point	Maidstone	Three Rivers
Cheltenham (one-half)	Mole Valley	Tunbridge Wells
Cherwell	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Watford (M)
Chorley	North Hertfordshire	Waveney
Colchester	Norwich +	Welwyn Hatfield
Craven	Nuneaton & Bedworth (one-half)	West Lancashire
Crawley	Oxford (one-half)	West Lindsey
Daventry	Pendle	West Oxfordshire
Eastleigh	Preston	Weymouth & Portland
Elmbridge	Purbeck	Winchester
Epping Forest	Redditch	Woking
Exeter +	Reigate & Banstead	Worcester
Fareham (one-half)	Rochford	Worthing
Gloucester	Rossendale	Wyre Forest

There are no local elections due in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales

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