

Standing as a Candidate at Elections

To stand as a candidate at elections you must meet certain criteria.

To qualify as a candidate for local elections you must:

- be a British or Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of the European Union;
- be 18 years of age or more on the date of nomination;
- not be disqualified from holding office.

Candidates also have to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- they must be included on the electoral register and be a local government elector for the area on the date of nomination and thereafter;
- they must have occupied, as owner or tenant, any land or other premises in the area during the twelve months prior to nominations;
- their principal or only place of work must have been in the area for the previous twelve months;
- they must have resided in the area for the whole of the previous twelve months;
- for Parish elections, they must have resided in the area, or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of the area, for the whole of the previous twelve months.

A candidate for a borough or county council election must complete a nomination paper in order to stand for election. The nomination paper has to be signed by ten electors who live within the electoral ward or division and must be returned by the statutory deadline together with the candidate's consent to nomination.

A candidate for Parish elections must also fully complete the nomination paper, but it only needs to be signed by two electors living in the parish or parish ward.

Although most candidates are nominated through a political party, individuals can stand for election in their own right.

To qualify as a candidate for UK Parliamentary elections you must:

- be a British or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;
- be 18 years of age or over on the date of nomination;
- not be disqualified from holding office.

A candidate for a Parliamentary election must complete a nomination paper in order to stand for election. The nomination paper has to be signed by ten electors of the constituency. Candidates also have to submit a deposit of £500 which will be refunded only if the candidate receives more than 5% of the total votes cast in the election.

The same qualifications apply for **European Parliamentary elections** as for a UK Parliamentary election with the addition that the candidate has to be a citizen of a country within the European Union. There is no requirement for a nomination paper to be submitted for these elections but a £5,000 deposit is required which is refunded only if the candidate receives more than 2.5% of the total votes cast for the electoral region.

Becoming a Candidate

A person becomes a candidate at an election on the day on which they submit a valid nomination paper / their paper is declared valid. If a person makes it known before they submit a nomination paper that they are going to be a candidate, they will officially become a candidate on the last day for publication of the notice of election.

Please contact Electoral Services for more information on submitting a nomination