

LOCAL ELECTIONS Q&A – 2025 – WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Please find below a list of questions and answers relating to the local elections in May 2025, when every seat on every parish and town council in West Northamptonshire, and every seat on West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), is up for election.

Please visit our dedicated Elections Webpage at <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/elections> for resources and further information.

Q1: When are the local elections scheduled to take place?

A1: Local elections in Northamptonshire are scheduled for Thursday 1 May 2025.

Q2: Who runs the elections?

A2: WNC is the “Elections Authority” and is responsible for administering the elections on behalf of parish and town councils. The costs that WNC incurs are recharged to the individual parish and town councils.

Q3: Who can stand for election?

A3: Broadly, anyone who is over 18 years old, lives in the parish or within three miles of it or has their main or only place of work there. See the Electoral Commission guidance on qualifications and disqualifications at <https://tinyurl.com/2xafkyvh> and the general guide for candidates at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england>.

Q4: What is the deadline for submitting nomination papers?

A4: The deadline for candidates wishing to stand in the election to deliver their nomination papers is **1600 on Wednesday 2 April 2025**.

Q5: Where can candidates find the nomination papers?

A5: Nomination papers are available on the Electoral Commission's website at <https://tinyurl.com/yu3jbjnk>. Nomination papers are also available from WNC Electoral Services (returningofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk) and from the clerk to the parish or town council.

Q6: Do the Proposer and Seconder need to live in the parish that the person is standing for?

A6: Yes. Even if the candidate lives outside the parish, their Proposer and Seconder must both be local government electors in the parish. If the parish is warded (i.e. divided into separate electoral areas) the Proposer and Seconder must live in the ward that the candidate is standing for, even if the candidate themselves lives outside it.

Q7: Where does a candidate obtain the Electoral Numbers for their Proposer and Seconder

A7: The electoral numbers are obtained from the Electoral Register. Candidates can ask the clerk to the parish or town council, or they can email WNC Electoral Services (returningofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk) to ask for the numbers. It is important that the numbers are obtained from the most recently published register (the one published on 3 March 2025). Note that there is no data protection issue with clerks issuing electoral numbers to candidates for the purpose of completing their nomination paper. Once a person officially becomes a candidate, they are entitled to receive a copy of the electoral register, which can be requested from WNC Electoral Services by sending a completed Register Request form (available at <https://tinyurl.com/2s7zk328>).

Q8: Who can check nomination papers for accuracy?

A8: WNC offers an informal check of candidates' nomination papers. A scanned or photographed copy of the nomination paper can be sent to returningofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk with a request for an informal check (can be sent at the same time as the appointment request (see below)).

Q9: How should candidates submit their nomination papers?

A9: Candidates must make an appointment with WNC Electoral Services and take the nomination papers to the Guildhall in Northampton ([map](#)) or to The Forum in Towcester ([map](#)) or, on certain dates, to the Abbey Centre in Daventry ([map](#)). Appointments can be made by phone on 01604 526130 or by emailing returningofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk. The earliest date for an appointment in Northampton or Towcester is Monday 17 March 2025 and the latest date is Wednesday 2 April 2025, there are no appointments for Towcester on 20, 26 or 28 March. Appointments can be made within the dates and times below:

Daventry Appointments:

20 March - 9am – 4:30pm
26 March - 9am – 4:30pm
28 March - 9am – 4:30pm

Northampton Appointments:

17 March - 9am – 4:30pm
18 March - 9am – 4:30pm
19 March - 9am – 4:30pm
20 March - 9am – 7:00pm
21 March - 9am – 4:30pm
24 March – 9am – 7:00pm
25 March - 9am – 4:30pm
26 March - 9am – 7:00pm
27 March - 9am – 4:30pm
28 March - 9am – 4:30pm
31 March - 9am – 7:00pm
1 April - 9am – 7:00pm
2 April - 9am – 4pm

Towcester appointments:

17 March - 9am – 4:30pm
18 March - 9am – 4:30pm

19 March - 9am – 7:00pm
21 March - 9am – 4:30pm
24 March - 9am – 7pm
25 March - 9am – 4:30pm
27 March – 9am – 4:30pm
31 March - 9am – 7:00pm
1 April - 9am – 7:00pm
2 April - 9am – 4pm

Q10: Does the person delivering the nomination papers require ID?

A10: No, a person does not need to show ID to deliver nomination papers. The key requirements are that the nomination papers must be correctly completed and submitted by the deadline.

Q11: Can the clerk to a parish or town council deliver some or all the nomination papers for that council?

A11: In principle, yes. Northants CALC recognises the convenience of one person delivering multiple nomination papers, but there is a risk if anything goes wrong. In the past, there have been incidences where the person who was supposed to be delivering the forms forgot, or lost one of the forms, or handed in a form that was not complete (only the candidate can authorise substantive amendments). Ultimately, it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that a correct and valid nomination form is delivered by the deadline.

Q12: Are existing councillors required to submit nomination papers if they wish to continue?

A12: Yes, existing councillors who wish to continue must also submit nomination papers.

Q13: How and when will we know who has been nominated?

A13: The deadline for nominations is 1600 on Wednesday 2 April 2025. On Thursday 3 April 2025, WNC will publish on its website (<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services/local-elections-2025>) the Statement of Persons Nominated, which will be a full list of all the candidates standing in all the elections across West Northamptonshire. Parish and town councils are not legally required to publish the Statement of Persons Nominated, but it is useful to let residents know who is standing by publishing the extract of Statement for that parish on the parish or town council's website and notice boards.

Q14: Is there still an election if there are not enough candidates?

A14: Yes, there is still an election, but there is no poll (vote). If the number of candidates standing is equal to or less than the number of seats available, then those candidates are automatically declared elected.

Q15: What are the key dates for the Annual Meetings of the council in 2025?

A15: In a year of ordinary elections, the Annual Meeting of the council must be held within 14 days of the day on which councillors come into office. For 2025, the earliest date is Tuesday, 6 May 2025, and the latest date is Thursday, 22 May 2025.

Q16: How can councils encourage candidacy at local elections?

A16: Councils can promote candidacy by highlighting the importance of local elections and encouraging diverse groups such as young professionals, parents with young children, and

community-minded individuals to stand for election. See <https://northantscalc.gov.uk/elections> for all sorts of resources to help promote candidacy, including example materials from parish and town councils across Northamptonshire.

Q17: What should councils do if they receive conflicting information about election costs or procedures?

A17: Parish and town councils should verify the information with WNC by emailing returningofficer@westnorthants.gov.uk and/or check with Northants CALC. Clarifications should then be disseminated locally to avoid confusion.

Q18: What happens if there are one or two vacancies after the elections?

A18: If there are one or two vacancies following the elections then the parish council must co-opt to fill those vacancies and the co-option must take place within 35 days from the day on which the election was held, otherwise the principal council may use their powers to order a new election, the full cost of which will fall to the parish or town council.

Q19: What happens if there are so many vacancies after the elections that the council is not quorate?

A19: If there are so many vacancies that the council is not quorate following the election, the principal council has powers to step in and appoint councillors to manage the council until locals can be co-opted. The full costs of the intervention are recharged to the parish or town council.

Have you got a question that is not covered here? Email info@northantscalc.gov.uk and we will answer your question or point you in the right direction.