



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Election of Mayor for the West Midlands Combined Authority

4 May 2017

- Voting information
- The Candidates
 - Who they are
 - What they say

wmcaelects.co.uk



West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Election

On Thursday 4 May 2017, electors in the West Midlands Combined Authority area will have the opportunity to vote for the person they want to be Mayor for the Combined Authority until 2020.

The elected Mayor will have powers and responsibilities to make strategic decisions across the whole region. This is different to existing Civic Mayors (which are ceremonial mayors) and local council leaders who make decisions for, and on behalf of, their local authority.

About this booklet

This booklet must be sent to you by law*. It includes:

- information about the election
- an election address (i.e. a statement) from each of the Mayoral candidates who wish to be included
- information on how to fill in your ballot paper and how the result is calculated
- frequently asked questions.

Your vote is important in deciding who the future Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority is.

Martin Reeves
Combined Authority Returning Officer

*One booklet must be distributed to each registered elector. This booklet has been produced in accordance with The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

Mayoral Candidates

There are six candidates standing for the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority. Election addresses from six of them appear in this booklet. All candidates are listed in alphabetical order below. This is the order in which they will appear on the ballot paper.

James BURN

Green Party

Pete DURNELL

UK Independence Party (UKIP)

Beverley Anne NIELSEN

Liberal Democrats

Siôn Llewelyn SIMON

Labour and Co-operative Party

Graham John STEVENSON

Communist

Andy STREET

The Conservative Party Candidate



The order in which the addresses of candidates appear in this booklet has been determined by the drawing of lots by the Combined Authority Returning Officer, in accordance with The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.

Voting Information

Every registered elector will receive an official poll card which will explain when, where and how to vote. Details of your polling station can be found on your poll card or alternatively by contacting your local elections office.

How to cast your vote

When you get to the polling station, you will receive a ballot paper for the Mayoral election. Postal voters will have this ballot paper in their postal pack. This election uses the supplementary voting system. You will have two votes – one for your first choice candidate and one, if you wish, for your second choice candidate. The ballot paper will list all the candidates standing. Next to the list of candidates there will be two columns.

You will be asked to:

- If you have marked a first choice, you can choose whether or not to mark a second choice.
 - If you only mark a cross in the second choice column, your vote will not be counted.
- Vote for your first choice candidate by marking a cross (✕) in column A, and
 - Vote for your second choice candidate by marking a cross (✕) in column B.
 - You should not mark more than one cross in column A, and you should not mark more than one cross in column B.

Election of the Mayor for (insert name of combined authority)

Vote once in column A for your first choice, and
Vote once in column B for your second choice

	Column A first choice	Column B second choice
BAKSWRA, Paresb 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 5UG Liberal Democrats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5UJ Green Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDGBASTON, Richard 6 The Heath, Anytown XY4 6BH Common Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GUNNEL, WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytown XY6 3GD Labour Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5UP Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN Conservative Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ZANUCK, George Henry 17 The Parade, Anytown XY9 5KP United Kingdom Independence Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Postal Voters

If you have registered for a postal vote, a pack will be delivered to your home from 18 April.

If you have not received it by 27 April, you should contact your local authority.

It is now too late to opt for a new postal vote for this election.

Follow the instructions in your postal vote pack, ensuring that you provide your signature and enter your date of birth on

the security statement that must be returned with your ballot papers.

Please ensure that your completed postal ballot papers and security statement are returned in the same envelope as soon as possible.

Your pack must be received by the Returning Officer for your local authority area by no later than 10pm on 4 May 2017.

Key Dates



Postal packs start to arrive. If you haven't received your pack by **27 April** please email or call your local authority elections team. Your Local Returning Officer must receive your postal vote by **10pm on 4 May** for it to be counted.



Last date for proxy vote request – if you are a registered voter and you wish to apply for a new application to vote by proxy (someone to vote on your behalf), you must do this before **5pm on 25 April**.



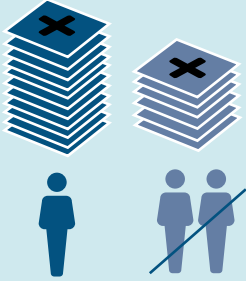
Voting day – you can vote from **7am–10pm** in person at your local polling station, which may have changed and is detailed on your poll card. **Postal votes must be submitted by 10pm** and can be dropped off at a polling station in your local authority area if necessary.



Mayoral election count

Who is Elected?

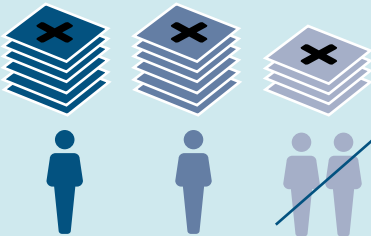
All the first choices are counted, and if one candidate has received **more than 50%** of the votes they will be elected Mayor of the Combined Authority.



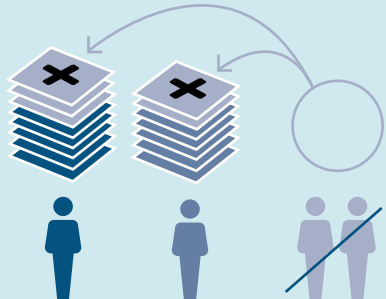
**Mayor of the West Midlands
Combined Authority**



If no candidate has more than 50% of the vote, the two candidates with the most first choice votes will remain in the election and **all other candidates will be eliminated**.



The ballot papers for the **eliminated candidates** are then checked. Any second choice votes for the two remaining candidates are added to their first round totals. The candidate with the most votes wins.



The Candidates

The following pages contain the candidates' addresses for those who have chosen to opt into this booklet. The content is the responsibility of the candidate themselves. The views expressed are theirs, and cannot be attributed to the Combined Authority Returning Officer or the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The order in which the addresses appear in this booklet has been determined by the drawing of lots by the Combined Authority Returning Officer.



ANDY STREET'S RENEWAL PLAN FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS

1 Ensuring that the West Midlands makes a success of Brexit

2 Championing the West Midlands in the UK and around the world

3 Backing local employers such as Jaguar Land Rover so that we continue to create jobs

4 Investing in skills and apprenticeships to ensure that we have a workforce fit for the future

5 Transforming our public transport system

6 Overseeing a long term plan that builds the homes we need

BIGGEST JOB IN THE REGION

"It will be a big job - and an important one."

Express & Star
26 September 2016

- Making a success of Brexit
- Controlling £8billion investment
- Running our public transport
- Making sure we build the homes we need
- Investing in skills and apprenticeships

ANDY STREET

CV

- Grew up in the West Midlands.
- **9 years** running John Lewis - responsibility for more than 30,000 jobs.
- **1985:** gets his first job on the shop floor of John Lewis.
- **2007:** gets dream job as Managing Director of John Lewis.
- **2011:** Appointed Chairman of the Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, tasked with bringing together politicians and businesses to grow the region's economy, create more jobs and increase prosperity for all.
- Gave up his business career to stand for Mayor.

Karren Brady talks to former John Lewis boss **Andy Street** about his West Midlands Renewal Plan

The West Midlands Mayor is a big job. Why are you, a businessman, the best person to do it?


The job is huge. It's too important to leave to the local political establishment that have failed to do enough for our region. The person who gets this job will control £8 billion of investment, transport, long term housing provision and potentially policing too. That's why it's so important that we have someone with the right experience, a clear plan and total commitment to the job to make a difference. I ran John Lewis for 9 years employing 30,000 people. My record demonstrates I know what it takes to run large organisations, and a team. Those skills will equip me for this job.

Why is restoring pride in our region so important?

We've made some good progress over the past few years, but not enough. Too few people feel they are benefiting and people think places like Manchester and London are outpacing us. So I want to put the West Midlands back at the top of the Premier League.

Tell me about your West Midlands Renewal Plan?

It's a plan to make a success of Brexit for the region, and to ensure we bring new jobs and training opportunities for local people. It's a plan to improve our transport after years of neglect. And it's a plan to make sure we get the right level of housing that's needed, without concreting over green spaces. Labour have had their chance having dominated local politics for decades. ■



Andy Street has a Renewal Plan for jobs, transport, investment and housing.

Pete Durnell

*Fiercely proud of the West Midlands
- passionate about its future*



“For far too long the West Midlands has been at the front of the queue when Westminster looks to make cuts, and right at the back when any new funding is being allocated”

Result?

Our roads are badly congested, our trains overcrowded
Hospitals and GP surgeries are struggling to cope and
we have a steadily worsening Housing Crisis,

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

- as the People's Mayor

My pledges to you...

TRANSPORT - I WILL

- Oppose HS2 and work on alternatives *to benefit everyone*
- Lobby government to nationalise the M6 Toll road
- Lobby for a second runway at Birmingham Airport

HOUSING - I WILL

- Pressure councils to prioritise housing for *local people*
- Convert empty premises into affordable accommodation
- Incentivise the use of brownfield sites & protect greenbelt

ECONOMIC GROWTH - I WILL

- Ensure that both our cities *and towns* prosper and thrive
- Give *extra support* to small and medium sized businesses
- Ensure we are at front of broadband fibre rollout program

WEST MIDS COMBINED AUTHORITY (New layer of government)

- Has already cost £14m of *your money* to set up
- *I will keep its running costs firmly under control*

I will promote the West Midlands nationally & internationally, attract new investment and growth, and work tirelessly to build a region that we can all rightly be *even more proud of!*

On Thursday May 4th

- VOTE 4 PETE DURNELL

For more of my policies and plans, go to: www.petedurnell.com

Beverley Nielsen



Your Champion for Change, Breaking the Mould



Successful director of a publicly quoted company, and Midlands Business Woman of the Year



Director at Birmingham City University, embracing our West Midlands' talent, originality and ambition



Experienced social entrepreneur and Councillor, promoting opportunity and growth for all

Beverley Nielsen— your first choice

1

Beverley's priorities are:

Fighting for a fair share for the West Midlands

Opposing £4 billion cuts in public services to 2020 agreed by this Government

Promoting our home grown business success

Nurturing our people, especially our goldmine of upcoming talent

Fighting a hard Brexit to get the best deal for our businesses

Strong voice and consensus builder

Opening up regional decision-making to make sure all our diverse voices are heard

Creating an effective transport system, integrating rail, metro, road and last mile solutions

1st Saturday free monthly bus scheme and free public transport for 16 to 25 year olds



Vote for Graham Stevenson



**Peace and
Socialism**

**People before
Profit**

Graham says: "I oppose the idea of directly elected Mayors, we already have too many professional politicians. We need a popular assembly of citizens to hold them to account, not one of their own kind.

If elected, I will take no salary for this position and will donate the funds to charity.

Tax the rich, they can afford it, and provide rewards to working people, who need it."

Vote Communist

You have two votes; use your first preference to vote for socialism!

Graham Stevenson

The Communist candidate

for West Midlands Mayor

Time for a radical alternative to the slash and burn approach to public services pushed by the establishment elite, which makes working people pay for the crisis they and the bankers made.



A former national leader of Unite the union with three decades of experience of the transport sector, Communist candidate, Graham Stevenson, has lived in the Midlands all his life, mainly in Birmingham and Coventry. This is our chance to speak out against privatisation, job losses, poor pay, and cuts in our region and for real socialist solutions.

- Cut public transport fares immediately
- Win public ownership of bus, tram, and rail
- Nationalise the M6 Toll Road for local benefit
- Build new affordable homes for all who need it
- Establish real construction and regeneration projects
- Proper jobs and training, especially for young people
- An immediate Living Wage of £10 an hour for all

Graham, also a former engineering factory worker , says: “Negotiations to leave the EU can give us a chance to rebuild our manufacturing base, if we work together in unity. West Midlands working people and their families want a people’s alternative to austerity, privatisation and public spending cuts.

Use your vote to make a difference

Email: graham4mayor@communist-party.org.uk

Web: communist-party.org.uk/express-your-support-graham4mayor

Prepared by: Andy Chaffer, 27 Montague Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9DF [07968 798 975 J]; On behalf of Graham Stevenson , 22 Brecon Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B20 3RN



NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND

JAMES BURN

GREEN PARTY

A MAYOR THAT WORKS FOR YOU, NOT HIS OWN BACK POCKET

The mayor will be paid £79,000. If elected I'll only take the average salary for the West Midlands (£28,000). I'll use the rest to help our least-well off areas to catch up. I'll put all my expenses online so you can see them.

HONEST AND OPEN

The government and this authority have been making big decisions behind your back and without your permission. That has to change. We need to put robust systems in place to ensure the WMCA is honest, accountable and open. Only then will it provide decent homes and good jobs.

NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND

1 in 3 children here now live in poverty. We need to prioritise sharing money around better. I will invest more in the least well-off places to create and connect people to well-paying jobs and chances to get on.

A HOME-GROWN ECONOMY

We must develop a strong local economy in every area. I'll concentrate on helping small businesses and developing sectors where we have a competitive edge and there's high demand (like transport and low carbon manufacturing). That way we can provide secure jobs on a living wage now and in the future.

James Burn is a local Councillor and Leader of the Opposition on Solihull Council.

He has worked across the West Midlands as a social worker and runs his own small company.

MAKE JAMES YOUR FIRST CHOICE

At this election you get to vote twice – for your 1st choice and 2nd choice candidate. If you vote for a candidate who doesn't finish in the top two, your second vote will be counted instead.

 jamesburn.org

 [@james_burn](https://twitter.com/@james_burn)

 [#JamesBurn4GreenMayor](https://twitter.com/JamesBurn4GreenMayor)



Green Party
for the common good

LET'S TAKE BACK CONTROL OF THE WEST MIDLANDS FROM LONDON

Because we can run our place better if we run it ourselves.

I love this place and I'm very proud to be from here. But as a region we've lost the pride that our great towns and cities used to have.

This is the place of Shakespeare; where we built the first steam engines which transformed the world, and the Spitfires that helped win the Battle of Britain.

But growing up here, leaving school in the 80s, I saw our manufacturing base all but destroyed by the Conservatives. And today I see the same Tories pouring vastly more money into London than here. That means London gets more for housing, hospitals, policing, schools and public transport. And it's why the West Midlands still has the worst unemployment in Britain.

With new powers and new funding we can start to do something about it - but only with a Mayor who's really from here and puts the West Midlands' interests before anything else.



Let's build our future with the pride of our past

Vote  **Labour** Thursday 4 May
and Co-operative

Siôn Simon

LABOUR'S CANDIDATE
FOR METRO MAYOR



Siôn's a season ticket holder
at West Bromwich Albion

LET'S BUILD OUR FUTURE WITH THE PRIDE OF OUR PAST

My plan for the West Midlands

1. **8,000 new technical apprenticeships;**
2. **Get tough on so-called 'everyday crime'** with a new £1 million Gangs and Drugs Taskforce to divert young people from crime and drugs;
3. **Cap bus and tram fares at £4.40 per day**, frozen for at least a year; with free bus and tram travel for college students; double the size of our tram network to link the region to a massively-expanded airport - and nationalise the M6 Toll road;
4. **Double the number of affordable new homes** - and end the Tory scandal of homelessness, backed by a £500 million fund to clean up derelict sites;
5. **I'll be an accredited Real Living Wage Mayor:** a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay of at least £8.45 an hour.

*A truly local Mayor with
a proven track record of
leading a multi-billion pound
organisation*

SIÔN'S CV

- ✓ A self-employed small business person for over a decade - I know the pressure of the looming VAT return
- ✓ Government Minister with overall responsibility for an £11 billion organisation
- ✓ Senior manager in a global corporation

SIMON, Siôn
Labour and Co-operative Party



Statement by the Combined Authority Returning Officer for the West Midlands Combined Authority

This booklet contains more information about the candidates and other information useful to voters. The information provided by the candidate is their responsibility and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council. As the Combined Authority Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result for the West Midlands.

The election for Mayor for the West Midlands Combined Authority will be held on 4 May 2017.

Contact information

I can be contacted at:

Martin Reeves
Combined Authority Returning Officer
for the West Midlands
The Council House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B1 1BB
Email: electionsoffice@birmingham.gov.uk

Further information is also available at:

birmingham.gov.uk/elections
or wmcaelects.co.uk
yourvotematters.co.uk

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