

THE WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
MAYORAL ELECTION

Thursday 6 May 2021

Inside: Voting and candidate
information



 westofengland-ca.gov.uk/election2021

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**YOUR
REGIONAL
MAYOR
MATTERS**

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION

On Thursday, 6 May 2021 electors in Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire, will have the opportunity to vote for the person they want to be the next West of England Mayor.

The Regional Mayor leads the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and its work on the development of business, skills, housing and transport across the region.

The Combined Authority also leads on the region's recovery plan to make sure the right support and infrastructure is in place for residents and businesses to drive the West of England's recovery.

About this booklet

This booklet must be sent to you by law*.

It includes:

- information about the election
- an election address from each of the candidates
- information on how to fill in your ballot paper
- frequently asked questions

Shahzia Daya

Combined Authority Returning Officer

* By law, one booklet must be distributed to each person entitled to vote at the election.

THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES

There are four candidates standing as Mayor for the West of England Combined Authority.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order below.

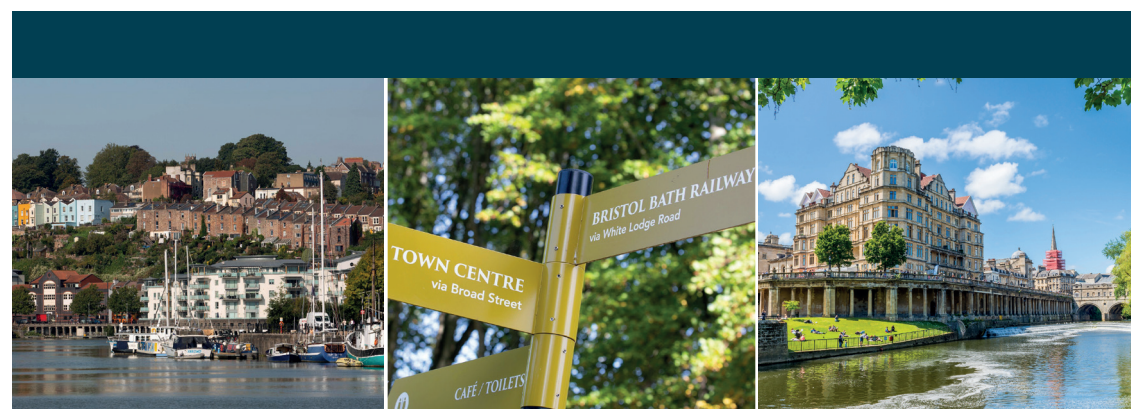
This is the order in which they will appear on the ballot paper.

NORRIS, Dan
Labour Party

THOMAS, Jerome
Green Party

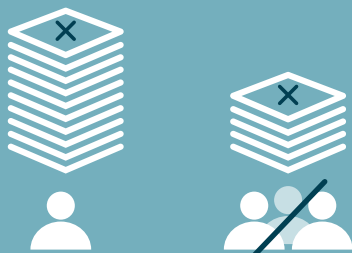
WILLIAMS, Samuel Patrick Sutherland
The Conservative Party Candidate

WILLIAMS, Stephen Roy
Liberal Democrat



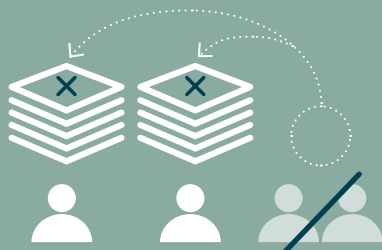
WHO IS ELECTED?

All the first choice votes are counted, and if one candidate has received more than 50% of the votes they will be elected West of England Mayor.

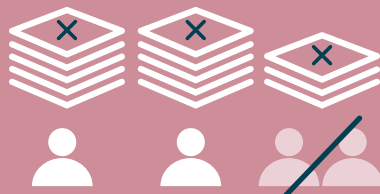


If no candidate has more than 50% of the vote:

Any second choice votes for the two remaining candidates are added to their first round totals. The candidate with the most votes wins.



The two candidates with the most first choice votes will remain in the election and all other candidates are eliminated.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do the West of England Mayor and West of England Combined Authority do?

The Regional Mayor leads the West of England Combined Authority and works to improve the lives of the people who live, work and travel in the West of England. This involves bringing partners together to improve transport in the region, helping residents access new skills, training and job opportunities, supporting businesses to succeed and addressing the region's housing, planning and infrastructure needs.

How does the West of England Mayor work with local councils?

The West of England Mayor works together with the Bristol Mayor who is responsible for the area covered by Bristol City Council and the leaders of Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils to make decisions to benefit the wider region.

How much funding does the Combined Authority attract?

Financial benefits were part of a devolution deal agreed in 2017, bringing £900m of new investment funding into the region. Since then over £1.15bn of new funding has been secured for the West of England region because we have a combined authority.

Why has every voter in my household been sent a booklet?

The law says that every registered voter must be sent their own copy, so they get a chance to see who the candidates are.

Why do I have two votes for one Mayor?

The law states that mayoral elections must be done this way. It allows you to say who would be your second choice for Mayor if your first choice is not in the top two after the first round of counting, and if there is not an outright majority winner at that stage.

I have lost my poll card, can I get another one?

If you are on the electoral register, you don't need a poll card to vote. You can attend the polling station and staff there will help you. The poll card is just to inform you that there is an election and explain where your polling station is.

Is voting in person safe?

Polling stations will have safety precautions in place in line with the latest Covid-19 guidance. You can keep yourself and others safe by:

- wearing a face covering
- bringing your own pen or pencil
- cleaning your hands when entering and leaving the polling station
- keeping a safe distance

What happens if I fall ill with Covid-19 or need to self-isolate?

You should not attend the polling station if you have symptoms of Covid-19, or if you have been asked to self-isolate. If you are self-isolating or become unwell as a result of Covid-19 shortly before polling day, or on the day itself, you may be able to apply for an emergency proxy vote. The electoral registration team at your local council will tell you what you need to do to arrange this.

THE CANDIDATES

The following pages contain addresses from the candidates.

The content of these addresses is the responsibility of the candidates themselves. The views expressed are theirs and cannot be attributed to the Combined Authority Returning Officer, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council or the West of England Combined Authority.

The order in which the candidate addresses 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.



The West of England Mayor is a big job – and at this pivotal moment for our local economy, it matters who does it.

The Mayor has a central role to play as the region builds back from COVID in delivering investment to create jobs and support business, improve transport infrastructure and deliver homes in the right places. But also in bringing people across the region together to deliver projects of the scale needed to **take our region forward.**

I am uniquely skilled to do this job. I was born locally, brought up and now live and work here and my daughters go to school here. **As a businessman, I have a track record of creating jobs and working with charities** to help get people back on their feet. I've delivered big projects with big budgets that have helped improve people's lives.

I am passionate about our region and I truly believe that the West of England can recover from this pandemic stronger than ever. That's why I'm standing for Mayor on Thursday 6th May.

VOTE FOR SAMUEL WILLIAMS

We're making real progress.

But what happens next comes down to you.

Four years ago, local people across the West of England elected our first-ever Metro Mayor. Since then, we've worked flat-out to repay your trust and get things done.

- We're creating 6 new stations.** Connecting over 80,000 people to the rail network, reducing congestion and increasing opportunity.
- We've invested £100 million to help people get training and secure jobs.** Delivering projects like the Future Bright programme which helps young people access career coaching.
- And we're transforming brownfield sites.** Sites like Bath Riverside and Hengrove Park in Bristol are enabling us to create jobs and build houses without using greenbelt land.

This year has been amongst the most difficult in most of our lifetimes. But now, as we roll out the vaccine, we can build a plan for our recovery to support our local economy and help get people back into work.

With your support, we'll deliver the 6 new stations. We'll finish the transformation of Hengrove Park and Bath Riverside. We'll expand the Future Bright Programme to get even more people the skills local businesses want so they can get well-paid jobs locally. And we'll secure more investment for every part of our region.

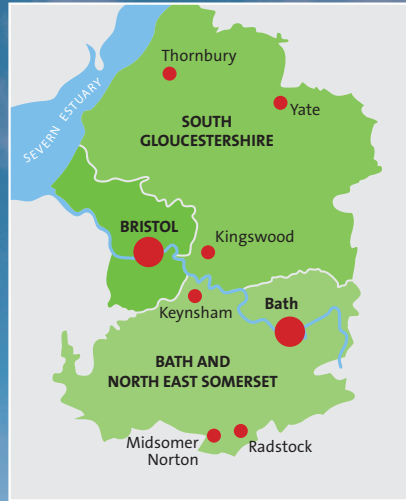
More jobs. More homes. More investment. On Thursday 6th May, vote for me and together we'll make it happen.

Samuel Williams



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

JEROME THOMAS



Dear Resident,

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on who is your **first choice** for the Metro Mayor.

As we emerge from COVID **I know that many people and businesses are struggling**. And if there is one lesson we've learned from COVID it's that **we need to face up to challenges we know are coming our way**.

The key challenge we now face is rebuilding our economy in ways which **protect us from climate change** and provide opportunities for everyone to learn and work, to connect to each other and to live comfortably.

We need a plan which puts people and communities centre stage, with a leader who will work across political divides and stand up for our region.

The Green Party has such a plan. We call it the **Green New Deal** and it will provide jobs, homes, food and transport which meet our climate goals.

It is time to be bold and put it into action.

Jerome Thomas

Jerome Thomas

Business director, city councillor,
Green candidate for Metro Mayor 2021



'Jerome is an experienced Green councillor and a successful business director, with the skills, determination and passion to lead the West of England region to a better future.'

Caroline Lucas,
Green Party MP



THE GREEN NEW DEAL

✓ JOBS, HOMES AND TRANSPORT

Planning must include good homes and secure jobs, with easy access to shops and local services as well as green spaces for wildlife and wellbeing.

✓ CLEAN ENERGY

Prioritise support for local business owners and households to switch to low carbon and to reduce bills while generating more of our own energy in the community.

✓ A BOOST FOR FARMING & LOCAL FOOD

Brexit and climate change mean that we need to increase our supply of healthy local food in order to be more self-sufficient.

✓ PUT PARTY POLITICS ASIDE

Instead, create a greater role for local people in decision making - they know what is needed and what will work.

You have 2 votes - it's important you vote for your favourite candidate first

VOTE JEROME

**1ST
CHOICE**



READ MORE: WWW.JEROME4METROMAYOR.CO.UK



STEPHEN'S PLAN FOR A GREEN REVIVAL IN THE WEST



Homes you can afford. Build thousands of affordable homes and council houses to the highest climate friendly standards, while protecting our green spaces. Insulate older homes to improve energy efficiency and cut household bills.



More bus routes. New bus routes, with non-polluting buses, and new train stations to link up our cities, towns and villages and provide a cheaper, greener way of getting around.



More local jobs. Make the West of England into a national Centre of Excellence for green technology to provide retraining into new careers. Help local businesses bounce back from COVID with a £100 million investment fund.



Action on Climate. Plant one million trees using native tree species in new areas and also linking existing forests. Oppose Bristol Airport expansion and invest more in renewable energy.

LIB DEMS ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGERS

The Liberal Democrats are the biggest party in the West of England. We have 63 councillors, which is more than any other party across Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

Liberal Democrats have the momentum to win this election.

Published and promoted by Hal MacFie of 31 James St West, Bath, BA1 2BT on behalf of Stephen Williams (Liberal Democrats) of 28 Sefton Park Road, Bristol, BS7 9AJ.



STEPHEN WILLIAMS

The only candidate who will make the Government take the West seriously.



"We have been at the back of the queue for far too long. We've missed out on the extra powers and hundreds of millions of pounds of Government money that have gone to other regions. This must change.

As a former MP and Minister I know how to work the system to get great deals for our region.

If you elect me you will see real change, delivering an exciting future that is both prosperous and green."

Stephen Williams

◆ **A MAYOR WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THE WEST** ◆

DAN NORRIS

Labour's Dan Norris is a strong voice for you, your family and our region

Dan Norris has always lived and worked locally

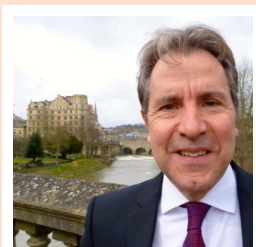
I'm hugely proud of my local roots. The West of England is wonderful and it can be better still. I attended schools in Winterbourne and Chipping Sodbury and live in Pensford in rural North East Somerset. I've been a teacher and NSPCC trained child protection officer in Kingswood, Bath and Bristol.

Dan has ideal experience to be our Metro Mayor

I've been a South Gloucestershire and North East Somerset MP, a Bristol Councillor and an Environment Minister. I know our fantastic communities very well. As MP, my area had the UK's lowest unemployment.

Dan's down to earth

I'm a lifelong Bristol City fan. I love walking my cocker spaniel Angel and I am a keen animal welfare supporter. I'm also a champion for charities that help children and disabled people.



Leading our recovery

Dan Norris is hugely ambitious for our area:



Dan will be a 'jobs first' Metro Mayor with a 'Jobs Action Plan' to create 23,000 new green jobs. He will host a jobs and skills summit in his first 100 days.



Transform public transport and back bikes and walking.



Double investment in affordable homes and tackle rough sleeping.



Always back our NHS and other key worker heroes.



Bee-friendly to make the West of England the UK's Pollinator Capital.



Introduce an 'Eat Local' campaign supporting our wonderful farmers, producers & small businesses.



Roll out fast and affordable broadband for everyone.



Establish a Green Recovery Fund to reduce our emissions and protect our environment.

Dan Norris



"Dan Norris will be a strong voice for business and innovation and put our region back on the national and global stage where it belongs - so I no longer need to stand in this election."

John Savage CBE, Business leader and former West of England 'Independent' Metro Mayor candidate

"Dan's experience and ideas make him the best person to lead our recovery."

Hilary Strong, Bath based Director of an arts training enterprise



Prepared and printed by Paul Tucker of 136a Walcot St, Bath BA1 5BG on behalf of Dan Norris of Bath and North East Somerset

Vote Labour

www.votedan.uk

KEY DATES

March/April: Polling cards arrive

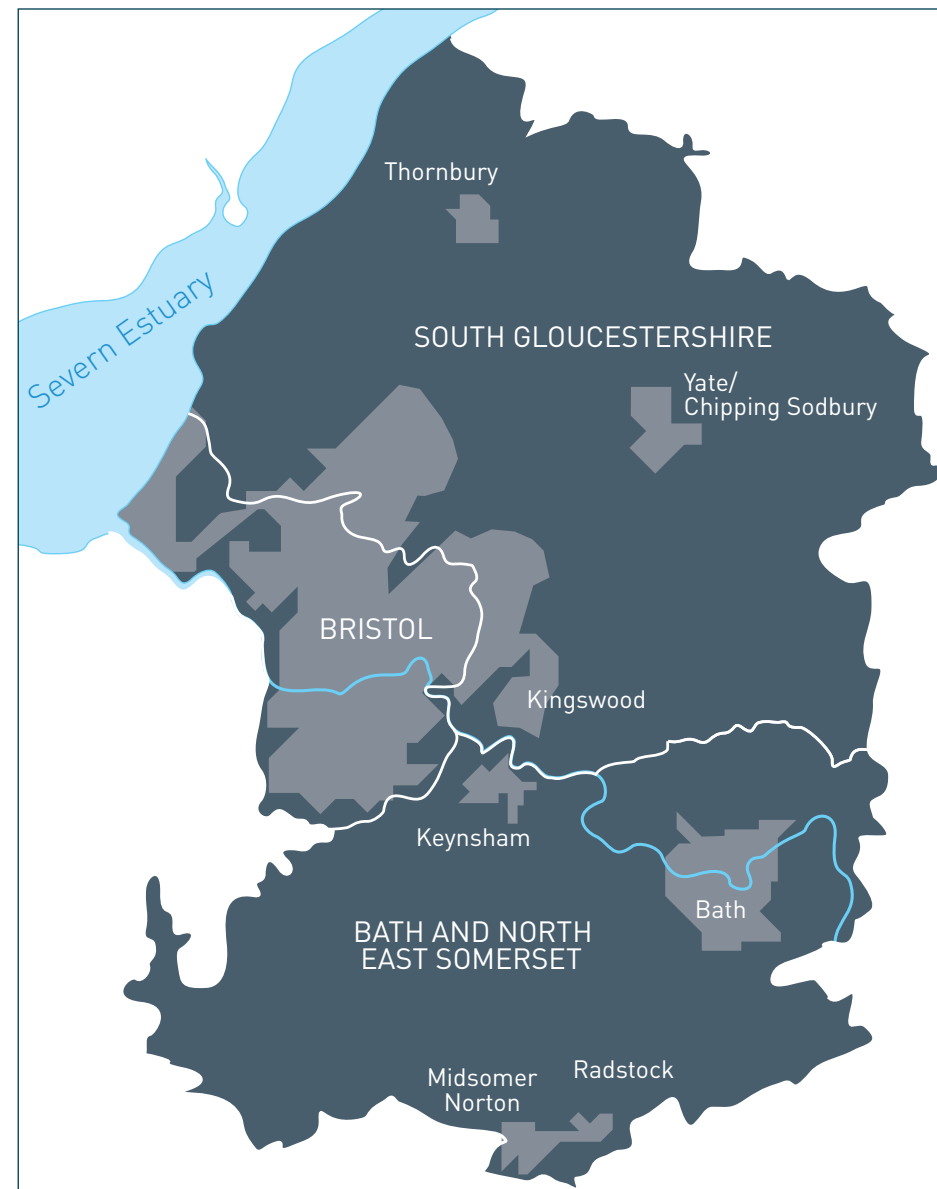
19 April: Deadline for registering to vote (11:59pm)

20 April: Deadline for applying for a postal vote (5pm)

27 April: Deadline for applying for a proxy vote (5pm)

6 May: Election Day

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY AREA





For more information visit:

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YOUR REGIONAL

JOBS MATTER



YOUR REGIONAL

SKILLS MATTER



YOUR REGIONAL

BUSINESSES MATTER



YOUR REGIONAL

TRANSPORT MATTERS



YOUR REGIONAL

HOMES MATTER




NEED MORE HELP?

Your polling station is listed on your poll card.
For help finding or identifying your polling station you
can call your local council:


Bath & North East Somerset

 01225 477 333

Bristol

 01179 223 400

South Gloucestershire

 01454 863 030

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information visit:

 westofengland-ca.gov.uk/election2021

If you need this information in a different format please contact:

 **0117 428 6210**

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