



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Election of Mayor for the West Midlands Combined Authority

Thursday 6 May 2021

- How to vote
- The Candidates
 - Who they are
 - What they say

wmcaelects.co.uk



West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Election

On Thursday 6 May 2021, electors in the West Midlands Combined Authority area will have the opportunity to vote for the person they want to be Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority until 2024.

The elected Mayor is the directly elected leader of a combined authority. The combined authority consists of the seven constituent members of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) – Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The Mayor chairs the West Midlands Combined Authority Board and has powers and responsibilities to make strategic decisions across the whole region. This is in contrast to local council leaders who only 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 5 candidates standing for the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority. Election addresses from 5 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.

Liam Byrne

Labour and Co-operative Party

Steve Caudwell

Green Party

Pete Durnell

Reform UK

Andy Street

The Conservative Party Candidate

Jenny Wilkinson

Liberal Democrats



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

Voting

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

If you are a registered elector, you will receive up to three ballot papers.

- One is for the Local Elections (where these are being held in your area)
- One is for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections, where you have two votes.
- One is for the Mayoral Election, where you have two votes.
- The Local ballot paper will be **WHITE**.
- The PCC ballot paper will be **GREEN**.
- The Mayoral ballot paper will be **YELLOW**.

You can have a first preference and a second preference vote on the Mayoral ballot paper:

- One for your first choice candidate
- Vote by marking a **(X)** in column A
- One for your second choice candidate

- Vote by marking a **(X)** in column B
- Do not mark more than one cross in either column
- If you only have a first choice you can choose whether or not to mark a second choice
- If you only mark a (X) in column B your vote will not be counted

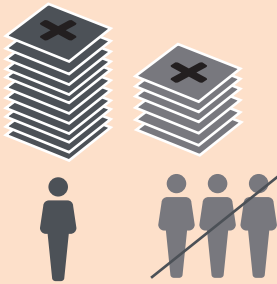
Election of the Mayor for (insert name of combined authority)

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
BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG Liberal Democrats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ Green Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EDGBASTON, Richard 6 The Heath, Anytown XY4 0BH Common Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GUNNILL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytown XY6 3GD Labour Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Parade, 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"/>

How votes are counted

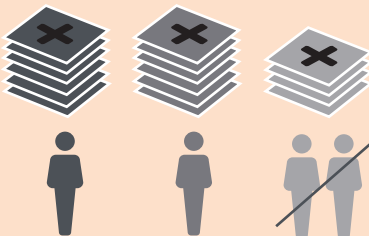
All the first choices are counted, and if one candidate has received **more than 50%** of the votes they will be elected Mayor of the Combined Authority.



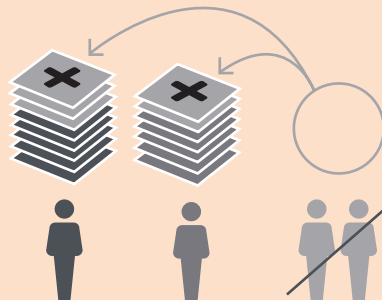
Mayor of the West Midlands
Combined Authority



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.



Postal Voters

If you have registered for a postal vote, a pack will be delivered to your home from **16 April**.

If you have not received it by **29 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 Local Returning Officer by no later than 10pm on 6 May 2021.

Key Dates



16 April

Postal Packs start to arrive. If you haven't received your pack by **29 April** please email or call your local authority elections team. Your Local Returning Officer must receive your postal vote by 10pm on 6 May for it to be counted.



27 April

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 **27 April**.



6 May

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.



8 May

Mayoral election count.


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.





 WILKINSON
Jenny
Your mayor. Your voice.

Your choice for Mayor

Is anyone else tired of decisions being imposed on our area by Westminster?

We see it all the time. Remote politicians in Westminster ignore and undermine local communities, and the West Midlands gets a bad deal.

This election, the Liberal Democrats offer a real alternative. As your Mayor, I would stand up for our region and be your voice. On innovation, on recovery, and on green investment, the West Midlands could lead the way nationally – with the right leadership.

I believe that leadership should be focused on putting people and communities first and empowering our region.

My message this election is clear: we need new ideas, new leadership, and a change of direction. The tired Labour and Tory consensus in the West Midlands needs to be broken.

With your support we can do just that.

On May 6, vote for **Jenny**



Empowering people and communities

You should be at the heart of every decision taken for our region. That's why **I believe in a citizens' Britain** – making sure you have the chance to have your say on the recovery, on the environment, and on what matters to you.

Tackling poverty and inequality

I want every person to have the basics they need to thrive. I want to see the trials for a basic income (UBI) taking place in the West Midlands – **giving every individual the chance they need to make the best of themselves.**

Building a greener heart of England

A green revolution can **make our proud manufacturing heritage our strength for a new generation.** The recovery must be built on green foundations – I will put that at the heart of all our decisions.

Jenny **WILKINSON**



1

A close-up portrait of Liam Byrne, a middle-aged man with a full, greyish-brown beard and mustache. He is balding on top with short hair on the sides. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a dark, textured tie. The background is a plain, light grey-blue color. In the top right corner, there is a graphic element consisting of two overlapping squares, one red and one cyan. In the bottom left corner, there is white text. In the bottom right corner, there is the Labour and Co-operative logo, which includes a red rose icon and the text 'Labour and co-operative' in red.

**Liam
Byrne**
for **West Mids
Mayor**

 **Labour**
and co-operative

A NEW FUTURE FOR THE HEART OF BRITAIN

The West Midlands is such a proud region. We were the birthplace of the industrial revolution – the workshop of the world.

But we've lost out for far too long. Our region was hit the hardest by Covid. Now, in a few days time, we have a choice to make.

You have the choice to elect a strong, activist Labour Mayor who stands up to get our share – not someone who sits on the sidelines. Even before the pandemic, the truth is that for most of us, life was getting poorer and less safe.

We can't go back to that. We can do so much better.

Over the last year, I've listened to your ideas and ambitions for the West Midlands of tomorrow.

Together, we've created a plan – to build a new future for the Heart of Britain. It's a future where we lead Britain, and bring back industry to become the workshop of a greener world.

Support our youth and make our region the best place in Britain to be young.

Champion our amazing community spirit, and protect our safety.

Five generations of my family have lived and worked in the Midlands. It's where Sarah and I have brought up our children. Where I've served one of our poorest communities, worked with foodbanks and the homeless, and helped build new infrastructure like New Street station.

I'm so proud of our past. But now, I want us to be a leader again.

As Labour Mayor, I'll work non-stop to get our share. Your vote could be the difference between more Tory failure – or a new future for our region.

Together, we will make a difference.

**ANDY
STREET**
4WMMAYOR

**LET'S GET OUR
REGION BACK
ON TRACK**

**AND UNLEASH
OUR POTENTIAL**

ANDY STREET'S PLAN:

- ✓ Over 100,000 good-quality new jobs
- ✓ Massive progress on our long term transport plan
- ✓ Thousands of new homes on brownfield sites
- ✓ Championing the West Midlands every day

Find out more at www.andystreet.org.uk

Dear Resident

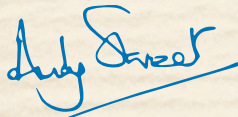
Our region faces huge challenges as we rebuild and recover from the impact of Covid. That's why it's so important we work to **an ambitious AND practical plan** to build back better:

- ✓ **On jobs** – in the first three years of being Mayor we saw 97,000 jobs created – we now need to **create at least 100,000 new jobs in two years** and I have a detailed plan on exactly how we can do this at: andystreet.org.uk/news/getting-west-midlands-back-work
- ✓ **On transport** – we've increased regional transport investment sevenfold since I became Mayor – now we need to **speed up the delivery of my transport plan** even further – including re-opening more train stations, expanding the metro and continuing to invest in new modern buses.
- ✓ **On housing** – we doubled the number of new homes being built in five years – we need to stay focused on **building more homes in the right places** with our “brownfield first” approach. Increasing the supply of affordable homes and promoting home ownership.
- ✓ **And, at the heart of our plans**, improving our **environment now and for future generations** through our #WM2041 plan for carbon neutrality by 2041.

To achieve all this, and more, we will need continued Government investment. That means continuing my **business-like approach to winning funding for our region** – not looking for damaging conflict.

But I also need your support. Your vote will enable me to continue with my ambitious plans to protect livelihoods and improve lives – so back me to get on with the job of get more things done for you, your community and our region.

Yours sincerely



Andy Street

 **Conservatives**

Follow me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/andy4wm

Pete Durnell

for **West Midlands
Metro Mayor**



Lockdowns have hurt the poorest and youngest the most, I will prioritise creating new jobs for the hardest hit.



Would you like a Mayor, “of the people, for the people”, who will listen to you, and understand your problems?



A Mayor who is not beholden to unions or “big business”, not afraid to tackle the difficult issues?



A Mayor who will never forget he works for the people of the West Midlands, not “the other way around”?



A Mayor who you can trust to be open and honest with you and to work tirelessly to improve the region?



Who has the backing of a national party, but will be free to act at all times in the best interests of the West Midlands?

“It’s time to #BreakTheChains and start living our lives again. It’s time for Reform!” - Pete Durnell

**Vote for Reform UK West
Midlands Metro Mayor
Candidate Pete Durnell on
May 6th.**





Pete Durnell *for* West Midlands Metro Mayor

As your Reforming Mayor, I will...

- ✓ Fight all attempts to build on precious green space
- ✓ Oppose all attempts to penalise diesel car owners
- ✓ Reverse the spiralling cost of the Mayor's office
- ✓ Expose where your taxes are being wasted
- ✓ Support small businesses, "the region's lifeblood"
- ✓ Tackle modern day slavery in all its many forms
- ✓ Work with police to end the scourge of dog thefts

I will NEVER...

- ✗ Support building HS2, £9bn is enough to waste
- ✗ Claim all the credit for the work of others
- ✗ Support any future lockdowns - EVER!
- ✗ Say one thing now, do the opposite in office
- ✗ Hire executive directors on eye-watering salaries

**FOR A WEST MIDLANDS
THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE**

STEVE CAUDWELL

GREEN PARTY

AN END TO THE WEST MIDLANDS POVERTY SCANDAL

Huge swathes of the West Midlands are still grindingly poor, suffering needless mental health issues and dying much younger. The Combined Authority just hasn't changed this - I will give these people the attention they deserve.

A GENUINELY GREEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

I know our region is best-placed to tackle the Climate Crisis - and leading the way would create huge opportunities for us. The Combined Authority is missing the boat.

A TRANSPORT SYSTEM YOU CAN ACTUALLY USE

Our buses and trains are a complete embarrassment compared to London and Manchester. I will build a public transport network the birthplace of the steam engine can be proud of.

Prepared on behalf of Steve Caudwell by Margaret Okole, 21 South Road, B18 5NA.

A close-up portrait of a man with a grey beard and bald head, wearing a dark jacket, white shirt, and yellow patterned tie. The background is blurred.

MAKE STEVE YOUR FIRST CHOICE

At this election you get to vote **twice** – for your 1st choice and 2nd choice candidate. For example, If your 1st choice is for Steve and he doesn't finish in the top two, your second vote is counted instead.

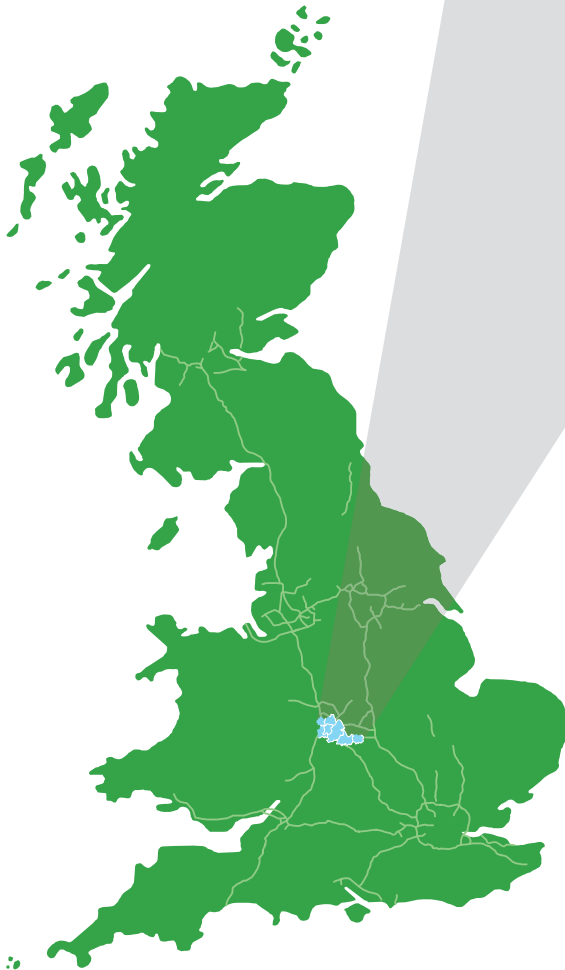
 <https://steve4mayor.green>

 [@steve4mayorWMCA](https://twitter.com/steve4mayorWMCA)

 **Green Party**



West Midlands Combined Authority



**Frequently Asked
Questions for
Election of Mayor for
the West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Electoral Registration Officer contact details

Constituent council	Address	Contact details
Birmingham City Council	Elections Office Council House Victoria Square Birmingham B1 1BB	Email: electionoffice@birmingham.gov.uk Tel: 0121 303 2731
Coventry City Council	Council House Earl Street Coventry CV1 5RR	Email: electoral.services@coventry.gov.uk Tel: 024 7683 3034
Dudley MBC	Electoral Services Council House Priory Road Dudley DY1 1HF	Email: elections.cexec@dudley.gov.uk Tel: 01384 814740
Sandwell Council	Elections Office Sandwell Council House Freeth Street Oldbury B69 3DB	Email: electoral_services@sandwell.gov.uk Tel: 0121 569 3244
Solihull MBC	Elections Office Council House Manor Square Solihull B91 3QB	Email: election@solihull.gov.uk Tel: 0121 704 6042
Walsall Council	Elections Office Council House Lichfield Street Walsall WS1 1AE	Email: electionoffice@walsall.gov.uk Tel 01922 652502
City of Wolverhampton Council	Elections Office Civic Centre St. Peter's Square Wolverhampton WV1 1RG	Email: electoral.reg@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 551177

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a directly elected combined authority Mayor?

The directly elected Mayor of the West Midlands chairs the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board and is elected by the residents of the West Midlands.

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is made up of seven constituent members of the West Midlands – Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Why does the West Midlands' have an elected combined authority Mayor?

The Mayor, in partnership with the combined authority, exercises the powers and functions devolved from Government, set out in the West Midlands' devolution deal.

All devolution deals require areas to have a directly elected mayor. The Government believes the role ensures clear accountability over the powers, functions and funding that is devolved from national to local level.

A key part of the role is to act as an advocate and global ambassador for the West Midlands and to chair the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA):

What is devolution?

England is one of the most centralised countries in the developed world. Devolution is a process that transfers powers and funding from central Government to a local area. It means decisions can be made closer to the people affected, involving them more directly.

What powers does the Mayor have?

The Mayor leads the combined authority, working with partner authorities and stakeholders, and chairs the WMCA Board. The main functions of the authority relate to transport, housing and regeneration, employment and skills, economic and industrial strategy, investment and public service reform.

As the devolution agenda develops so the role of the Mayor is also expected to evolve, working with combined authority colleagues to deliver the best possible outcomes for the residents and businesses of the West Midlands.

The Mayor and the combined authority work with partners and central Government to identify appropriate powers and functions that could be better exercised locally in addition to those already devolved with the overall aim of bringing inclusive growth to the West Midlands area.

How do I mark my vote?

Mark your vote in the usual way, with a single **X** in each of the columns indicated. You have two votes – one for your first choice and one for your second choice of candidate.

Why two votes for one Mayor?

The law states the voting process for the Mayoral elections must be done this way. It also 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.

What happens if I don't make a second choice?

Your first choice vote will still be counted.

What happens if I only mark an **X** in the second choice column?

Your vote will not be counted because no-one will know who your first choice candidate was.

What if I mark an **X** in the first choice column for more than one candidate?

Your vote will not be counted as it is unclear who you wanted to vote for.

When will the polling stations be open?

Polling stations will be open on 6 May 2021 from 7am–10pm. The location of your polling station is printed on

your poll card. This may have changed since the last time you voted, so please look carefully at your poll card.

For help finding or identifying your polling station, please call your local authority's elections helpline or visit our website www.wmcaelects.co.uk

Why has every voter in the household been sent a booklet? It seems to be a waste of money.

The law says that everyone registered to vote must be sent their own copy so that they get a chance to see the booklet, who is standing for election and what the candidates are saying.

I have not received any information on the candidates standing in the other elections.

Through this booklet you have received information on the combined authority Mayoral candidates, as we are required to send this to you by law. For the **Police and Crime Commissioner Elections** and local elections there is no requirement to send this information. However, if you do require further information on the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, then visit choosemyppcc.org.uk

For local elections, it is the decision and responsibility of the candidate or their agent to provide and send out further information to you.

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

This booklet contains information about the candidates and other useful 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 of the West Midlands Combined Authority will be held on 6 May 2021.

Contact information

I can be contacted at:

Martin Reeves
Coventry City Council
Council House
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RR

Further information is
also available at:

wmcaelects.co.uk

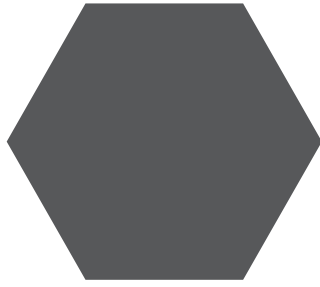
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