

Nomination Papers

Local Elections ~ 6th May 2010

The dates listed below are valid if an election is held on the 6th May 2010. If the election is combined with a General Election or changed in anyway, the principles will remain the same but the dates are subject to change. If in doubt, please check with the Elections Office – 01375 652816.

Who must complete a nomination paper? Any person wishing to stand at this election

When can I submit a nomination paper? The details will be listed on the Notice of Election which will be published on the notice board outside the Civic Offices and on the website on 29th March 2010. Receipt of nomination papers can begin the day after publication of the Notice of Election – 30th March.

Where can I obtain nomination papers? Nomination papers will be available from the Electoral Services office at the Civic Offices, New Road, Grays. Alternatively, your political party may supply nomination papers.

What must be submitted before the deadline of noon 8th April 2010? The nomination paper, the consent to nomination and the registration of political parties form. All sections must be completed, with the exception of the description (if this is left blank then the candidate must stand as an independent candidate, even if they have the political party form completed) they must complete the description themselves if they wish to fill this area in.

What happens if a nomination paper is late? A nomination paper cannot be accepted one second after noon on the 8th April 2010 (best practice is to ring the speaking clock at about 11.58am and wait until the clock has passed 12.00 noon)

Political party form? A letter from the party is acceptable but must show the details of each candidate that the letter refers to.

Name of party? Unless a party is registered with the Electoral Commission they can not use a party name (electoral commission has full list on website <http://registers.electoralcommission.org.uk/regulatory-issues/regpoliticalparties.cfm>). If they are not registered then they must stand as an independent and that is the full description; they can not say independent labour party for example unless this is registered with the Commission.

What happens if they attempt to submit their nomination form but not their consent to nominate? It is not a valid nomination without the consent to nominate, advise the candidate straight away.

Nomination paper? It must have a proposer, seconder and eight assenters; all must be on the electoral register in that ward, supply their signature and print name. The electoral number and the polling district must be shown. If these are not completed correctly the form will be invalid.

Who can qualify to be a candidate? A person who is on the register of electors for Thurrock Borough. If they do not have this qualification then they can qualify on one of the following grounds (see candidates consent to nominate section

(b) (c) (d)) – briefly, having occupied or owned land in the borough for last 12 months, being the principal or only place of work in the borough within the last 12 months or having resided in the borough for the last 12 months. Ask candidate to check the qualification criteria on the form.

Who can witness the consent to nominate? Anyone over the age of eighteen, they do not have to live in the Borough.

What about the other forms in the pack? They do not need to be submitted at this time, but remind the candidate or agent that these forms have deadlines. Please encourage early submission. The deadline for appointment of Election Agents is noon on 13th April 2010.

Commonly used names? A candidate can use a commonly used name for example, if their name is Patrick Smith and they are known as Paddy as a first name they can commonly used forename and this will appear on the ballot paper, likewise if they are known as Smithy then they can fill in the commonly known as surname.

What will be printed on the ballot paper? Exactly the same as the candidate has put on the nomination paper. The Returning Officer now has the power to make changes for *slight clerical errors* for example, simple spelling mistakes. We cannot alter anything that relates to the signatories or parties.

What if a candidate changes their mind? A prospective candidate has until noon on the 13th April to withdraw their nomination, it is then too late after this deadline and they will appear on the ballot paper.

Who has the final say as to if a nomination paper is valid? The Returning Officer or an appointed Deputy ONLY. If a person is unhappy at this decision their only course of action is an election petition through the courts.

Do I have to check all of the details on a paper? The paper should be treated at face value and only the details of the proposer, seconder and assenters should be checked. The details of qualification for the candidate are not our responsibility to check.

What will happen to the nomination paper? All nomination papers will be processed in the order they are received regardless of who they are.

How will a candidate know if their nomination is valid? A letter of validity will be sent out within 24 hours if possible, if they have nominated an agent then we will send this to the agent. We will not be checking nomination papers whilst the candidate is waiting.

What happens if we have not processed the application by noon on 8th April due to it being submitted close to the deadline? If we receive a nomination form at say 11.30am on the 8th and we are unable to process this until after the deadline of noon this is okay **but** if there is a mistake on the form then it may not be accepted as a valid nomination. It is therefore in the best interest of all candidates to submit their forms early and leave a contact number.

Further advice? Further advice about standing as a candidate may be obtained from the Electoral Commission website <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/> or the Electoral Services Office or the relevant party which you wish to represent.