

FAQs – Police and Crime Commissioner Election

What is the Police and Crime Commissioner election?

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 was passed by Parliament on Thursday 15 September 2011, and one of the key parts of the Act was to introduce the role of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each of the 41 police force areas in England and Wales (outside London).

When do the PCC elections take place?

Each police force area will hold an election on Thursday 5 May 2016, and the hours of poll will be from 7 am to 10 pm.

When do we find out who the new commissioner for Norfolk is?

This will be announced by Ray Harding, Police Area Returning Officer for Norfolk, at The Corn Exchange in King's Lynn on Friday 6 May 2016 after all the district counts have been combined.

What will the commissioner do?

The PCC will be responsible for:

- Representing and engaging with the communities of Norfolk
- Setting priorities for Norfolk Constabulary and preparing the police and crime plan
- Appointing and dismissing (if necessary) the chief constable of the Norfolk Constabulary
- Holding the chief constable to account
- Setting the policing budget and the council tax precept (the amount of money from your council tax used to pay for police services)
- Publishing an annual report that tells you whether policing priorities and targets have been met.

More information is available at www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk

Candidates and nominations

Prospective candidates for this election will need to complete nomination papers. Information can be found on the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk's website www.west-norfolk.gov.uk, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk and the Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

Each candidate will need to collect signatures and elector numbers from a proposer, a seconder and 98 subscribers – all of who must be registered to vote in the Norfolk area. Copies of the relevant register will need to be obtained from the local returning officer's election office.

A deposit of £5,000 is also required. This can be paid in cash or with a bankers draft from a recognised UK bank.

For each police force area, one council is acting as the lead authority to deal with the nomination of candidates and with co-ordinating the results. For Norfolk, the lead authority will be Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

The PARO for Norfolk is Ray Harding. He will be responsible for the co-ordination of this election across Norfolk.

What is the time period for candidates to stand for election?

Nominations will open on 30 March 2016 and close on 7 April 2016 (4 pm).

When will the list of the people nominated be published?

By 12 Noon on Friday 8 April 2016.

Who will run the PCC elections?

PCC elections will be run by local returning officers (LROs) in each local authority, with police area returning officers (PAROs) co-ordinating across each force area. For Norfolk the PARO is Ray Harding, Chief Executive of the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

Which voting system will be used to select PCCs?

The election for the new PCC will use the supplementary vote (SV) system where voters will be able to vote for a first and second choice candidate.

The votes from Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk residents will be combined with votes from the six other local authority areas in the county to determine who is elected as the PCC for Norfolk.

How does the Supplementary Vote (SV) system work?

Under SV, there are two columns on the ballot paper – one for voters to mark their first choice and one in which to mark a second choice. Voters mark one 'X' in each column, although voters are not required to make a second choice if they do not wish to.

All the first choices are then counted, and if a candidate has more than 50% of the votes, they are elected.

However, if no candidate has more than 50% of the votes at this stage, the top two candidates continue to a second round and all other candidates are eliminated. The second choice votes of everyone whose first choice has been eliminated are then counted.

Any votes for the remaining candidates are then added to their first round totals. Whichever candidate has the most votes after these second preferences have been allocated is declared the winner.

PCC's will be elected using the SV. This is the system used in Mayoral elections.

Who can vote for PCCs?

You can vote in the election of your PCC if you are resident in that area and you are:

- a British citizen living in the UK or registered to vote as a crown servant or member of the armed services
- a European Union citizen living in the UK
- a Commonwealth citizen who either does not need leave to be resident in the UK, or has the necessary leave and is legally resident in the UK.

When will the Norfolk PCC take up his/her post?

Thursday 12 May 2016

Which local authorities are involved in the PCC vote?

Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk
Breckland District Council
Broadland District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
North Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
South Norfolk District Council

What are the various deadlines for registering to vote?

Voters in England (excluding London) and Wales must register by Monday 18 April 2016 in order to be able to vote in person on Thursday 5 May 2016.

The deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5 pm, Tuesday 19 April 2016.

The deadline for applying for a proxy vote, except in a medical emergency, is 5 pm, Tuesday 26 April 2016.

What about my poll card or postal vote?

The LRO for your council area will send you a poll card. If you have requested to vote by post, your postal vote will be sent directly to you towards the middle of April.

If you wish to apply to vote by post, you must contact your local council. You will need to complete and return an application form by no later than 5 pm on Tuesday 19 April 2016.

When will the next elections take place?

After the May 2016 elections, the next election will take place in May 2020, and every subsequent four years.

How can I find out more?

There is information available from the [Cabinet Office](#) and the [Electoral Commission](#) and the [Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner](#).