Draft Order laid before Parliament under section 117(2) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20), and section 252(4) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55), for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2026

Made - - - - ***

Coming into force

The Secretary of State makes this Order in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 114(1) and (3) and 117(1A) of, and paragraph 12 of Schedule 5B to, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ("the 2009 Act")(**a**) and section 252(1) and (2) of, and paragraph 12 of Schedule 2 to, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 ("the 2023 Act")(**b**).

The Secretary of State has consulted the Electoral Commission about this Order in accordance with paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 5B to the 2009 Act and paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 2 to the 2023 Act.

In accordance with section 117(2) of the 2009 Act(**c**) and section 252(4) of the 2023 Act, a draft of this Order has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation, extent and commencement

1.—(1) This Order—

(a) may be cited as the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2026;

(b) extends to England and Wales; and

(c) comes into force the day after the day on which it is made.

(2) This Order does not apply for the purposes of—

(a) an election for the return of a combined authority mayor in accordance with Schedule 5B to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, or

(**a**) 2009 c. 20. Section 114(3) was amended by paragraph 26(4) of Schedule 5 to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (c. 1). Section 117(1A) was inserted by paragraph 29(2) of Schedule 5 to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (c. 1) and amended by section 68(4) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55). Schedule 5B was inserted by Schedule 1 to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (c. 1). Paragraph 12 of Schedule 5B was amended by S.I. 2016/997 and 2021/1265.

(**b**) 2023 c. 55.

(**c**) Section 117(2) was amended by section 68(4) of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023.

(b) an election for the return of a combined county authority mayor in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023,

in respect of which the notice of election is published before the date on which this Order comes into force.

Amendment of the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

2. The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017(**a**) is amended in accordance with this Order.

Amendment of Schedule 1

3.—(1) Schedule 1 (the mayoral elections rules) is amended as follows.

(2) In rule 16 (method of election)—

(a) in paragraph (a)—

(i) for "two" substitute "three";

(ii) for "Part 4" substitute "Parts 4 and 5";

(b) after paragraph (a) insert—

"(b) only two candidates remain validly nominated, a poll shall be taken in accordance with Part 4,".

(3) In rule 28 (equipment of polling stations)—

(a) in paragraph (6)—

(i) for sub-paragraph (b) substitute—

"(b) where the election is a combined authority mayoral election, the following notice which must be exhibited in every compartment of every polling station—

*[Specify name of combined authority] COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION

*[Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.]

*[Vote by putting a cross [X] in the box—

In column A next to your FIRST CHOICE candidate

In column B next to your SECOND CHOICE candidate

Your first and second choices should be different.]

PUT NO OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER OR YOUR VOTE MAY NOT COUNT.

*Complete or omit as necessary.";

(ii) for sub-paragraph (ba) substitute—

"(ba) where the election is a combined county authority mayoral election, the following notice which must be exhibited in every compartment of every polling station—

*[Specify name of combined county authority] COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION

(**a**) S.I. 2017/67. Relevant amendments were made by S.I. 2019/350, 2022/1353, 2023/1225 and 2024/131.

*[Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.]

*[Vote by putting a cross [X] in the box—

In column A next to your FIRST CHOICE candidate

In column B next to your SECOND CHOICE candidate

Your first and second choices should be different.]

PUT NO OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER OR YOUR VOTE MAY NOT COUNT.

*Complete or omit as necessary.";

(b) after paragraph (7) insert—

"(8) Where the Electoral Commission publishes information about the supplementary vote system to be used at CA/CCA mayoral elections, the CA/CCA returning officer may provide each returning officer with a copy of that information for exhibition at a polling station.".

(4) In rule 49(1) (attendance at the count) after sub-paragraph (a) insert "and

(b) at which the returning officer will begin any count of the second preference votes.".

(5) In rule 50 (the count)—

(a) in the heading, before "count" insert "first";

(b) for paragraph (3) substitute—

"(3) The returning officer must then—

(a) where the election is contested by three or more candidates, count the first preference votes given on them,

(b) where the election is contested by only two candidates, count the votes given on them.".

(6) In rule 51 (rejected ballot papers)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b) after "more than one" insert "first preference";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (d) after "uncertainty" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(b) in paragraph (2)—

(i) before sub-paragraph (ii) insert—

"(i) at an election at which three or more candidates remain validly nominated, an intention that a vote shall be given, by way of a first preference vote, for not more than one of the candidates clearly appears, or";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (ii) at the beginning insert "at any other election";

(iii) in the words after sub-paragraph (ii) before "the way" insert "(in either case)";

(c) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) A ballot paper which is not otherwise void and on which not more than one first preference vote is marked (whether or not a second preference vote is marked) is valid with respect to that vote, and must be counted accordingly.".

(d) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b) after "candidate" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (d) after "uncertainty" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(e) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) In the case of an election where only two candidates remain validly nominated, this rule is to apply as if—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b), for "first preference vote" there were substituted "vote",

(b) in paragraphs (1)(d) and (5)(b) and (d), the words "as to the first preference vote" were omitted,

(c) paragraph (3) were omitted.".

(7) In rule 53 (re-count)—

(a) in paragraph (1) after "any re-count of the votes" insert "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes,";

(b) in paragraph (2) after "any re-count of votes" insert "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes,".

(8) In rule 54 (procedure at conclusion of count)—

(a) in the heading before "count" insert "first";

(b) for paragraph (1) substitute—

"(1) As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the first count (including any re-count), the returning officer must draw up a provisional statement showing—

(a) the total number of ballot papers used,

(b) the total number of rejected ballot papers,

(c) at an election contested by three or more candidates—

(i) the number of first preference votes given for each candidate, and

(ii) the total number of first preference votes given, and

(d) at an election contested by only two candidates, the number of votes given for each candidate.".

(9) After Part 4 insert—

"PART 5

Further provision: three or more candidates

The count of second preference votes

55.—(1) If directed by the CA/CCA returning officer in accordance with rule 58, the returning officer must, at the time and place notified to the counting agents, count the number of second preference votes for each of the candidates remaining in the contest given by voters who did not give their first preference vote to any of those candidates.

(2) A ballot paper which is not otherwise void and on which not more than one second preference vote is marked is valid with respect to that vote and must be counted accordingly if, but only if, a valid first preference vote has also been marked.

(3) Rules 49(2) to (5), 50(4) to (7), 51 (except paragraph (3)) and 53 (except the words "the votes, or as the case may be," in both paragraphs where they appear) apply in relation to the count of second preference votes as they apply in relation to the count of first

preference votes as if references to first preference votes were references to second preference votes.

(4) The returning officer is not required to re-examine any decision taken under rule 52.

The calculation of total votes

56.—(1) The returning officer must add the number of second preference votes given for a candidate to the number of first preference votes given for that candidate, to give that candidate's total number of votes.

(2) The returning officer must then draw up a provisional statement showing—

(a) the total number of first preference votes given for each candidate,

(b) the total number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest after the count of the first preference votes,

(c) the total number of votes given for each of those candidates, and

(d) the number of ballot papers that were—

(i) valid with respect to a first preference vote given for a candidate who did not remain in the contest after the count of the first preference votes, and

(ii) rejected for the purposes of the count of second preference votes on the ground that they were unmarked or void for uncertainty as to the second preference vote.

(3) As soon as practicable after completion of the statement, the returning officer must—

(a) provide such of the election agents for those candidates who remain in the contest as are then present with a copy of the statement, and must give them a reasonable opportunity to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the calculation,

(b) inform the CA/CCA returning officer of its contents.".

(10) In rule 57(1) (CA/CCA returning officer's re-count) for "or 54(1)" substitute ", 54(1) or 56(2),".

(11) After rule 57 insert—

"CA/CCA returning officer's direction to count second preference votes

58.—(1) This rule applies if there are more than two candidates to be the mayor of a combined authority or a combined county authority.

(2) If none of the candidates receive more than half of all first preference votes given in the election, the CA/CCA returning officer must direct each returning officer to count the number of second preference votes for each of the candidates remaining in the contest.".

(12) In rule 59 (returning officer's final statement, central calculation and declaration of result)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for "and 54(1)" substitute ", 54(1) and, where applicable, 56(2)";

(b) for paragraph (7) substitute—

"(7) As soon as the CA/CCA returning officer has received the information required by paragraph (3) from every returning officer, the CA/CCA returning officer must—

(a) in relation to an election contested by three or more candidates, ascertain the total of the first preference votes given to each candidate and, where relevant, the total of the second preference votes given to each candidate;

(b) in relation to an election contested by only two candidates, ascertain the total number of votes given to each candidate.";

(c) for paragraph (10) substitute—

"(10) In paragraphs (8) and (9), "the relevant figures" means—

(a) in the case of an election contested by three or more candidates—

(i) the number of first preference votes given for each candidate;

(ii) the calculation undertaken by the CA/CCA returning officer for the purpose of ascertaining whether a candidate is to be returned in accordance with—

(aa) in the case of a combined authority, paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 5B to the 2009 Act (candidate with overall majority of first preference votes);

(bb) in the case of a combined county authority, paragraph 4A(3) of Schedule 2 to the 2023 Act (candidate with overall majority of first preference votes);

(iii) where relevant—

(aa) the number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest, and

(bb) the calculation undertaken by the CA/CCA returning officer for the purpose of ascertaining the total number of first and second preference votes given to each of those candidates;

(b) in the case of an election contested by only two candidates, the total number of votes given for each candidate.";

(d) in paragraph (11)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (a) after "contested" insert "by only two candidates";

(ii) in paragraph (11)(b) for "each candidate" substitute "each of them";

(e) for paragraph (12) substitute—

"(12) Where—

(a) an election is contested by only two candidates, and

(b) after the counting of the votes (including any re-count) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be returned as mayor,

the CA/CCA returning officer must forthwith decide between those candidates by lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.";

(f) after paragraph (12) insert—

"(13) Where an election is contested by three or more candidates, the CA/CCA returning officer must—

(a) if one of candidates receives more than half of all the first preference votes given in the election, declare that candidate as the person to be returned as mayor, or

(b) if none of the candidates receive more than half of all the first preference votes given in the election, declare the candidate with the most total preference votes as the person to be returned as mayor.

(14) If, after the counting of second preference votes (including any re-count) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any two or more candidates remaining in the contest and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be returned as mayor, the CA/CCA returning officer must forthwith decide between those candidates

by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.";

(g) in paragraph (15)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b)—

(aa) after "number of" insert "first preference";

(bb) omit "and";

(ii) after sub-paragraph (c) insert "and

(d) if second preference votes were counted—

(i) the total number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest after the count of the first preference votes, and

(ii) the number of ballot papers rejected for the purposes of the count of second preference votes on the ground that they were unmarked or void for uncertainty as to the second preference vote.".

(13) In rule 60 (return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit)—

(a) in paragraph (4) before "count" insert "first";

(b) in paragraph (5)—

(i) before "count" insert "first";

(ii) before "votes" insert "first preference".

(14) In Part 9 (appendix of forms)—

(a) in the list of forms—

(i) in the entry for Form 3 after "ballot paper" insert "(two candidates)";

(ii) after the entry for Form 3 insert—

"Form 4: Ballot paper (three or more candidates) including directions as to printing".

(b) for Form 3 substitute Form 3 set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to this Order;

(c) after Form 3 insert Form 4 set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to this Order;

(d) for Form 7 substitute Form 7 set out in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to this Order.

Amendment of Schedule 2

4.—(1) Schedule 2 (modifications of Acts and statutory instrument) is amended as follows.

(2) In paragraph 1—

(a) after sub-paragraph (8) insert—

"(9) Section 46 (further provision as to local election voting) has effect as if subsection (1) were omitted.";

(b) in sub-paragraph (30) after ""Vote (x) for one candidate only"" in each place where it occurs insert "if there are only two candidates, or the words "Vote once (x) in column A for your first choice, and Vote once (x) in column B for your second choice" if there are three or more candidates".

Amendment of Schedule 3

5.—(1) Schedule 3 (the mayoral election (combination of polls) rules) is amended as follows.

(2) In rule 16 (method of election)—

(a) in paragraph (a)—

(i) for "two" substitute "three";

(ii) for "Part 4" substitute "Parts 4 and 5";

(b) after paragraph (a) insert—

"(b) only two candidates remain validly nominated, a poll shall be taken in accordance with Part 4,".

(3) In rule 28 (equipment of polling stations)—

(a) in paragraph (8) for sub-paragraph (b) substitute—

"(b) the following notice which must be exhibited in every compartment of every polling station—

*PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION ([specify colour] ballot paper)

Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*[Specify name of council] COUNCIL ELECTION ([specify colour] ballot paper)

[*Vote for NO MORE THAN ... CANDIDATES by putting a cross [X] in the box next to EACH of your choices.]

[*Vote ONLY ONCE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.]

*[Specify name of combined authority] COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION ([specify colour] ballot paper)

*[Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box]

*[Vote by putting a cross [X] in the box—

In column A next to your FIRST CHOICE candidate

In column B next to your SECOND CHOICE candidate

Your first and second choices should be different.]

*[Specify name of combined authority] COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION ([specify colour] ballot paper)

*[Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box]

*[Vote by putting a cross [X] in the box—

In column A next to your FIRST CHOICE candidate

In column B next to your SECOND CHOICE candidate

Your first and second choices should be different.]

*LOCAL MAYORAL ELECTION FOR [specify name of authority] ([specify colour] ballot paper)

Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*POLICE AND CRIME COMMISIONER ELECTION FOR (specify police area) ([specify colour] ballot paper)

Vote for ONLY ONE CANDIDATE by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.

*[Specify other] ELECTION / REFERENDUM ([specify colour] ballot paper) [specify voting instructions in accordance with the legislation governing the election or referendum]

PUT NO OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER OR YOUR VOTE MAY NOT COUNT.

*[PLEASE DO NOT FOLD THE BALLOT PAPERS FOR [specify the elections and/or referendum(s) at which the votes are to be counted electronically]. Post them, face downwards, in the [*appropriate] ballot box

*Complete or omit as necessary.

#Alternatively, insert such information as the CA/CCA returning officer may decide.";

(b) after paragraph (9) insert—

"(10) Where the Electoral Commission publishes information about the supplementary vote system to be used at CA/CCA mayoral elections, the CA/CCA returning officer may provide each returning officer with a copy of that information for exhibition at a polling station.".

(4) In rule 50 (the count)—

(a) in the heading, before "count" insert "first";

(b) for paragraph (4) substitute—

"(4) The returning officer must then—

(a) where the election is contested by three or more candidates, count the first preference votes given on them,

(b) where the election is contested by only two candidates, count the votes given on them.".

(5) In rule 51 (rejected ballot papers)—

(a) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b) after "more than one" insert "first preference";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (d) after "uncertainty" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(b) in paragraph (2)—

(i) before sub-paragraph (ii) insert—

"(i) at an election at which three or more candidates remain validly nominated, an intention that a vote shall be given, by way of a first preference vote, for not more than one of the candidates clearly appears, or";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (ii) at the beginning insert "at any other election";

(iii) in the words after sub-paragraph (ii) before "the way" insert "(in either case)";

(c) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) A ballot paper which is not otherwise void and on which not more than one first preference vote is marked (whether or not a second preference vote is marked) is valid with respect to that vote, and must be counted accordingly.".

(d) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b) after "candidate" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (d) after "uncertainty" insert "as to the first preference vote";

(e) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) In the case of an election where only two candidates remain validly nominated, this rule is to apply as if—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b), for "first preference vote" there were substituted "vote",

(b) in paragraphs (1)(d) and (5)(b) and (d), the words "as to the first preference vote" were omitted,

(c) paragraph (3) were omitted.".

(6) In rule 53 (re-count)—

(a) in paragraph (1) after "any re-count of the votes" insert "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes,";

(b) in paragraph (2) after "any re-count of votes" insert "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes,".

(7) In rule 54 (procedure at conclusion of count)—

(a) in the heading before "count" insert "first";

(b) for paragraph (1) substitute—

"(1) As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the first count (including any re-count), the returning officer must draw up a provisional statement showing—

(a) the total number of ballot papers used,

(b) the total number of rejected ballot papers,

(c) at an election contested by three or more candidates—

(i) the number of first preference votes given for each candidate, and

(ii) the total number of first preference votes given, and

(d) at an election contested by only two candidates, the number of votes given for each candidate.".

(8) After Part 4 insert—

"PART 5

Further provision: three or more candidates

The count of second preference votes

55.—(1) If directed by the CA/CCA returning officer in accordance with rule 58, the returning officer must, at the time and place notified to the counting agents, count the number of second preference votes for each of the candidates remaining in the contest given by voters who did not give their first preference vote to any of those candidates.

(2) A ballot paper which is not otherwise void and on which not more than one second preference vote is marked is valid with respect to that vote and must be counted accordingly if, but only if, a valid first preference vote has also been marked.

(3) Rules 49(2) to (5), 50(4) to (7), 51 (except paragraph (3)) and 53 (except the words "the votes, or as the case may be," in both paragraphs where they appear) shall apply in relation to the count of second preference votes as they apply in relation to the count of first preference votes as if references to first preference votes were references to second preference votes.

(4) The returning officer is not required to re-examine any decision taken under rule 52.

The calculation of total votes

56.—(1) The returning officer must add the number of second preference votes given for a candidate to the number of first preference votes given for that candidate, to give that candidate's total number of votes.

(2) The returning officer must then draw up a provisional statement showing—

(a) the total number of first preference votes given for each candidate,

(b) the total number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest after the count of the first preference votes,

(c) the total number of votes given for each of those candidates, and

(d) the number of ballot papers that were—

(i) valid with respect to a first preference vote given for a candidate who did not remain in the contest after the count of the first preference votes, and

(ii) rejected for the purposes of the count of second preference votes on the ground that they were unmarked or void for uncertainty as to the second preference vote.

(3) As soon as practicable after completion of the statement, the returning officer must—

(a) provide such of the election agents for those candidates who remain in the contest as are then present with a copy of the statement, and must give them a reasonable opportunity to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the calculation,

(b) inform the CA/CCA returning officer of its contents.".

(9) In rule 57(1) (CA/CCA returning officer's re-count) for "or 54(1)" substitute ", 54(1) or 56(2),".

(10) After rule 57 insert—

"CA/CCA returning officer's direction to count second preference votes

58.—(1) This rule applies if there are more than two candidates to be the mayor of a combined authority or combined county authority.

(2) If none of the candidates receive more than half of all first preference votes given in the election, the CA/CCA returning officer must direct each returning officer to count the number of second preference votes for each of the candidates remaining in the contest.".

(11) In rule 59 (returning officer's final statement, central calculation and declaration of result)—

(a) in paragraph (1) for "and 54(1)" substitute ", 54(1) and, where applicable, 56(2)";

(b) for paragraph (7) substitute—

"(7) As soon as the CA/CCA returning officer has received the information required by paragraph (3) from every returning officer, the CA/CCA returning officer must—

(a) in relation to an election contested by three or more candidates, ascertain the total of the first preference votes given to each candidate and, where relevant, the total of the second preference votes given to each candidate;

(b) in relation to an election contested by only two candidates, ascertain the total number of votes given to each candidate.";

(c) for paragraph (10) substitute—

"(10) In paragraphs (8) and (9), "the relevant figures" means—

(a) in the case of an election contested by three or more candidates—

(i) the number of first preference votes given for each candidate;

(ii) the calculation undertaken by the CA/CCA returning officer for the purpose of ascertaining whether a candidate is to be returned in accordance with—

(aa) in the case of a combined authority, paragraph 5(3) of Schedule 5B to the 2009 Act (candidate with overall majority of first preference votes);

(bb) in the case of a combined county authority, paragraph 4A(3) of Schedule 2 to the 2023 Act (candidate with overall majority of first preference votes);

(iii) where relevant—

(aa) the number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest, and

(bb) the calculation undertaken by the CA/CCA returning officer for the purpose of ascertaining the total number of first and second preference votes given to each of those candidates;

(b) in the case of an election contested by only two candidates, the total number of votes given for each candidate.";

(d) in paragraph (12)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (a) after "contested" insert "by only two candidates";

(ii) in sub-paragraph (b) for "each candidate" substitute "each of them";

(e) for paragraph (13) substitute—

"(13) Where—

(a) an election is contested by only two candidates, and

(b) after the counting of the votes (including any re-count) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be returned as mayor,

the CA/CCA returning officer must forthwith decide between those candidates by lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.";

(f) after paragraph (13) insert—

"(14) Where an election is contested by three or more candidates, the CA/CCA returning officer must—

(a) if one of candidates receives more than half of all the first preference votes given in the election, declare that candidate as the person to be returned as mayor, or

(b) if none of the candidates receive more than half of all the first preference votes given in the election, declare the candidate with the most total preference votes as the person to be returned as mayor.

(15) If, after the counting of second preference votes (including any re-count) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any two or more candidates remaining in the contest and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be returned as mayor, the CA/CCA returning officer must forthwith decide between those candidates by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.";

(g) in paragraph (16)—

(i) in sub-paragraph (b)—

(aa) after “number of” insert “first preference”;

(bb) omit “and”;

(ii) after sub-paragraph (c) insert “and

(d) if second preference votes were counted—

(i) the total number of second preference votes given for each of the candidates remaining in the contest after the count of the first preference votes, and

(ii) the number of ballot papers rejected for the purposes of the count of second preference votes on the ground that they were unmarked or void for uncertainty as to the second preference vote.”.

(12) In rule 60 (return or forfeiture of candidate’s deposit)—

(a) in paragraph (4) before “count” insert “first”;

(b) in paragraph (5)—

(i) before “count” insert “first”;

(ii) before “votes” insert “first preference”.

(13) In Part 9 (appendix of forms)—

(a) in the list of forms—

(i) in the entry for Form 3 after “ballot paper” insert “(two candidates)”;

(ii) after the entry for Form 3 insert—

“Form 4: Ballot paper (three or more candidates) including directions as to printing”.

(b) for Form 3 substitute Form 3 set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order;

(c) after Form 3 insert Form 4 set out in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to this Order;

(d) for Forms 7(1) and 7(2) substitute Forms 7(1) and 7(2) set out in Part 3 and Part 4 of Schedule 2 to this Order respectively.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Name
Role
Date Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Article 3(14)

Forms to be substituted in Schedule 1 to the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

PART 1

Form 3: Ballot paper (two candidates) including directions as to printing

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

Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice

BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG **Cream Party**	Cream Party emblem	
CRANLEY, Alana (address in [relevant area]) **Purple Party**	Purple Party emblem	

Number

Other unique identifying mark

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of Combined Authority]*

on..... 20....

Directions for printing the ballot paper (2 candidates)

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3 to 14 must be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.

3. No word may be printed on the face except:

(a) the heading "Election of the Mayor for .....';

(b) within that heading, the name of the combined authority;

(c) the direction "Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.";

(d) the particulars of the candidates and words forming part of emblems mentioned at paragraphs 6 and 7 below.

4. A box must be printed around the direction referred to in paragraph 3 (c)

5. No rule may be printed on the face except:

(a) as part of a box around the direction mentioned in paragraph 3(c);

(b) the horizontal rule separating the direction mentioned in paragraph 3(c) from the particulars of the candidates;

(c) the horizontal rule separating the particulars of the candidates from one another
(d) a final horizontal rule below the particulars of the second candidate;

(e) as part of the boxes on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.

6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraphs 5(b) and 5(c) must:

(a) be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres; and

(b) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left hand side of the page to a point directly above the centre of the box below that rule.

7. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph5(d) must:

(a) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left hand side of the page to a point directly below the right hand edge of the box above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal lines.

8. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a candidates particulars;

(a) it is to be printed adjacent to and to the right of the candidate's particulars;

(b) its size as printed must not exceed two centimetres square.

9. The heading "Elections of the Mayor for....." must be in very large bold type.

10. The direction referred to in paragraph 3 (c) must be printed in bold type.

11. The candidates' names and descriptions, if any, must appear in bold type.

12. The surname of each candidate is to be printed in capitals with their other name(s) printed in lower case with initial capitals.

13. The descriptions of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

14. The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed close to each other on the back of the ballot paper.

PART 2

Form 4: Ballot paper (three or more candidates) including directions as to printing

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**		
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ **Green Party**		
EDBASTON, Richard (address in [relevant area]) **Common Good**		
GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytwon XY6 3GD **Labour Party**		
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP **Independent**		
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN **Conservative Party**		
ZANUCK, George Henry 17 The Parade, Anytown XY9 5KP **Reform UK**		

Number

Other unique identifying mark

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of Combined Authority]*

on..... 20....

Directions for printing the ballot paper (3 plus candidates)

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3–17 shall be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.

3. No word shall be printed on the face except:

(a) the heading "Election of the Mayor for.....";

(b) within that heading, the name of the combined authority;

(c) the direction "Vote once [X] in column A for your first choice; vote once [X] in column B for your second choice";

(d) the indicators "Column A first choice" and "Column B second choice" above the boxes on the right-hand side;

(e) the particulars of the candidates; and

(f) words forming part of emblems mentioned at paragraph 9 below.

4. A box must be printed around the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c).

5. No rule should be printed on the face except:

(a) as part of the box referred to in paragraph 4;

(b) a horizontal rule above the particulars of the first candidate;

(c) the horizontal rule separating the particulars of the candidates from one another;

(d) a final horizontal rule below the particulars of the last candidate; and

(e) as part of the boxes in column A and column B on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.

6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(b) and 5(c) must:

(a) be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres; and

(b) extend from a point of at least in line with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point immediately before the shading around the boxes in column A.

7. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph 5(d) must:

(a) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly below the shading beyond the right-hand edge of the box in column B above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal line.

8. The boxes in columns A and B referred to in paragraph 5(e) must each be bordered by a shaded area no more than 0.4 cm thick at the outside edge. Each shaded area must include an embedded arrow pointing downwards from the top of the column underneath the words "Column A first choice" and "Column B second choice".

9. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a candidate's particulars:

(a) it is to be printed adjacent to and to the right of the candidate's particulars;

(b) its size as printed must not exceed two centimetres square.

10. The heading "Election of the Mayor for.....” must be in very large bold type.

11. All other words must appear in type that is smaller than the heading.

12. The direction referred to in paragraph 3(c) must be printed in bold type.

13. The candidates' names and descriptions, if any, must appear in bold type.

14. The words "first choice" and "second choice" above the boxes where the vote is to be marked must be printed in bold type.

15. The surname of each candidate is to be printed in capitals with their other name(s) printed in lower case with initial capitals.

16. The descriptions of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

17. The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed close to each other on the back of the ballot paper.

PART 3

Form 7: Postal Voting Statement

Postal voting statement	*[Space for barcode]*

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of combined authority]*

Date of election ***[day] [date] [month] [year]***

Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted.

Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen.

* Name_____ Ballot paper number_____

* *Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector*

(!) Check that the number on the back of your ballot paper matches the number shown above. If these do not match, call us **immediately** on *[insert helpline number].*

I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to.

My Date of Birth is: ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Day Month Year

* **My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box)**

* *Returning Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required*

We will check this information against our records for security.

It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election (unless you are appointed as a proxy).

Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on [insert helpline number]

1. For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper.
2. Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.
   **Returning Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required*
3. *[Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.]
   *[Vote by putting a cross ☒ in the box
   In column A next to your first choice candidate
   In column B next to your second choice candidate
   Your first and second choices should be different.]
   **Returning Officer to add/amend as appropriate.*
4. Do not mark the ballot papers in any other way or your vote may not count.
5. We must get your postal vote by **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
6. If you miss the post, you can hand in your postal vote and/or the postal vote of others at the council office during office hours to a person authorised to receive postal votes or at any polling station in the local authority area before **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
7. You will be provided with a form which you must complete for the postal vote(s) you are handing in to be accepted.
8. You can hand in your own postal vote and postal votes for up to 5 other voters.
9. If you are a political campaigner - you can only hand in your own postal vote plus the votes of up to 5 family members or people for whom you provide regular care.
10. Do not put any postal votes in the letter box of the council office as they will be rejected.
11. If you would rather vote in person or ask someone else to vote on your behalf (if you are not already an appointed proxy) you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]. If you decide to cancel and vote in person, you will need to bring a form of accepted photographic identification. If a person is voting on your behalf as proxy they need to bring their own identification.
12. After we receive your postal voting statement and ballot paper, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this election.

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on [insert helpline number]. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as **we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on [day] [date] [month]**. If you apply after **5pm on [day before poll]** we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack in person.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.
Whether you vote in person or via post, it is an offence for someone to try to find out who you are voting for whilst you are putting your mark on your ballot paper, or to then reveal that information.

The Returning Officer issued this statement.
Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

SCHEDULE 2

Article 5(13)

Forms to be substituted in Schedule 3 to the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017

PART 1

Form 3: Ballot paper (two candidates) including directions as to printing

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

Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice

BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG **Cream Party**	Cream Party emblem	
CRANLEY, Alana (address in [relevant area]) **Purple Party**	Purple Party emblem	

Number

Other unique identifying mark

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of Combined Authority]*

on..... 20....

Directions for printing the ballot paper (2 candidates)

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3 to 14 must be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.

3. No word may be printed on the face except:

(a) the heading "Election of the Mayor for .....';

(b) within that heading, the name of the combined authority;

(c) the direction "Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.";

(d) the particulars of the candidates and words forming part of emblems mentioned at paragraphs 6 and 7 below.

4. A box must be printed around the direction referred to in paragraph 3 (c)

5. No rule may be printed on the face except:

(a) as part of a box around the direction mentioned in paragraph 3(c);

(b) the horizontal rule separating the direction mentioned in paragraph 3(c) from the particulars of the candidates;

(c) the horizontal rule separating the particulars of the candidates from one another
(d) a final horizontal rule below the particulars of the second candidate;

(e) as part of the boxes on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.

6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraphs 5(b) and 5(c) must:

(a) be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres; and

(b) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left hand side of the page to a point directly above the centre of the box below that rule.

7. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph5(d) must:

(a) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left hand side of the page to a point directly below the right hand edge of the box above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal lines.

8. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a candidates particulars;

(a) it is to be printed adjacent to and to the right of the candidate's particulars;

(b) its size as printed must not exceed two centimetres square.

9. The heading "Elections of the Mayor for....." must be in very large bold type.

10. The direction referred to in paragraph 3 (c) must be printed in bold type.

11. The candidates' names and descriptions, if any, must appear in bold type.

12. The surname of each candidate is to be printed in capitals with their other name(s) printed in lower case with initial capitals.

13. The descriptions of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

14. The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed close to each other on the back of the ballot paper.

PART 2

Form 4: Ballot paper (three or more candidates) including directions as to printing

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**		
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ **Green Party**		
EDBASTON, Richard (address in [relevant area]) **Common Good**		
GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytwon XY6 3GD **Labour Party**		
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP **Independent**		
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN **Conservative Party**		
ZANUCK, George Henry 17 The Parade, Anytown XY9 5KP **Reform UK**		

Number

Other unique identifying mark

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of Combined Authority]*

on..... 20....

Directions for printing the ballot paper (3 plus candidates)

1. Nothing is to be printed on the ballot paper except in accordance with these directions.

2. So far as is practicable, the arrangements set out in paragraphs 3–17 shall be observed in the printing of the ballot paper.

3. No word shall be printed on the face except:

(a) the heading "Election of the Mayor for.....";

(b) within that heading, the name of the combined authority;

(c) the direction "Vote once [X] in column A for your first choice; vote once [X] in column B for your second choice";

(d) the indicators "Column A first choice" and "Column B second choice" above the boxes on the right-hand side;

(e) the particulars of the candidates; and

(f) words forming part of emblems mentioned at paragraph 9 below.

4. A box must be printed around the direction referred to in paragraph 3(c).

5. No rule should be printed on the face except:

(a) as part of the box referred to in paragraph 4;

(b) a horizontal rule above the particulars of the first candidate;

(c) the horizontal rule separating the particulars of the candidates from one another;

(d) a final horizontal rule below the particulars of the last candidate; and

(e) as part of the boxes in column A and column B on the right-hand side of the ballot paper where the vote is to be marked.

6. The horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(b) and 5(c) must:

(a) be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres; and

(b) extend from a point of at least in line with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point immediately before the shading around the boxes in column A.

7. The horizontal rule referred to in paragraph 5(d) must:

(a) extend from a point at least in line with the text on the left-hand side of the page to a point directly below the shading beyond the right-hand edge of the box in column B above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal line.

8. The boxes in columns A and B referred to in paragraph 5(e) must each be bordered by a shaded area no more than 0.4 cm thick at the outside edge. Each shaded area must include an embedded arrow pointing downwards from the top of the column underneath the words "Column A first choice" and "Column B second choice".

9. Where a registered emblem is to be printed against a candidate's particulars:

(a) it is to be printed adjacent to and to the right of the candidate's particulars;

(b) its size as printed must not exceed two centimetres square.

10. The heading "Election of the Mayor for.....” must be in very large bold type.

11. All other words must appear in type that is smaller than the heading.

12. The direction referred to in paragraph 3(c) must be printed in bold type.

13. The candidates' names and descriptions, if any, must appear in bold type.

14. The words "first choice" and "second choice" above the boxes where the vote is to be marked must be printed in bold type.

15. The surname of each candidate is to be printed in capitals with their other name(s) printed in lower case with initial capitals.

16. The descriptions of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

17. The number and other unique identifying mark must be printed close to each other on the back of the ballot paper.

PART 3

Form 7(1): Postal Voting Statement

Postal voting statement

[Space for barcode]

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of combined authority]*

[Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to insert title(s) of other election(s) and referendums as appropriate]

Date of election(s) [and referendum(s)] ***[day] [date] [month] [year]***

Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot papers for them to be counted.

Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen.

* Name_____ Ballot paper numbers_____

* *Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector*

(!) Check that the numbers on the backs of your ballot papers match the numbers shown above. If they do not match, call us **immediately** on *[insert helpline number].*

I am the person the ballot papers numbered above were sent to.

My Date of Birth is: ☐☐ Day ☐☐ Month ☐☐☐☐ Year

* **My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box)**

* *Relevant Returning Officer or Counting Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required*

We will check this information against our records for security.

It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election [or referendum] (unless you are appointed as a proxy).

Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on (insert helpline number)

1. For your votes to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with all your ballot papers (listed below).
2. Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.

   ** Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required.*

   *** UK Parliamentary election ([insert colour] ballot paper)**

   • [Vote for only **one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice]

   *** [Local government election]/[Parish council election]([insert colour] ballot paper)**

   • [Vote for only **one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice]

   • [Vote for **no more than ___ candidates** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to each of your choices]

   *** Election of the Mayor for (insert combined authority name)** ([insert colour] ballot paper)

   *[Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.]

   *[Vote by putting a cross ☒ in the box
   In column A next to your first choice candidate
   In column B next to your second choice candidate
   Your first and second choices should be different.]

   *** [Specify other] election/referendum ([insert colour] ballot paper)**

   • [Specify voting instructions in accordance with the legislation governing the election or referendum]

   **Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to add/amend as appropriate.*
3. Do not mark the ballot papers in any other way or your votes may not count.
4. We must get your postal vote by **10pm on [day][date of poll]**.
5. If you miss the post, you can hand in your postal vote and/or the postal vote of others at the council office during office hours to a person authorised to receive postal votes or at any polling station in the *____ area before **10pm on [day][date of poll]**.
6. You will be provided with a form which you must complete for the postal vote(s) you are handing in to be accepted.
7. You can hand in your own postal vote(s) and postal votes for up to 5 other voters.
8. If you are a political campaigner - you can only hand in your own postal vote plus the votes of up to 5 family members or people for whom you provide regular care.
9. Do not put any postal votes in the letter box of the council office as they will be rejected.
10. If you would rather vote in person or ask someone else to vote on your behalf (if you are not already an appointed proxy) you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadine]. If you decide to cancel and vote in person, you will need to bring a form of accepted photographic identification. If a person is voting on your behalf as a proxy they need to bring their own identification.
11. After we receive your postal voting statement and ballot papers, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in (this) (these) election(s) [and referendum(s).]

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on [insert helpline number]. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as **we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on [day] [date] [month]**. If you apply after **5pm on [day before poll]** we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack in person.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

Whether you vote in person or via post, it is an offence for someone to try to find out who you are voting for whilst you are putting your mark on your ballot paper, or to then reveal that information.

The [Returning/Counting] Officer issued this statement.
Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

PART 4

Form 7(2): Postal Voting Statement

Postal voting statement	*[Space for barcode]*

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of combined authority]*

Date of election ***[day] [date] [month] [year]***

Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted.

Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen.

* Name_____ Ballot paper number_____

* *Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector*

(!) Check that the number on the back of your ballot paper matches the number shown above. If these do not match, call us **immediately** on *[insert helpline number].*

I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to.

My Date of Birth is: ☐☐ ☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Day Month Year

* **My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box)**

* *Returning Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required*

We will check this information against our records for security.

It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election (unless you are appointed as a proxy).

Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on [insert helpline number]

1. For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper.
2. Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.
   **Returning Officer to indicate where the elector has been granted a waiver and that a signature is not required*
3. *[Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.]
   *[Vote by putting a cross ☒ in the box
   In column A next to your first choice candidate
   In column B next to your second choice candidate
   Your first and second choices should be different.]
   **Returning Officer to add/amend as appropriate.*
4. Do not mark the ballot papers in any other way or your vote may not count.
5. We must get your postal vote by **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
6. If you miss the post, you can hand in your postal vote and/or the postal vote of others at the council office during office hours to a person authorised to receive postal votes or at any polling station in the local authority area before **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.
7. You will be provided with a form which you must complete for the postal vote(s) you are handing in to be accepted.
8. You can hand in your own postal vote and postal votes for up to 5 other voters.
9. If you are a political campaigner - you can only hand in your own postal vote plus the votes of up to 5 family members or people for whom you provide regular care.
10. Do not put any postal votes in the letter box of the council office as they will be rejected.
11. If you would rather vote in person or ask someone else to vote on your behalf (if you are not already an appointed proxy) you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]. If you decide to cancel and vote in person, you will need to bring a form of accepted photographic identification. If a person is voting on your behalf as proxy they need to bring their own identification.
12. After we receive your postal voting statement and ballot paper, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this election.

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on [insert helpline number]. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can get a replacement. Call us immediately as **we can only issue a replacement before 5pm on [day] [date] [month]**. If you apply after **5pm on [day before poll]** we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack in person.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.
Whether you vote in person or via post, it is an offence for someone to try to find out who you are voting for whilst you are putting your mark on your ballot paper, or to then reveal that information.

The Returning Officer issued this statement.
Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (S.I. 2017/67, "the 2017 Order") makes provision for the conduct of elections of combined authority mayors and combined county authority mayors.

Section 63 of, and Schedule 30 to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (c. 26) changes the voting system at elections for combined authority mayors and combined county authority mayors in England from the simple majority vote system, also known as "first past the post", to the supplementary vote system. As a consequence of the amendments made by that section to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20) and the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55) this Order amends the 2017 Order Rules to replace provisions relating to the simple majority vote system for the election of combined authority mayors and combined county authority mayors with provisions which will provide for the supplementary vote system for those elections, largely reversing changes made by the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353).

An impact assessment has been produced for the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 including an Addendum on the "supplementary vote" provision. No, or no significant, impact on business, charities or the public or voluntary sector is foreseen. Copies can be obtained at https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/4002/publications or from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.

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http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/ukdsi/2026/9780348283532