Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section 105(6) of the Local Government Act 2000, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2022 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022

Made - - - - ***

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 9HE and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000(**a**).

The Secretary of State has consulted the Electoral Commission about these Regulations in accordance with section 9HE(4) of that Act.

In accordance with section 105(6) of the Local Government Act 2000, a draft of these Regulations has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation, extent and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations—

(a) may be cited as the Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022;

(b) extend to England and Wales; and

(c) come into force the day after the day on which they are made.

(2) These Regulations do not apply for the purposes of an election for the return of a local authority mayor in respect of which the date of the poll specified in the notice of election is before the ordinary day of election in 2023(**b**).

Amendment of the Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007

2. The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007(**c**) are amended in accordance with these Regulations.

(**a**) 2000 c. 22. Section 9HE was inserted by the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) section 21 and Schedule 2.
(**b**) See section 37 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2) for the meaning of "ordinary day of election".
(**c**) S.I. 2007/1024. Relevant amendments were made by S.I. 2014/370, S.I. 2018/1310 and 2019/351.

Amendment of Schedule 1

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

(2) In rule 16(a) (method of election) before "Parts 4 and 5" insert "Part 4 or, in the case of a mayoral election in Wales,".

(3) In rule 46(1)(b) (attendance at the count) at the beginning insert "in the case of a mayoral election in Wales,".

(4) In rule 47 (the first count)—

(a) after paragraph (2) insert—

"(2A) The returning officer at a mayoral election in England shall then count the votes given on them.";

(b) in paragraph (3) after "officer" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales".

(5) In rule 48 (rejected ballot papers) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) This rule applies to a mayoral election in England as if—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b) "first preference" were omitted;

(b) in paragraph (1)(d) "as to the first preference vote" were omitted;

(c) in paragraph (2) sub-paragraph (i) were omitted;

(d) in paragraph (2)(ii) "at any other election," were omitted;

(e) in paragraph (2) after sub-paragraph (ii) the words "(in either case)" were omitted;

(f) paragraph (3) were omitted;

(g) in paragraph (5)(b) and (d) "as to the first preference vote" in both places were omitted;

(h) paragraph (6) were omitted.".

(6) In rule 50 (re-count)—

(a) in paragraph (1) after "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales";

(b) in paragraph (2) after "or as the case may be, the first preference votes" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales".

(7) In rule 51 (procedure at conclusion of first count) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) This rule applies to a mayoral election in England as if—

(a) in the heading "first" were omitted;

(b) for paragraph (1) there were substituted—

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

(a) the total number of ballot papers used,

(b) the total number of rejected ballot papers, and

(c) the number of votes given for each candidate."

(c) for paragraphs (3) to (6) there were substituted—

"(3) Where the total number of votes cast for each candidate is unequal, the person to be returned as the elected mayor is the candidate to whom the majority of the votes is given.

(4) Where, 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 the elected mayor, the 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.

(5) The declaration of the person to be returned as the elected mayor shall be made in accordance with rule 54.””.

(8) Part 5 (further provision: three or more candidates) is amended as follows—

(a) in the heading to Part 5 at the beginning insert “Mayoral elections in Wales —”;

(b) in the headings to rules 52 and 53 at the end insert “—mayoral elections in Wales”.

(9) In rule 54(2) (declaration of result)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (b) for “first preference votes” substitute “votes or, at a mayoral election in Wales, first preference votes,”;

(b) in sub-paragraph (d) at the beginning insert “at a mayoral election in Wales”.

(10) In rule 55(5) (return or forfeiture of candidate’s deposit) for “first preference” substitute “votes or, at a mayoral election in Wales, first preference votes”.

(11) In the Appendix of Forms—

(a) in the list of forms—

(i) in Form 3 at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(ii) after Form 3 insert—

“Form 3A: Ballot paper — mayoral elections in England”;

(iii) in Form 4 at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(iv) in Form 7 at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(v) after Form 7 insert—

“Form 7A – Postal voting statement — mayoral elections in England”;

(b) in Form 3 in the heading at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(c) after Form 3 insert Form 3A set out in Schedule 1 to these Regulations;

(d) in Form 4 in the heading at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(e) in Form 7 in the heading at the end insert “— mayoral elections in Wales”;

(f) after Form 7 insert Form 7A set out in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

Amendment of Schedule 2

4. In the table of modifications of the Representation of the People Act 1983—

(a) omit the entry for section 46;

(b) in the entry for section 199B in the inserted text at the beginning insert “In the case of a mayoral election in Wales”.

Amendment of Schedule 3

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

(2) In rule 16(a) (method of election) before “Parts 4 and 5” insert “Part 4 or, in the case of a mayoral election in Wales,”.

(3) In rule 28(10) (equipment of polling stations)—

(a) for the voting instructions for election of the mayor of London substitute “#Vote for ONLY ONE candidate by putting a cross [X] in the box next to your choice.”;

(b) in the voting instructions for a local mayoral election after “LOCAL MAYORAL ELECTION” insert “IN WALES”;

(c) after those voting instructions insert—

“*LOCAL MAYORAL ELECTION IN ENGLAND

*([*Specify colour*] ballot paper)

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

(4) In rule 47 (the first count)—

(a) in paragraph (6) after "officer" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales";

(b) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(6A) The returning officer at a mayoral election in England must then count the votes given on the ballot papers.".

(5) In rule 48 (rejected ballot papers) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) This rule applies to a mayoral election in England as if—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b) "first preference" were omitted;

(b) in paragraph (1)(d) "as to the first preference vote" were omitted;

(c) in paragraph (2) sub-paragraph (i) were omitted;

(d) in paragraph (2)(ii) "at any other election," were omitted;

(e) in paragraph (2) after sub-paragraph (ii) the words "(in each case)" were omitted;

(f) paragraph (3) were omitted;

(g) in paragraph (5)(b) and (d) "as to the first preference vote" in both places were omitted;

(h) paragraph (6) were omitted.".

(6) In rule 50 (re-count)—

(a) in paragraph (1) after "or, as the case may be, the first preference votes" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales";

(b) in paragraph (2) after "or as the case may be, the first preference votes" insert "at a mayoral election in Wales".

(7) In rule 51 (procedure at conclusion of first count) after paragraph (6) insert—

"(7) This rule applies to a mayoral election in England as if—

(a) in the heading "first" were omitted;

(b) for paragraph (1) there were substituted—

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

(a) the total number of ballot papers used,

(b) the total number of rejected ballot papers, and

(c) the number of votes given for each candidate.";

(c) for paragraphs (3) to (6) there were substituted—

"(3) Where the total number of votes cast for each candidate is unequal, the person to be returned as the elected mayor is the candidate to whom the majority of the votes is given.

(4) Where, 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 the elected mayor, the 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.

(5) The declaration of the person to be returned as the elected mayor shall be made in accordance with rule 54."".

(8) Part 5 (further provision: three or more candidates) is amended as follows—

(a) in the heading to Part 5 at the beginning insert "Mayoral elections in Wales - ";

(b) in the headings to rules 52 and 53 at the end insert "—mayoral elections in Wales".

(9) In rule 54(2) (declaration of result)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (b) for "first preference votes" substitute "votes or, at a mayoral election in Wales, first preference votes";

(b) in sub-paragraph (d) at the beginning insert "at a mayoral election in Wales".

(10) In rule 55(5) (return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit) for "first preference votes" substitute "votes or, at a mayoral election in Wales, first preference votes".

(11) In the Appendix of Forms—

(a) in the list of forms—

(i) in Form 3 at the end insert "— mayoral elections in Wales";

(ii) after Form 3 insert—

"Form 3A: Ballot paper – mayoral elections in England";

(iii) in Form 4 at the end insert "— mayoral elections in Wales";

(iv) in Forms 7(1) and 7(2) at the end of each insert "— mayoral elections in Wales";

(v) after Form 7(2) insert—

"Form 7A(1): Postal voting statement —mayoral elections in England

Form 7A(2): Postal voting statement —mayoral elections in England";

(b) after Form 3 insert Form 3A set out in Schedule 2 to these Regulations;

(c) in Form 4 in the heading at the end insert "— mayoral elections in Wales";

(d) in Forms 7(1) and 7(2) in the headings of each insert at the end "—mayoral elections in Wales";

(e) after Form 7(2) insert the Forms 7A(1) and 7A(2) set out in Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Name
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Date Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

SCHEDULE 1

Article 3(11)

Form 3A - Ballot paper – mayoral elections in England

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

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

BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG **Liberal Democrats**		
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ **Green Party**	Green Party	
EDGBASTON, Richard (address in *[relevant area]*) **Common Good**		
GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytown XY6 3GD **Labour Party**	Labour	
SMITH, Catherine Angelina 21 The Grove, Anytown XY2 5JP **Independent**		
SMITH, Keith James 3 The Road, Anytown XY3 4JN **Conservative Party**	Conservatives	
ZANUCK, George Henry 17 The Parade Anytown XY9 5KP **United Kingdom Independence Party**	UKIP	

Number

Other unique identifying mark

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

on..... 20....

Directions as to printing the ballot paper

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 16 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 local 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
   (e) words forming part of the emblems mentioned at paragraph 10 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 the box referred to in paragraph 4;
   (b) a horizontal rule above the particulars of the first candidate;
   (c) the horizontal rules separating the particulars of the candidates from one another;
   (d) a horizontal rule below the particulars of the last candidate; and
   (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 paragraph 5(b), (c) and (d) must be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres.

7. Each of the horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(b) and (c) must 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.

8. 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 right-hand edge of the box above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal rules.

9. The boxes referred to in paragraph 5(e) must not touch any horizontal rule and each one must be equidistant between the horizontal rule above it and the horizontal rule below it.

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

(a) it must be printed adjacent to and to the right of the particulars; and

(b) its size as printed must not exceed 2 centimetres square.

11. The heading "Election of the Mayor for ……." must be printed in very large bold type. All other words must appear in type that is smaller than the heading.

12. The words "only one candidate" in the directions 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 surname of each candidate must appear in capitals with their other name(s) in lower case with initial capitals.

15. The description of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

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

Postal voting statement

[Space for barcode]

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of 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 omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver*

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 delete where elector is granted a waiver*.
3. Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.
4. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.
5. We must get your postal vote by **10pm on *[day] [date of poll]***. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the electoral area before **10pm on *[day] [date of poll]***.
6. After receiving this postal vote, 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 in this election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

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

SCHEDULE 2

Article 5(11)

Form 3A - Ballot paper – mayoral elections in England

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

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

BASWRA, Paresh 2 The Cottages, Anytown XY8 9JG **Liberal Democrats**		
CRANLEY, Alana 4 The Walk, Anytown XY9 5JJ **Green Party**		
EDGBASTON, Richard (address in *[relevant area]*) **Common Good**		
GUNNIL-WALKER, Roger 33 The Lane, Anytown 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 **United Kingdom Independence Party**		

Number

Other unique identifying mark

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

on..... 20....

Directions as to printing the ballot paper

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 16 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 local 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
   (e) words forming part of the emblems mentioned at paragraph 10 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 the box referred to in paragraph 4;
   (b) a horizontal rule above the particulars of the first candidate;
   (c) the horizontal rules separating the particulars of the candidates from one another;
   (d) a horizontal rule below the particulars of the last candidate; and
   (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 paragraph 5(b), (c) and (d) must be equally spaced and the space between each of them must be a minimum of 2.5 centimetres.

7. Each of the horizontal rules referred to in paragraph 5(b) and (c) must 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.

8. 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 right-hand edge of the box above that rule; and

(b) be thicker than the other horizontal rules.

9. The boxes referred to in paragraph 5(e) must not touch any horizontal rule and each one must be equidistant between the horizontal rule above it and the horizontal rule below it.

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

(a) it must be printed adjacent to and to the right of the particulars; and

(b) its size as printed must not exceed 2 centimetres square.

11. The heading "Election of the Mayor for ……." must be printed in very large bold type. All other words must appear in type that is smaller than the heading.

12. The words "only one candidate" in the directions 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 surname of each candidate must appear in capitals with their other name(s) in lower case with initial capitals.

15. The description of the candidates must appear in lower case with initial capitals.

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

Form 7A(1) - Postal voting statement for use when there is a joint issue and receipt of ballot papers – mayoral elections in England

Postal voting statement

[Space for barcode]

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of 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 or Counting Officer to omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver*

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]*

- For your votes to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with **all** your ballot papers (listed below).
- 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 delete where elector is granted a waiver.*

* **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/Town 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.]

* **London Assembly constituency members election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**
- [Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.]

* **London Assembly London members election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**
- [Vote **only once** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.]

* **London Mayoral election (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**
- Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.

* **Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of authority]* (*[insert colour]* ballot paper)**
- Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.

* **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.

* ***[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.*

(!) Do not mark the ballot papers in any other way or your votes may not count.

(!) We must get your postal vote by **10pm on [*day] [date of poll]***. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the _____ area before **10pm on *[day] [date of poll]***.

(!) After receiving this postal vote, 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 papers 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 [or referendum] unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

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

Form 7A(2) - Postal voting statement (for use when a mayoral election is combined with another poll but the postal ballots are not combined) – mayoral elections in England

Postal voting statement

[Space for barcode]

Election of the Mayor for *[insert name of 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 omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver*

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]*

- For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper for the **election of the Mayor for *[insert name of authority]***.
- Make sure you have filled in the **date of birth *[and signature] box[es]** on this postal voting statement.

  **Returning Officer to delete where elector is granted a waiver*.

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

- Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross ☒ in the box next to your choice.
- Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.
- We must get your postal vote by **10pm on *[day] [date of poll]***. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station in the electoral area before **10pm on *[day] [date of poll]***.
- After receiving this postal vote, 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 in this election unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/ 1024) make provision for the conduct of elections of directly elected local authority mayors.

Section 13 of the Elections Act 2022 changes the voting system at elections for local authority mayors in England from the supplementary vote system to the simple majority vote system, also known as "first past the post". As a consequence of the amendments made by that section to the Local Government Act 2000 the secondary legislation setting out the rules for the conduct of each of those elections requires amending. These Regulations amend the 2007 Regulations to replace provisions relating to the supplementary vote system for the election of local authority mayors with provisions which will provide for first past the post for those elections.

An impact assessment has been produced for the Elections Act 2022 including an Addendum on the "first past the post" 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/3020/publications or from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2 Marsham Street, London SWIP 4DF.

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