



YOUR LONDON. YOUR VOTE



If you would like any part of this document interpreted into your own language, please phone 020 8753 4040.

Albanian
Nëse e dëshironi cilëndo pjesë të këtij dokumenti të përkthyer në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutemi telefononi në numrin 020 8753 4040.

Farsi
لطفاً اگر مایل هستید هر بخشی از این نوشتار به زبان شما ترجمه گردد، یا شماره تلفن 020 8753 4040 تماس حاصل فرمایید.

Somali
Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in qayb walba oo kamid ah dukumintigan lagu turjumay luqaddaada, fadlan soo wac telefoonka 020 8753 4040.

Amharic
ማንኛውም ክፍል የዚህ ሰነድ ወደ ምታውቀው ቋንቋ እንዲተርጎምልህ ከፈልግህ፣ እባክህ በቴሌፎን ቀጥሮ 020 8753 4040 ደውል።

French
Si vous souhaitez quelconque partie de ce document dans votre propre langue, appelez le 020 8753 4040.

Spanish
Si desea que le interpreten alguna parte de este documento en su idioma, por favor llame al 020 8753 4040.

Arabic
إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على أي جزء من محتويات هذه الوثيقة بلغة الأم، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف 020 8753 4040.

Polish
Jeśli zyczą sobie Państwo, aby dowolna część tego dokumentu została przetłumaczona na Państwa język ojczysty, proszę zadzwonić pod numer 020 8753 4040.

Urdu
اگر اس دستاویز کے کسی بھی حصہ کا ترجمہ آپ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی 020 8753 4040 پر فون کریں۔

Bengali
আপনি যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষাতে এই ডকুমেন্টের কোন অংশের অনুবাদ চান তাহলে দয়া করে 020 8753 4040 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Portuguese
Se gostaria de ter qualquer parte deste documento traduzida no seu idioma, por favor telefone para 020 8753 4040.

Croatian
Ukoliko želite prijevod bilo kojeg dijela ovog dokumenta na jezik kojim Vi govorite, molimo nazovite telefonski broj 020 8753 4040.

Serbian
Ако желите да било који део овог документа буде преведен на ваш матерњи језик, молимо вас да назовете овај број телефона 020 8753 4040.

Voter guide

YOUR OFFICIAL GUIDE

to the London Mayor and Assembly elections in Hammersmith & Fulham

Polling day is Thursday 1 May 2008

Helpline 020 8753 4466

(including Typetalk)

Open 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday
9.00am to 1.00pm Saturday.

For a large print version please call the helpline

For more information visit:

www.londonelects.org.uk

This guide is available online at:

www.lbhf.gov.uk



About this guide



On 1 May you can vote for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly. They are your elected representatives on the GLA (Greater London Authority) for the next four years.

This guide tells you about the election, and answers the questions electors ask us at election time. It is sent to you by the local Returning Officer, who now has a legal duty to encourage electors to take part in elections. He and the Electoral Services team are totally impartial. Our job is to make sure the whole election process is open and fair, and is run according to election law.

We hope you find this guide helpful, and we welcome your comments about it. If you have any questions please contact Electoral Services.

A separate guide is being sent to postal voters.

How to contact us

Write or visit: Electoral Services, Hammersmith Town Hall, London W6 9JU

Fax: 020 8753 2007/2229. **Email:** electoral.services@lbhf.gov.uk

Web: www.lbhf.gov.uk/electoralservices

Helpline (including Typetalk): 020 8753 4466

Who can vote?

You can vote at this election if you are:

- ✓ a British, Commonwealth or Irish citizen, or a citizen of any European Union (EU) country
- ✓ aged 18 or older on 1 May 2008
- ✓ and you are registered - your name is on the voters list



You CANNOT vote if you are not registered.

The "confirmation of your registration" letter shows who has a vote at your address.

There is still time to register - we need to receive your form no later than 16 April.

If you have recently moved, and not re-registered, it is very likely that you still have a vote at your old address - contact us to check.

Who am I voting for?

Mayor of London

Although some services are run locally by borough councils, the size and complexity of London means that some plans and decisions need to be made with a strategic or London-wide view. The Mayor has responsibilities and powers which no London borough or other organisation has.

The Mayor's job is made up of several roles. These include: putting together plans and policies to improve the city and benefit Londoners; managing London's government with a budget of £9 billion to run transport services, police and fire services and promoting London's economy; being a spokesperson for the capital; and representing the city at home and abroad.

London Assembly

The London Assembly is a watchdog for London and can directly question the Mayor at Assembly meetings. It also carries out its own investigations.

The London Assembly considers the Mayor's strategies and policies, government consultations and investigates



topical issues relevant to London and Londoners. People with a serious London-related concern can contact an Assembly Member and ask them to take up and investigate the matter.

The London Assembly is made up of 25 Members who are elected by Londoners at the same time as the Mayor. 11 represent the whole of the capital and 14 are elected to represent constituencies – which are made up of two to four London boroughs.

Hammersmith & Fulham is in the **West Central Constituency**, which also covers Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster.

Follow the election online

For more information about the election:

- ✓ Details of all the candidates, how to fill in the ballot papers and election results, visit www.londonelects.gov.uk
- ✓ For local information, voter registration forms and postal/proxy application forms, visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/electoralservices



Ways to vote

In person

There are 59 polling stations in the borough.

These are usually in local schools or other community buildings.



By post

Instead of going to the polling station, you can vote by post.

You have to fill in an application form - this has to reach us by 5.00pm 16 April.

Postal voting packs will be sent out from 18 April - by 1st class post.

Please remember - if you sign up for a postal vote, you will NOT be able to vote in person at a polling station.

However, you can hand in your completed voting pack at Hammersmith Town Hall, or any polling station in the borough on election day.

Postal votes must reach us by 10.00pm on 1 May (election day).



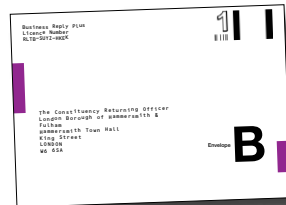
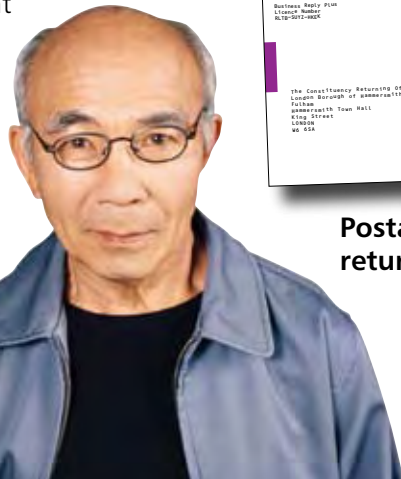
Stations open at **7.00am**



Stations close at **10.00pm**

Each station covers its local neighbourhood. You have to vote at the polling station for the address where you are registered. You cannot vote at any other station.

You can check where your own station is by using the online polling station finder at www.lbhf.gov.uk or phone the helpline: 020 8753 4466.



Postal vote return envelope

By proxy

A proxy is someone who votes on your behalf.

If you have a proxy vote, you may still vote in person yourself, as long as your proxy has not already voted for you. However, you cannot do this if your proxy has arranged to vote for you by post.

You have to fill in an application form telling us who your proxy is. This has to reach us by 5.00pm on 23 April.

Someone who has an accident after 23 April can appoint an emergency proxy. Again, you have to fill in an application form and get it supported by a doctor or nurse.

This has to reach us by 5.00pm on 1 May (election day).

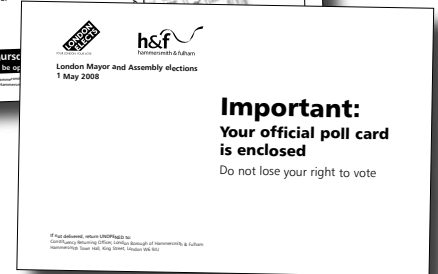
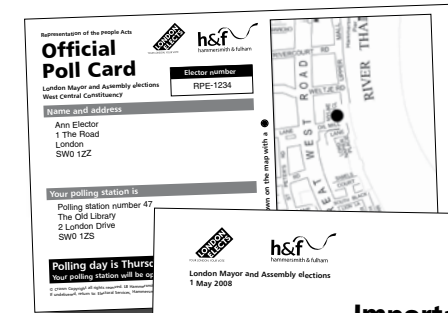


Poll cards

Every registered elector gets an Official Poll Card, but we try not to send them to postal voters, or people who we know have moved or died.

The card shows when, where and how to vote in person. There is also a map showing where your polling station is.

Poll cards will be delivered between 24 and 27 April. For extra privacy, your poll card will come in an envelope.



The poll card is for information only, and you do not need it to vote. As long as you are registered, you can simply give the polling station staff your name and address.



In the polling station

A step by step guide

Tellers

The first people you will probably see at the polling station are the candidates' helpers taking elector numbers. They are there to check that their supporters are voting. The Returning Officer recognises that tellers are a proper part of the election process.

However, they are not part of the polling station staff; they should not get in the way of voters going in or out.

Tellers should only ask for your elector number when you leave.

The candidates and their appointed agents are allowed in the polling station, but only to observe procedures are correct.

Please go to the right table

In the bigger polling stations there will be more than one table issuing ballot papers. Your poll card, posters and staff will show you which is your table. If there is a queue please be patient - the staff have to make sure the proper procedure is being followed, and this cannot be rushed.

Confirm your name and address

Polling station staff will ask for your name and address, and check that you are on the voters list.

You will be asked to confirm your details even if you have handed over your poll card. This is to make sure the right person is marked off the list – some voters, by mistake, hand in the card for someone else in their household.

Your name will be crossed off the voters list to make sure you cannot vote again.



Because the poll card has your personal details, the staff will give you your card back, rather than put it in a bin.

Take your ballot papers

The staff will hand over your three ballot papers.

Ballot papers are no longer stamped to make them official - security designs are now printed on the back.



Go into a voting booth on your own... and mark your votes with a cross (X). It is a secret

vote, so the staff will step in if two or more people are discussing how to vote in the same booth.

Voters with a disability can be assisted by an appointed "companion" or the presiding officer in charge of the polling station.

In the box

DO NOT FOLD your ballot papers - votes will be scanned and counted electronically,

and folded papers will slow up the process. Do not let anyone see your votes. Post all of your ballot papers **FACE DOWN** into the ballot box, then leave the station.



Close of voting

- Do not leave it until the last minute to vote!
- No ballot paper can be issued after 10.00pm.
- Voters in the booths will be given time to finish voting.

But if you have not been given your papers by 10.00pm you cannot vote, even if you are in the polling station.

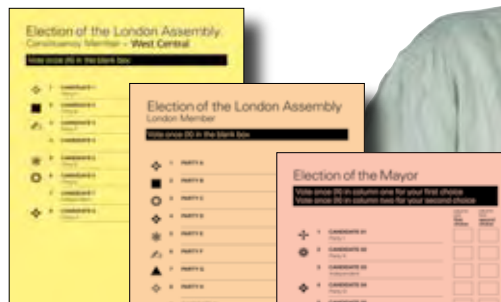
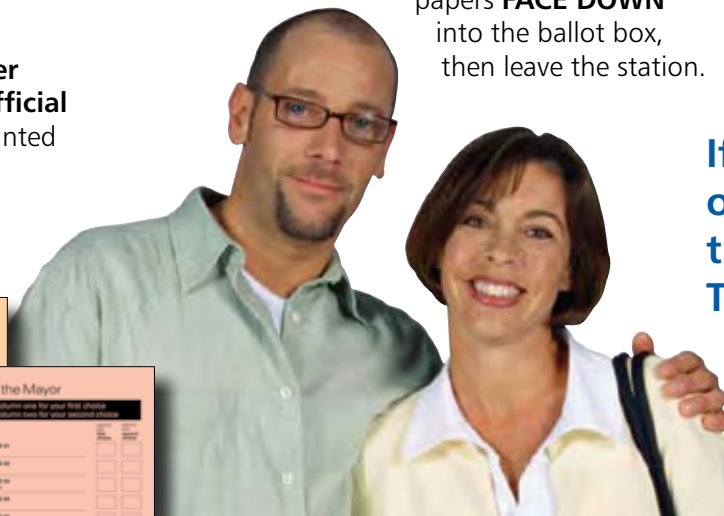
Interpreting service in polling stations

All polling stations have booklets giving "how to vote" help in a variety of languages.

The Language Line service is available in all stations. Translations take place "live" over the telephone, and can be used in many languages.

For information on Language Line visit: www.language.co.uk

If you have any questions or special needs, please ask the polling station staff. They are there to help you.



LONDON ELECTS

YOUR LONDON. YOUR VOTE

h&f
hammersmith & fulham

Who is standing for election

Candidates' details will be available from 2 April at www.lbhf.gov.uk and www.londonelects.org.uk and at borough libraries and main council offices.

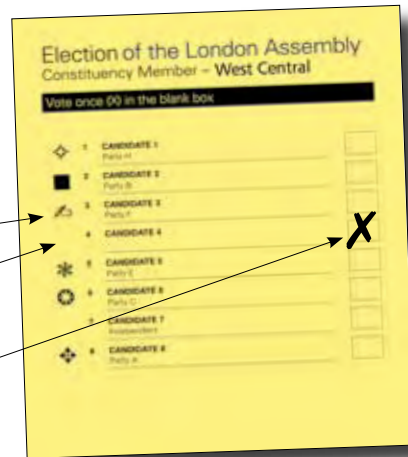
The Greater London Returning Officer will send every elector a booklet of the Mayoral candidates' manifestos, and details of Assembly candidates.

On election day, notices outside and inside the polling station will give you the candidates' details. Notices will also tell you how to mark your ballot papers.

Making your vote count

You will have three ballot papers.

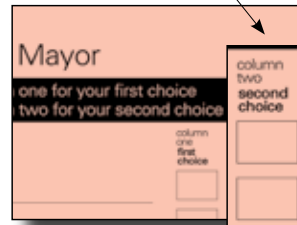
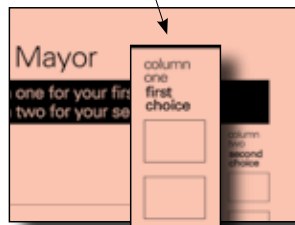
- The candidates or parties are shown in alphabetical order (for the Assembly London Member election, independents are listed after the parties)
- There is a party logo for registered parties and their candidates
- Independents cannot use a logo
- To vote simply put a cross (X) in the blank box



For the Mayor election

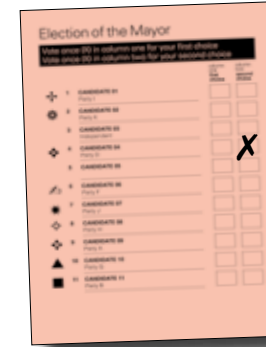
Vote in column one for your first choice.

And in column two for your second choice.



These will not count ...

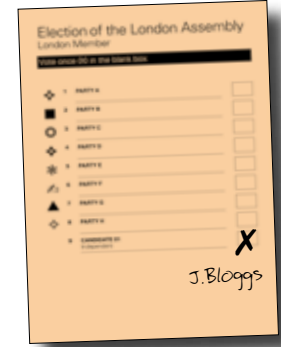
no first choice



voting for more than one candidate



voter can be identified



How the votes are counted

Special electronic machines will read and count the votes.

Counting starts at 8.30am on Friday 2 May (day after polling day). Results should be known by early evening.

Mayor of London

If one candidate gets over half the first choice votes, they are the winner.

If no candidate gets half the votes, the top two candidates go into a second round. All the other candidates are eliminated.

The ballot papers of the eliminated candidates are checked. If any of these papers have second choice votes for the remaining two candidates, they are added to their totals.

The candidate with the most first and second choice votes is the winner.

Assembly Constituency Member

In each of the 14 constituencies, the candidate with the most votes is the winner.

Assembly London Members

All the votes across London for parties or individual candidates are added together. If they get more than 5% of the votes they are included in the working out of seats won. The number of seats a party (or an independent) wins is in proportion to the total votes it gets. The number of constituency seats already won is taken into account when the calculation is made.

So if a party gets a fifth of the votes across London, they should have five Assembly members, either from constituencies or the London-wide party list.

Help for disabled voters



For many years, we have been providing special facilities to help disabled voters. Several of these have now been brought into electoral law.

Help for partially sighted voters

Poll cards, and the text on them, are larger to make them easier to read.

In the polling station there are large-print versions of the ballot papers. A magnifying card is also available.

Voting companions

Any voter with a physical disability can take a relative or friend to help them vote. A simple form has to be filled in at the polling station before ballot papers are issued.

Help from the presiding officer in charge

The staff in charge of the polling station can help any elector to mark their ballot papers. They are bound by electoral law to keep your vote secret.

Help for wheelchair users

All polling stations are now accessible for wheelchair users.



Many stations now have level access or permanent ramps - this is one of the key things that we look for when we choose a new station.

If we have to use a station with steps, there is a temporary ramp on polling day. All stations have a low-level voting booth.

Ballot boxes are placed on chairs, rather than tables, to make it easier to put ballot papers in.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

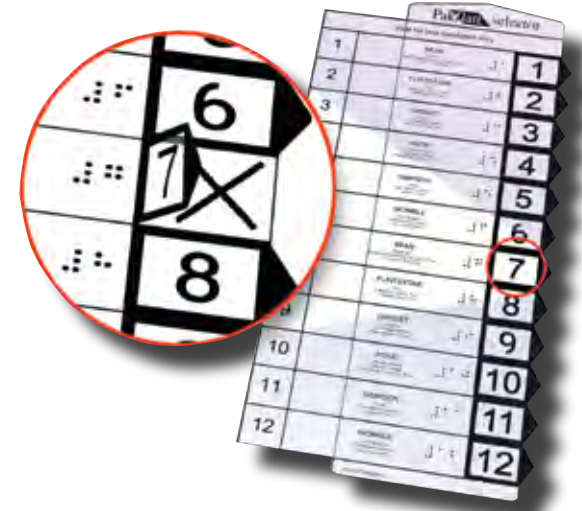
This Act now applies to voting, and the staff will give the extra assistance needed to help a person use their vote. Please note that "power of attorney" does not apply to voting.

Help for blind voters

Blind and partially-sighted voters can now vote in secret.

A special device is fitted to ballot papers. This has numbered windows and the voter simply lifts the one where they wish to vote.

The polling station staff will read out the candidates' numbers before the voter goes into the voting booth. The device has Braille as well as raised numbers.



Become an active citizen - join the team!

Join the Electoral Services team

You do not have to work for the council to help us support local democracy.

Each year (September to November), we recruit about 200 canvassers to deliver voter registration forms and visit non-responders. And at an election there are nearly 1,000 jobs to be filled - helping with deliveries, issuing and opening postal votes, working in polling stations, and counting votes.

Full training is given, and all jobs are paid on a fee basis.

We are very keen to increase the number of local residents on our team.

Visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/electoralservicesrecruit for the latest vacancies.