



General Election 2001

Running the Election

Returning Officer

In London, the Returning Officer is the Mayor of a borough. Nowadays this is a ceremonial role confined to receiving and returning the writ and declaring the result of the count. In the Hammersmith & Fulham constituency the Mayor has handed these duties to the Acting Returning Officer.

Acting Returning Officer

The person who has actual responsibility for running the election is the Acting Returning Officer (ARO).

The ARO for Hammersmith & Fulham is Richard Harbord (the council's Managing Director). The ARO for Ealing, Acton & Shepherds Bush is Gillian Guy (the Chief Executive of Ealing Council).

The ARO can have deputies. Richard Harbord has appointed Henry Peterson (the Director of Policy & Administration) and Steve Miller (the Electoral Services Manager). All three are also deputies for Ealing, Acton & Shepherds Bush.

Electoral Services

The Electoral Services team does the day-to-day organisation of the election. This includes recruiting and training staff, arranging polling stations, delivering poll cards, processing postal and proxy voting, preparing polling stationery and equipment, and organising the counting of votes.

The team also makes arrangements in the part of Ealing, Acton & Shepherds Bush that is in the borough, on behalf of Ealing.

What's new at this election, and what's not

What's new at this election?

- **The Electoral Commission** is regulating national expenditure by, and donations to, registered political parties and third party organisations.
- **Postal votes are now available on demand.** Any elector can now choose to vote by post, instead of at a polling station. No reason for the postal vote needs to be given, and it does not have to be countersigned by a doctor, employer etc.
- **There is more time to apply for a postal or proxy vote.** The closing time for applications is now 5.00pm, on the 6th working day before polling day – it used to be the 11th day.
- **Postal ballot papers can now be sent outside the UK.** But they have to be returned before polling stations close at 10.00pm on 7 June.
- **Postal ballot papers lost in the post can be replaced.** If a voter does not receive their ballot paper 4 days before polling day, they have until 4.00pm on Wednesday 6 June to arrange a replacement.
- **Any voter with a disability can be helped to vote by a "companion".** A companion can be a person allowed to vote at the election, or a close relative. Previously only blind voters could vote this way.
- **Large-print copies of the ballot paper** have to be displayed in the polling station to help the partially sighted. This is now the law, but we have provided this service for the past 7 years.
- **A special template for blind voters** will be available in polling stations to help them mark their ballot papers in secret, without help.

What's NOT new at this election?

At the London Mayor and Assembly election in May 2000 there were several innovations to the electoral process.

More traditional methods will be used at the General Election.

- There will be no early voting on days before polling day
- The usual ballot paper design will be used
- Ballot papers will be stamped with the Official Mark in the polling station
- Black tin ballot boxes will be used
- Votes will be counted by hand, not by electronic scanning

The Count

The counting of votes for Ealing, Acton and Shepherds Bush will be at Acton Town Hall

The counting of votes for Hammersmith & Fulham will be at Hammersmith Town Hall

Polling stations close at 10.00pm on election day. The ballot boxes are sealed and the officer-in-charge prepares a report to show how many ballot papers have been issued during the day.

Boxes are then delivered straight to the Town Hall.

The count has three stages

1 Verification

The boxes (including the postal votes) are opened and the number of ballot papers are counted to make sure they tally with how many the officer-in-charge says were issued.

When all the boxes have been checked this shows the turnout of how many people voted.

2 Counting

The ballot papers are then sorted and counted for each candidate. Some papers will be rejected if, for example, they are blank or it is unclear who the vote is for. If the result is close there may be a recount.

3 Declaration

The Acting Returning Officer then declares who is elected. If two candidates tie on the same number of votes, the ARO draws lots to see who has won.

Results

Hammersmith & Fulham Constituency

Name	Party	Votes	% Share
Iain COLEMAN	The Labour Party Candidate	19801	44.2
Matthew Hadrian Marshall CARRINGTON	Official Conservative Party Candidate	17786	39.8
Jon BURDEN	Liberal Democrat	5294	11.8
Daniel Lopez DIAS	The Green Party Candidate	1444	3.2
Gerald ROBERTS	UK Independence Party Candidate	375	0.8

The number of rejected ballot papers was as follows:

(a)	Want of official mark	13
(b)	Voting for more than one candidate	26
(c)	Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	8
(d)	Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	93
TOTAL		140

Eligible Electors	79303
Voters	44870
Postal Voters	5861
Postal Vote Turnout	82.3%
Overall Turnout	56.6%

Ealing, Acton & Shepherds Bush Constituency

Name	Party	Votes	% Share
Clive Stafford SOLEY	Labour	20144	53.8
Justine GREENING	Conservative	9355	25.0
Martin Paul Niebuhr TOD	Liberal Democrat	6171	16.5
Nicholas John GRANT	Socialist Alliance	529	1.4
Andrew John George LAWRIE	UK Independence Party	476	1.3
Carlos Joseph Martinez RULE	Socialist Labour Party – Leader Arthur Scargill	301	0.8
Rebecca NG	Profile Alliance	225	0.6

The number of rejected ballot papers was as follows:

(a)	Want of official mark	0
(b)	Voting for more than one candidate	60
(c)	Writing or mark by which the voter could be identified	4
(d)	Being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty	183
TOTAL		247

Eligible Electors	72568
Voters	37448
Postal Voters	900
Postal Vote Turnout	66.6%
Overall Turnout	52.63%