Local elections in England | Electoral Commission Search Local elections in England You are in the section Home Interim text for reverting back to normal subscriber rules The Local Government Disqualification Act 2022 came into effect on 28 June 2022. The Act disqualifies individuals subject to certain sexual offence legal orders from standing for election or holding office in local authorities. We have updated Part 1 of our guidance for Candidates and Agents to reflect this. Secondary legislation has also been made to amend the relevant consent to nomination forms and this came into force on 29 June 2022. We have updated the consent to nomination forms available below to reflect this. Notional spending update Elections Act Under the Elections Act 2022, two changes have been made to the legislation on candidate spending rules: Definition of 'use on behalf a candidate' in notional spending Making payments for local campaigning The changes came into force on 23 November 2022. We have updated our Part 3 guidance to reflect the change. Guidance and resources that you need if you are a candidate or agent at a local government election in England An overview document gives instructions on how to use this guidance and who does what at these elections. Candidate guide overview - local elections in England We have produced a timetable with all of the relevant deadlines for the 4 May 2023 local government elections, which can be viewed here: Election timetable for scheduled local government elections in England 2023 For any unscheduled elections please refer to the timetable below. Election timetable for non-scheduled local government elections in England Part 1 Can you stand for election? This part covers: Qualifications for standing for election Disqualifications from standing for election Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 1/6) (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 1: Can you stand for election? List of Commonwealth countries (DOC) List of EU member states (DOC) Part 2a Standing as an independent candidate This part covers: Completing and submitting your nomination papers Being nominated in more than one ward What happens after the close of nominations? Appointing your election agent and other agents What happens if a candidate dies? Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 2a/6) (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 2a: Standing as an independent candidate Nomination papers - Local Government Election England (DOCX) Withdrawal form - must be printed off (DOC) Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Part 2b Standing as a party candidate This part covers: Completing and submitting your nomination papers Nomination in more than one ward What happens after the close of nominations Appointing your election agent and other agents What happens if a candidate dies? Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 2b/6) Click here to view resources for Part 2b: Standing as a party candidate Nomination papers - Local Government Election England (DOCX) Withdrawal form - must be printed off (DOC) Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Part 3 Spending and donations This part covers: How much you can spend The activities covered by the rules Which donations you can accept How to check donations you receive What information needs to be recorded and reported Part 3: Spending and Donations Local Elections England May 2023 Click here to view resources for Part 3: Spending and donations Candidates spending return (PDF) Candidate spending return (XLS) Explanatory notes for spending return Candidate declaration (PDF) Agent declaration (PDF) Candidate imprints factsheet: UK Parliamentary elections, and elections in England Wales and Northern Ireland Crowdfunding: donations and permissibility (PDF) Non party campaigner s75 spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75 declaration (PDF) Candidate webinar 2023 Part 4 The campaign This part

covers: Campaigning dos and don'ts Using the electoral register and absent voters' lists Using schools and rooms for public meetings Imprints on campaign publicity material Polling day dos and don'ts Reporting allegations of electoral malpractice Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 4/6) (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 4: The campaign Register request form (DOC) Absent voters' list request form (DOC) Code of conduct for campaigners - reserved elections in GB from January 2023 Secrecy requirements - the poll (DOC) Secrecy requirements - postal voting (DOC) Secrecy requirements - verification and count (DOC) Candidate imprints factsheet: UK Parliamentary elections, and elections in England Wales and Northern Ireland Tellers guidance Tellers do's and don't Part 5 Your right to attend key electoral events This part covers: Attending the opening of postal votes and what to expect Attending polling stations and what to expect Attending the count and what to expect Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 5/6) (PDF) Click here to view resources for Part 5: Your right to attend key electoral events Polling agent appointment form (DOC) Postal voting agent appointment form (DOC) Counting agent appointment form (DOC) Secrecy requirements - the poll (DOC) Secrecy requirements postal voting (DOC) Secrecy requirements - verification and count (DOC) Tellers guidance Tellers do's and don't Part 6 After the declaration of results This part covers: Making the declaration of acceptance of office Access to election paperwork Submitting your spending returns and declarations Questioning the result through an election petition Candidate guide - local elections in England (part 6/6) (PDF)