

SCHEDULE 3

Article 4

^{F1}... Mayoral Election (Combination of Polls) Rules

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [Sch. 3](#) heading omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(2)**

PART 1

General provisions

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the ^{F2}... Mayoral Elections (Combination of Polls) Rules.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in [Sch. 3 rule 1](#) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(4)**

Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In these Rules—

[^{F3}“anonymous elector’s document” has the meaning given in regulation 3(1) of the Voter Identification Regulations 2022;]

“the Appendix” means the Appendix to these Rules contained in Part 9 of this Schedule;

“the Combination of Polls Regulations” means the Representation of the People (Combination of Polls) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004 ^{M1};

“counting observer” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Referendums Regulations;

^{F4}
...

“petition organiser” has the same meaning as in regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Referendums) (Petitions) (England) Regulations 2011 ^{M2};

“polling observer” has the same meaning as in regulation 2(1) of the Referendums Regulations;

[^{F5}“temporary electoral identity document” has the meaning given in regulation 3(1) of the Voter Identification Regulations 2022.]

“voting area” has the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Referendums Regulations.

- (2) In the case of a referendum, a reference to—

(a) a “candidate” shall be construed as a reference to a petition organiser,

(b) an “election agent” or a “counting agent” shall be construed as a reference to a counting observer,

(c) a “polling agent” shall be construed as a reference to a polling observer, and

(d) a “returning officer” shall be construed as a reference to a counting officer.

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(3) Subject to paragraph (4), other expressions used both in these Rules and in the 1983 Act (as it applies to local government elections) have the same meaning in these Rules as they have in that Act.

(4) Where such expressions are used in relation to a [F6CA/CCA] mayoral election, they have the meaning as defined in article 2 or modified by article 3.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in Sch. 3 rule 2(1) inserted (16.1.2023) by [The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1382\)](#), regs. 1(3), **96(3)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F4** Words in Sch. 3 rule 2(1) revoked (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1310\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. 1 Pt. 2** Table 1 (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, **2(2)**)
- F5** Words in Sch. 3 rule 2(1) inserted (16.1.2023) by [The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1382\)](#), regs. 1(3), **96(3)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F6** Word in Sch. 3 rule 2(4) substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(a)**

Marginal Citations

- M1** [S.I. 2004/294](#).
- M2** [S.I. 2011/2914](#).

PART 2

Provisions as to time

Timetable

3. The proceedings at the election shall be conducted in accordance with the following Timetable:

<i>Proceeding</i>	<i>Time</i>
Publication of notice of election	Not later than the twenty-fifth day before the day of election
Delivery of nomination papers	Between 10 am and 4 pm on any day after the date of publication of the notice of election but not later than the 19th day before the day of the election
The making of objections to nomination papers	(1) Subject to paragraph (2), during the hours allowed for delivery of nomination papers on the last day for their delivery and the hour following. (2) No objection may be made in the afternoon of that last day except to a nomination paper delivered within 24 hours of the last time for its delivery and, in the case of a nomination paper so delivered, no objection may be made to the sufficiency or nature of the particulars of the candidate unless made at or immediately after the time of the delivery of the nomination paper

Publication of statement as to persons nominated	Not later than 4 pm on the eighteenth day before the day of election
Delivery of notices of withdrawal of candidature	Not later than 4 pm on the nineteenth day before the day of election
Notice of poll	Not later than the sixth day before the day of election
Polling	Between the hours of 7 am and 10 pm on the day of election

Computation of time

4.—(1) In computing any period of time for the purposes of the Timetable—

- (a) a Saturday or Sunday,
- (b) Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday, or
- (c) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning,

shall be disregarded, and any such day shall not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll nor shall the returning officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of the votes on such a day.

(2) In this rule, “bank holiday” means a day which is a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales^{M3}.

Marginal Citations

M3 1971 c. 80.

PART 3

Stages common to contested and uncontested elections

Notice of Election and provision of information to calculate election expense limits

5.—(1) The [F7CA/CCA] returning officer must publish notice of the election stating—

- (a) the place and times at which nomination papers are to be delivered, and
- (b) the date of the poll in the event of a contest,

and the notice must state that forms of nomination papers may be obtained at that place and those times.

(2) The notice of election must also state the arrangements which apply for the payment of the deposit required by rule 10 to be made by means of the electronic transfer of funds.

(3) The notice of election must state the date by which—

- (a) applications to vote by post or by proxy, and
- (b) other applications and notices about postal or proxy voting,

must reach the registration officer in order that they may be effective for the election.

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(4) Paragraphs (5) and (6) apply for the purposes of enabling persons to calculate the limitation of election expenses in accordance with section 76 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as modified by paragraph 1(21) of Schedule 2 to this Order).

(5) The [F8CA/CCA] returning officer must calculate the total number of entries in the register of electors to be used at the election as it has effect on the last day for publication of notice of the election in accordance with rule 3 and must, on written request, provide that information together with the total number of constituent councils.

(6) The information referred to in paragraph (5) must be provided as soon as practicable after the written request is received.

Textual Amendments

F7 Word in Sch. 3 rule 5(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(b)**

F8 Word in Sch. 3 rule 5(5) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(b)**

Nomination of candidates

6.—(1) Each candidate must be nominated by a separate nomination paper.

(2) A nomination paper must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to the like effect and shall be delivered at the place fixed for the purpose by the [F9CA/CCA] returning officer.

(3) F10 ...A nomination paper must state the candidate's—

(a) full names, [F11and]

F12(b)

(c) if desired, description,

and the surname must be placed first in the list of names.

[F13(4) If a candidate—

(a) commonly uses a surname that is different from any other surname the candidate has,

(b) commonly uses a forename that is different from any other forename the candidate has, or

(c) otherwise commonly uses one or more forenames or a surname in a different way from the way in which the candidate’s names are stated in accordance with paragraph (3)(a),

the nomination paper may state the commonly used name or names in addition to the names as stated in accordance with paragraph (3)(a).]

(5) The description (if any) can only be—

(a) one authorised as mentioned in rule 7(1) or (3), or

(b) the word “Independent”.

[F14(6) The nomination paper must be accompanied by a form (in these Rules referred to as the “home address form”) which states—

(a) the candidate’s—

(i) full names,

(ii) home address in full, and

(iii) qualifying address or, if the candidate declares they are qualified by more than one of the qualifications mentioned in paragraph (9), qualifying addresses;

- (b) the attesting person's—
 - (i) full names, and
 - (ii) home address in full.

Provision in paragraph (2) about delivery of the nomination paper applies also to the home address form.

- (7) The home address form—
 - (a) may contain a statement made and signed by the candidate that the candidate requires their home address not to be made public, and
 - (b) if it does so, must—
 - (i) if that address is in the United Kingdom, state the relevant area;
 - (ii) if that address is outside the United Kingdom, state the country within which it is situated.

(8) The home address form must also state, in relation to each qualifying address, which of the qualifications mentioned in paragraph (9) that address relates to.

- (9) In this rule, “qualifying address”, in relation to a candidate, means—
 - (a) if the candidate declares in their consent to nomination that they are qualified to be elected as mayor by virtue of being registered as a local government elector at a particular address, that address;
 - (b) if the candidate declares in that consent that they are qualified to be elected as mayor by virtue of owning or occupying land or other premises in a particular area, a description and the address of that land or those premises;
 - (c) if the candidate declares in that consent that they are qualified to be elected as mayor by virtue of their principal or only place of work being in a particular area, the address in full of that place of work;
 - (d) if the candidate declares in that consent that they are qualified to be elected as mayor by virtue of residing in a particular area, the address, or addresses, in full at which the candidate has so resided.

- (10) In this rule—

“attesting person”, in relation to a candidate, means the person who attests the candidate's consent to nomination in accordance with rule 9(1)(c);

“relevant area”—

- (a) in relation to a home address which is in England, means—
 - (i) if it is within a district for which there is a district council, that district;
 - (ii) if it is within a county in which there are no districts with councils, that county;
 - (iii) if it is within a London borough, that London borough;
 - (iv) if it is within the City of London (including the Inner and Middle Temples), the City of London;
 - (v) if it is in the Isles of Scilly, the Isles of Scilly;
- (b) in relation to a home address which is in Wales, means—
 - (i) if it is within a county, that county;
 - (ii) if it is within a county borough, that county borough;
- (c) in relation to a home address in Scotland, means the local government area in which it is situated;

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- (d) in relation to a home address in Northern Ireland, means the local government district in which it is situated.]

Textual Amendments

- F9** Word in Sch. 3 rule 6(2) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(c)**
- F10** Words in Sch. 3 rule 6(3) omitted (23.2.2019) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(2)(a)(i)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F11** Word in Sch. 3 rule 6(3)(a) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(2)(a)(ii)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F12** Sch. 3 rule 6(3)(b) and word omitted (23.2.2019) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(2)(a)(iii)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F13** Sch. 3 rule 6(4) substituted (1.11.2023) by The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums (Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1141), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(c)(8))
- F14** Sch. 3 rule 6(6)-(10) substituted for Sch. 3 rule 6(6)-(8) (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(2)(b)** (with arts. 3, 4)

Nomination papers: name of registered political party

7.—(1) A nomination paper may not include a description of a candidate which is likely to lead electors to associate the candidate with a registered political party unless the party is a qualifying party in relation to the electoral area and the description is authorised by a certificate—

- (a) issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of the party, and
- (b) received by the [^{F15}CA/CCA] returning officer before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 3.
- (2) In paragraph (1) an authorised description may be either—
- (a) the name of the party registered under section 28 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ^{M4}, or
- (b) a description of the party registered under section 28A of that Act.

(3) A nomination paper may not include a description of a candidate which is likely to lead electors to associate the candidate with two or more registered political parties unless the parties are each qualifying parties in relation to the electoral area and the description is a registered description authorised by a certificate—

- (a) issued by or on behalf of the registered nominating officer of each of the parties, and
- (b) received by the [^{F16}CA/CCA] returning officer before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 3.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3), a description is a registered description if it is a description registered for use by the parties under section 28B of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

(5) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if that person fraudulently purports to be authorised to issue a certificate under paragraph (1) or (3) on behalf of a registered political party's nominating officer.

- (6) For the purposes of the application of this rule in relation to an election—

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- (a) “registered political party” means a party which was registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 on the day (“the relevant day”) which is two days before the last day for the delivery of nomination papers at that election,
 - (b) a registered political party is a qualifying party in relation to an electoral area if the party was on the relevant day registered in respect of that part of Great Britain in the Great Britain register maintained under that Part of that Act.
- (7) For the purposes of paragraph (6)(a), any day falling within rule 4(1) must be disregarded.

Textual Amendments

- F15** Word in Sch. 3 rule 7(1)(b) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(d)**
- F16** Word in Sch. 3 rule 7(3)(b) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(5)(d)**

Marginal Citations

- M4** 2000 c. 41. Section 28A was inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, section 49(1).

Subscription of nomination paper

8.—(1) Subject to [F17]paragraph (2)], the nomination paper must be subscribed by two electors as proposer and seconder, and [F18]subscribed as assented to by that number of other electors as calculated in accordance with paragraph (1A)].

[F19](1A) The number of other electors which must subscribe a nomination paper is—
2C – 2
where C is the number of relevant constituent councils.]

(2) The subscribers referred to in paragraph (1) must include at least [F20]2] local government electors in respect of each relevant constituent council.

[F21](3)

(4) Where a nomination paper has the signatures of more than the required number of persons as proposing, seconding or assenting to the nomination of a candidate, the signature or signatures (up to the required number) appearing first on the paper in each category must be taken into account to the exclusion of any others in that category.

(5) The nomination paper must give the electoral number M5 of each person subscribing it.

(6) The [F22]CA/CCA] returning officer—

- (a) must supply any elector with as many forms of nomination paper and forms of consent to nomination as may be required at the place and during the time for delivery of nomination papers, and
- (b) must at any elector's request prepare a nomination paper for signature,

but it is not necessary for a nomination or consent to nomination to be on a form supplied by the [F22]CA/CCA] returning officer.

(7) In this rule—

[F23]“elector” means a person entitled to vote as an elector at the [F24]CA/CCA] mayoral election and who is registered in the register of local government electors on the last day for the publication of notice of the election; and includes a person then shown in the register as below

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voting age if (and only if) it appears from the register that the person will be of voting age on the day fixed for the poll;]

[^{F25c1}“local government elector” means a person who is registered in the register of local government electors at an address within the constituent council’s area on the last day for the publication of the notice of election; and includes a person then shown in the register as below voting age if (but only if) it appears from the register that the person will be of voting age on the day fixed for the poll;]

[^{F26c}“relevant constituent council”—

- (a) in relation to a combined authority, means a district council which is a constituent council, or in the case of an area for which there is no district council, the county council, and
- (b) in relation to a combined county authority, means a constituent council.]

(8) But, in this rule, “elector” does not include a person who has an anonymous entry in the register of local government electors.

Textual Amendments

- F17** Words in Sch. 3 rule 8(1) substituted (11.3.2021) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/293\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5(3)(a)(i)**
- F18** Words in Sch. 3 rule 8(1) substituted (11.3.2021) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/293\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5(3)(a)(ii)**
- F19** Sch. 3 rule 8(1A) inserted (11.3.2021) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/293\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5(3)(b)**
- F20** Word in Sch. 3 rule 8(2) substituted (11.3.2021) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/293\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5(3)(c)**
- F21** Sch. 3 rule 8(3) omitted (11.3.2021) by virtue of [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections \(Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates\) \(Amendment\) Order 2021 \(S.I. 2021/293\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5(3)(d)**
- F22** Word in Sch. 3 rule 8(6) substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(6)(a)**
- F23** Words in Sch. 3 rule 8(7) substituted (10.1.2018) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/19\)](#), arts. 1(2), **4(2)(a)** (with art. 1(3))
- F24** Word in Sch. 3 rule 8(7) substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(6)(b)(i)**
- F25** Words in Sch. 3 rule 8(7) substituted (10.1.2018) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/19\)](#), arts. 1(2), **4(2)(b)** (with art. 1(3))
- F26** Words in Sch. 3 rule 8(7) substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(6)(b)(ii)**

Marginal Citations

- M5** See section 9(3) of the [Representation of the People Act 1983 \(c. 2\)](#) for meaning of “electoral number”.

Consent to nomination

- 9.—(1) A person shall not be validly nominated unless their consent to nomination—
- (a) is given in writing, on or within one month before the last day for the delivery of nomination papers,

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- (b) [^{F27}where the election is a combined authority mayoral election,] is in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to the like effect and includes a copy of paragraph 9 [^{F28}and 9A] of Schedule 5B to the 2009 Act, section 34 of the Localism Act 2011 ^{M6}[^{F29}, section 30 of the Elections Act 2022] and, where the combined authority mayor is to exercise functions of a police and crime commissioner in accordance with an order made under Schedule 5C to the 2009 Act, sections 64 to 68 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011,
- [^{F30}(ba) where the election is a combined county authority mayoral election, is in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to the like effect and includes a copy of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 2 to the 2023 Act, section 34 of the Localism Act 2011, section 30 of the Elections Act 2022 and, where the combined county authority mayor is to exercise functions of a police and crime commissioner in accordance with regulations made under Schedule 3 to the 2023 Act, sections 64 to 68 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011,]
- (c) is attested by one witness, and
- (d) is delivered at the place and within the time for the delivery of nomination papers.

Textual Amendments

- F27** Words in Sch. 3 rule 9(1)(b) inserted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(7)(a)**
- F28** Words in Sch. 3 para. 9(1)(b) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Local Government \(Disqualification\) Act 2022 \(c. 17\)](#), **ss. 2(4)(b)**, 6(2) (with s. 5)
- F29** Words in Sch. 3 rule 9(1)(b) inserted (1.11.2023) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1141\)](#), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(c)(8))
- F30** Sch. 3 rule 9(1)(ba) inserted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(7)(b)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Sch. 3 rule 9(1)(b) modified (1.11.2023) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1141\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2**

Marginal Citations

- M6** 2011 c. 20.

Deposits

10.—(1) A person shall not be validly nominated unless the sum of £5000 is deposited by that person or on that person's behalf, with the [^{F31}CA/CCA] returning officer at the place and within the time for delivery of nomination papers.

- (2) The deposit may be made either—
- (a) by the deposit of any legal tender, or
- (b) by means of a banker's draft, or
- (c) with the [^{F32}CA/CCA] returning officer's consent, in any other manner (including by means of a debit or credit card or the electronic transfer of funds),

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but the [F33CA/CCA] returning officer may refuse to accept a deposit sought to be made by means of a banker's draft if the [F33CA/CCA] returning officer does not know that the drawer carries on business as a banker in the United Kingdom.

(3) Where the deposit is made on behalf of the candidate, the person making the deposit must at the time it is made give his or her name and address to the [F34CA/CCA] returning officer (unless they have previously been given to the [F34CA/CCA] returning officer under section 67 (appointment of election agent) of the 1983 Act).

Textual Amendments

- F31** Word in Sch. 3 rule 10(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(8)(a)**
- F32** Word in Sch. 3 rule 10(2)(c) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(8)(b)(i)**
- F33** Word in Sch. 3 rule 10(2) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(8)(b)(ii)**
- F34** Word in Sch. 3 rule 10(3) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(8)(c)**

Place for delivery of nomination papers and right to attend nomination

11.—(1) The [F35CA/CCA] returning officer must fix the place in the area of the combined authority [F36or, as the case may be, combined county authority,] at which nomination papers are to be delivered to that officer, and must attend there during the time for their delivery and for the making of objections to them.

(2) Except for the purpose of delivering a nomination paper or of assisting the [F37CA/CCA] returning officer, no other person is entitled to attend the proceedings during the time for delivery of nomination papers or for making objections to them unless that person is—

- (a) a person standing nominated as a candidate, or
- (b) the election agent, proposer or seconder of such a person, or
- (c) a person who is entitled to attend by virtue of section 6A or 6B of the Political Parties and Referendums Act 2000 Act ^{M7}.

(3) Where a candidate is the candidate's own election agent, the candidate may name one other person and that person is entitled to attend in place of the election agent.

(4) Where a person stands nominated by more than one nomination paper, only the persons subscribing as proposer and seconder—

- (a) to such one of those papers as the candidate may select, or
- (b) in default of such a selection, to that one of those papers which is first delivered,

are entitled to attend as the person's proposer and seconder.

(5) The right to attend conferred by this rule includes the right—

- (a) to inspect, and
- (b) to object to the validity of,

any nomination paper [F38and associated home address form].

(6) Paragraph (5) does not apply to a person mentioned in paragraph (2)(c).

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(7) One other person chosen by each candidate is entitled to be present at the delivery of the candidate's nomination, and may afterwards (so long as the candidate stands nominated) attend the proceedings referred to in paragraph (2) but without the right referred to in paragraph (5).

[^{F39}(8) The [^{F40}CA/CCA] returning officer must not permit a home address form to be inspected otherwise than in accordance with this rule, or for some other purpose authorised by law.]

Textual Amendments

- F35** Word in Sch. 3 rule 11(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(9)(a)(i)**
- F36** Words in Sch. 3 rule 11(1) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(9)(a)(ii)**
- F37** Word in Sch. 3 rule 11(2) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(9)(b)**
- F38** Words in Sch. 3 rule 11(5) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(3)(a)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F39** Sch. 3 rule 11(8) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(3)(b)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F40** Word in Sch. 3 rule 11(8) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(9)(b)**

Marginal Citations

- M7** 2000 c. 41. Section 6A and 6B were inserted by section 29 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c.22). Section 6A(5) was amended by paragraph 10 of Schedule 10 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c.13) and by S.I. 2007/1388.

Decisions as to validity of nomination papers [^{F41}and home address forms]

12.—(1) Where a nomination paper and the candidate's consent to nomination [^{F42}and home address form] are delivered in accordance with these Rules, the candidate shall be deemed to stand nominated unless and until—

- (a) the [^{F43}CA/CCA] returning officer decides that the nomination paper is invalid, or
- [^{F44}(b) the [^{F43}CA/CCA] returning officer decides that the candidate's home address form—
- (i) does not comply with the requirements of rule 6(6) or (8), or
- (ii) if the form contains a statement under rule 6(7)(a), does not comply with the signature requirement in that rule or the requirements of rule 6(7)(b), or]
- (c) proof is given to the [^{F43}CA/CCA] returning officer's satisfaction of the candidate's death, or
- (d) the candidate withdraws.

(2) The [^{F43}CA/CCA] returning officer is entitled to hold the nomination paper of a person invalid only on one of the following grounds—

- (a) that the particulars of the candidate or of the persons subscribing the paper are not as required by law, ^{F45}...
- (b) that the paper is not subscribed as so required,
- [^{F46}(c) that an order under section 30 of the Elections Act 2022 (disqualification orders) has effect in relation to the candidate.]

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(3) Subject to paragraph (4), the [F43CA/CCA] returning officer must, as soon as practicable after each [F47 nomination paper and home address form have] been delivered, examine [F48 them] and decide whether the candidate has been validly nominated.

(4) If in the [F43CA/CCA] returning officer's opinion a nomination paper breaks rule 7(1) or (3), the [F43CA/CCA] returning officer must give a decision to that effect—

- (a) as soon as practicable after the delivery of the nomination paper, and
- (b) in any event, before the end of the period of 24 hours starting with the last time for delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 3.

(5) Where the [F43CA/CCA] returning officer decides that a nomination paper is invalid, the [F43CA/CCA] returning officer must endorse and sign on the paper the fact and the reasons for that decision.

(6) The [F43CA/CCA] returning officer must send notice of the decision that a nomination paper is valid or invalid to each candidate at the candidate's home address as given in the [F49 home address form].

(7) The [F43CA/CCA] returning officer's decision that a nomination paper is valid shall be final and shall not be questioned in any proceeding whatsoever.

(8) Subject to paragraph (7), nothing in this rule prevents the validity of a nomination being questioned on an election petition.

Textual Amendments

- F41** Words in Sch. 3 rule 12 heading inserted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(a)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F42** Sch. 3 rule 12(1) substituted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(b)(i)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F43** Word in Sch. 3 rule 12 substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(10)**
- F44** Sch. 3 rule 12(1)(b) substituted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(b)(ii)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F45** Word in Sch. 3 rule 12(2)(a) omitted (1.11.2023) by virtue of [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1141\)](#), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(c)(i)** (with reg. 1(5)(8))
- F46** Sch. 3 rule 12(2)(c) inserted (1.11.2023) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1141\)](#), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(c)(ii)** (with reg. 1(5)(8))
- F47** Words in Sch. 3 rule 12(3) substituted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(c)(i)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F48** Word in Sch. 3 rule 12(3) substituted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(c)(ii)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F49** Words in Sch. 3 rule 12(6) substituted (23.2.2019) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/350\)](#), arts. 1, **6(4)(d)** (with arts. 3, 4)

Publication of statement of persons nominated

13.—(1) The [F50CA/CCA] returning officer must prepare and publish a statement showing the persons who have been and stand nominated and any other persons who have been nominated, with the reason why they no longer stand nominated.

(2) The statement must show the names, addresses and descriptions of the persons nominated as given in their nomination papers [F51 and home address forms].

(3) If a person's nomination paper gives a commonly used surname or forename [F52] in accordance with rule 6(4), the statement must show the person's commonly used surname or forename (as the case may be) instead of [F53] the other surname or forename].

(4) Paragraph (3) does not apply if the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer thinks—

- (a) that the use of the person's commonly used name may be likely to mislead or confuse electors, or
- (b) that the commonly used name is obscene or offensive.

(5) If paragraph (4) applies, the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer must give notice in writing to the candidate of the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer's reasons for refusing to allow the use of a commonly used name.

(6) The statement must show the persons standing nominated arranged alphabetically in the order of their surnames, and if there are two or more of them with the same surname, of their other names.

(7) In the case of a person nominated by more than one nomination paper, the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer must take the particulars required by the foregoing provisions of this rule from such one of the papers as the candidate (or the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer in default of the candidate) may select.

(8) In relation to a nominated person in whose case the [F54] home address form] (or, if the person is nominated by more than one nomination paper, any of the [F55] home address forms]) contains—

- (a) the statement mentioned in rule 6(7)(a), and
- (b) the information mentioned in rule 6(7)(b),

the reference in paragraph (2) to the person's address shall be read as a reference to the information mentioned in rule 6(7)(b).

(9) Where—

- (a) two or more of the names shown on the statement are the same or so similar as to be likely to cause confusion,
- (b) the statement mentioned in rule 6(7)(a) has been made in relation to each of the persons in question, and
- (c) the information mentioned in rule 6(7)(b) is the same for each of them,

the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer may cause any of their particulars to be shown on the statement with such amendments or additions as the officer thinks appropriate in order to reduce the likelihood of confusion.

[F56] (10) Where it is practicable to do so before the publication of the statement, the [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer must consult any person whose particulars are to be amended or added to under paragraph (9).

(11) The [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer must give notice in writing to any person whose particulars are amended or added to under paragraph (9).

(12) Anything done by a [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer in pursuance of paragraph (9) must not be questioned in proceedings other than proceedings on an election petition.

(13) A [F50 CA/CCA] returning officer must have regard to any guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of paragraph (9).]

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Textual Amendments

- F50** Word in Sch. 3 rule 13 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(10)**
- F51** Words in Sch. 3 rule 13(2) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(5)(a)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F52** Words in Sch. 3 rule 13(3) substituted (1.11.2023) by The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums (Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1141), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(d)(i)** (with reg. 1(6)(c)(8))
- F53** Words in Sch. 3 rule 13(3) substituted (1.11.2023) by The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums (Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1141), regs. 1(2), **9(3)(d)(ii)** (with reg. 1(6)(c)(8))
- F54** Word in Sch. 3 rule 13(8) substituted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(5)(b)(i)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F55** Word in Sch. 3 rule 13(8) substituted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(5)(b)(ii)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F56** Sch. 3 rule 13(10)-(13) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(5)(c)** (with arts. 3, 4)

Correction of minor errors

14.—(1) The [^{F57}CA/CCA] returning officer may, if he or she thinks fit, at any time before the publication under rule 13 of the statement of persons nominated, correct minor errors in a nomination paper [^{F58}or home address form].

(2) Errors which may be corrected include—

- (a) errors as to a person's electoral number,
- (b) obvious errors of spelling in relation to the details of a candidate.

[^{F59}(c) errors as to the information mentioned in rule 6(7)(b).]

(3) Anything done by the [^{F60}CA/CCA] returning officer in pursuance of this rule shall not be questioned in any proceedings other than proceedings on an election petition.

(4) The [^{F61}CA/CCA] returning officer must have regard to any guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for the purposes of this rule.

Textual Amendments

- F57** Word in Sch. 3 rule 14(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(11)(a)**
- F58** Words in Sch. 3 rule 14(1) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(6)(a)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F59** Sch. 3 rule 14(2)(c) inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(6)(b)** (with arts. 3, 4)
- F60** Word in Sch. 3 rule 14(3) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(11)(a)**
- F61** Word in Sch. 3 rule 14(4) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(11)(b)**

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Withdrawal of candidature

15.—(1) A candidate may withdraw their candidature by notice of withdrawal—

- (a) signed by the candidate and attested by one witness, and
- (b) delivered to the [F62CA/CCA] returning officer at the place for delivery of nomination papers.

(2) Where a candidate is outside the United Kingdom, a notice of withdrawal signed by the candidate's proposer and accompanied by a written declaration also so signed of the candidate's absence from the United Kingdom shall be of the same effect as a notice of withdrawal signed by the candidate; but where the candidate stands nominated by more than one nomination paper a notice of withdrawal under this paragraph shall be effective if, and only if—

- (a) it and the accompanying declaration are signed by all the proposers except any who is, and is stated in that declaration to be, outside the United Kingdom, or
- (b) it is accompanied, in addition to that declaration, by a written statement signed by the candidate that the proposer giving the notice is authorised to do so on the candidate's behalf during his absence from the United Kingdom.

Textual Amendments

F62 Word in Sch. 3 rule 15(1)(b) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(12)

Method of election

16. If, after any withdrawals under rule 15—

- (a) [F63two] or more candidates remain validly nominated, a poll shall be taken in accordance with [F64Part 4] of these Rules,
- F65(b)
- (c) only one candidate remains validly nominated, that person shall be declared to be elected in accordance with Part 6.

Textual Amendments

F63 Word in Sch. 3 rule 16(a) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), 5(2)(a)(i) (with art. 1(2))

F64 Words in Sch. 3 rule 16(a) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), 5(2)(a)(ii) (with art. 1(2))

F65 Sch. 3 rule 16(b) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), 5(2)(b) (with art. 1(2))

PART 4

Contested elections

Poll to be taken by ballot

17. The votes at the poll shall be given by ballot.

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The ballot papers

- 18.**—(1) The ballot of every person entitled to a vote at the election shall consist of a ballot paper.
- (2) The persons remaining validly nominated, after any withdrawals, and no others, shall be entitled to have their names inserted in the ballot paper at that election.
- (3) Every ballot paper must be in the appropriate form, and must be printed in accordance with the appropriate directions set out in the Appendix, and—
- (a) must contain the names and other particulars of the candidates as shown in the statement of persons nominated,
 - (b) must be capable of being folded up, and
 - (c) must have a number and other unique identifying mark printed on the back
 - (d) must be of a different colour from that of any ballot papers used at any relevant election or referendum.
- (4) If a candidate who is the subject of a party's authorisation under rule 7(1) so requests, the ballot paper must contain, against the candidate's particulars, the party's registered emblem (or, as the case may be, one of the party's registered emblems).
- (5) If a candidate who is the subject of an authorisation by two or more parties under rule 7(3) so requests, the ballot paper must contain, against the candidate's particulars, the registered emblem (or, as the case may be, one of the registered emblems) of one of those parties.
- (6) The candidate's request under paragraph (4) or (5) must—
- (a) be made in writing to the returning officer, and
 - (b) be received by the returning officer before the last time for the delivery of nomination papers set out in the Timetable in rule 3.
- (7) The order of the names in the ballot paper must be the same as in the statement of persons nominated.

The corresponding number list

- 19.**—(1) The returning officer must prepare a list containing the numbers and other unique identifying marks of all of the ballot papers to be issued by the returning officer in pursuance of rule 24 or provided in pursuance of rule 28.
- (2) The list must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to the like effect.

The official mark

- 20.**—(1) Every ballot paper must contain an appropriate security marking (the official mark).
- (2) The official mark must be kept secret, and an interval of not less than five years shall intervene between the use of the same official mark at an election for the same combined authority [^{F66}or, as the case may be, combined county authority].
- (3) The returning officer may use a different official mark for different purposes at the same election.

Textual Amendments

F66 Words in [Sch. 3 rule 20\(2\)](#) inserted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(13)**

Prohibition of disclosure of vote

21. No person who has voted at the election shall, in any legal proceeding to question the election, be required to state for whom he or she has voted.

Use of schools and public rooms

22.—(1) The returning officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes—

- (a) a room in a school maintained or assisted by a local authority (as defined in the Education Act 1996 ^{M8}) or a school in respect of which grants are made out of moneys provided by Parliament to the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the school,
- (b) a room the expense of maintaining which is met by any local authority.

(2) The use of a room in an unoccupied hereditament for that purpose or those purposes does not render a person liable to any payment by way of council tax or non-domestic rate in respect of that hereditament and any day on which it is so used.

(3) The returning officer must make good any damage done to, and defray any expense incurred by the persons having control over, any such room as is mentioned in paragraph (1) by reason of its being used for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes.

Marginal Citations

M8 1996 c. 56.

Notice of poll

23.—(1) The [^{F67}CA/CCA] returning officer must publish notice of the poll stating—

- (a) the day and hours fixed for the poll,
- (b) the particulars of each candidate remaining validly nominated (the names and other particulars of the candidates, and the order of the candidates' names being the same as in the statement of persons nominated), and
- (c) the names of all persons signing a candidate's nomination paper.

(2) Where a candidate is nominated by more than one nomination paper, the nomination paper referred to in paragraph (1)(c) must be that from which the names and other particulars of the candidate shown in the statement of persons nominated are taken.

(3) The returning officer must, not later than the time of the publication of the notice of the poll, give public notice of—

- (a) the situation of each polling station, and
- (b) the description of voters entitled to vote there,

and the returning officer must as soon as practicable after giving such a notice give a copy of it to each of the election agents.

(4) The notice published under paragraph (3) above shall—

- (a) state that the poll at the [^{F68}CA/CCA] mayoral election is to be taken together with the poll at a relevant election or referendum,
- (b) specify the parliamentary constituency^{F69}..., Assembly constituency, voting area or, as the case may be, the relevant local authority and, in the case of an election to fill a casual vacancy, the electoral area for which the relevant election is held, and

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(c) where the polls are to be taken together in part of the electoral area only, specify that part.

Textual Amendments

- F67** Word in Sch. 3 rule 23(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(14)**
- F68** Word in Sch. 3 rule 23(4)(a) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(14)**
- F69** Words in Sch. 3 rule 23(4)(b) revoked (31.12.2020) by The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. (Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions) (United Kingdom and Gibraltar) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1310), reg. 1, **Sch. 1 Pt. 2** Table 1 (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, **2(2)**)

Postal ballot papers

24.—(1) The returning officer must, in accordance with regulations made under the 1983 Act, issue to those entitled to vote by post a ballot paper and a postal voting statement in the appropriate form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, together with such envelopes for their return as may be prescribed by such regulations.

(2) The returning officer must also issue to those entitled to vote by post such information as he thinks appropriate about how to obtain—

- (a) translations into languages other than English of any directions to or guidance for voters sent with the ballot paper,
- (b) a translation into Braille of such directions or guidance,
- (c) graphical representations of such directions or guidance,
- (d) the directions or guidance in any other form (including any audible form).

(3) The postal voting statement must include provision for the form to be signed and for stating the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be).

(4) In the case of a ballot paper issued to a person at an address in the United Kingdom, the returning officer must ensure that the return of the ballot paper and postal voting statement is free of charge to the voter.

Provision of polling stations

25.—(1) The returning officer must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and, subject to the following provisions of this rule, must allot the electors to the polling stations in such manner as the returning officer thinks most convenient.

(2) One or more polling stations may be provided in the same room.

(3) The polling station allotted to electors from any parliamentary polling district wholly or partly within the electoral area must, in the absence of special circumstances, be in the parliamentary polling place for that district, unless that place is outside the electoral area.

(4) The returning officer must provide each polling station with such number of compartments as may be necessary in which the voters can mark their votes screened from observation.

[^{F70}(5) The returning officer must ensure that each polling station contains an area in which voters can produce proof of identity in private.]

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Textual Amendments

F70 Sch. 3 rule 25(5) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), 96(4) (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Appointment of presiding officers and polling clerks

26.—(1) The returning officer must appoint and pay a presiding officer to attend at each polling station and such clerks as may be necessary for the purposes of the election, but the returning officer must not appoint any person who has been employed by or on behalf of a candidate in or about the election.

(2) The returning officer may, if the returning officer thinks fit, preside at a polling station and the provisions of these Rules relating to a presiding officer shall apply to a returning officer so presiding with the necessary modifications as to things to be done by the returning officer to the presiding officer or by the presiding officer to the returning officer.

(3) A presiding officer may do, by the clerks appointed to assist him or her, any act (including the asking of questions) which the presiding officer is required or authorised by these Rules to do at a polling station [^{F71}except—

- (a) order the arrest, exclusion or removal of any person from the polling station,
- (b) refuse to deliver a ballot paper under rule 35(3) or rule 37(1E) (including that rule as applied by rules 38, 39 or 40), or
- (c) resolve doubts over identity as mentioned in rule 37(1F) (including that rule as applied by rule 38, 39 or 40).]

Textual Amendments

F71 Words in Sch. 3 rule 26(3) substituted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), 96(5) (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Issue of official poll cards

27.—(1) The returning officer must as soon as practicable after the publication of the notice of the election send to electors and their proxies an official poll card.

(2) An elector's official poll card must be sent or delivered to the elector's qualifying address ^{M9}, and a proxy's to the proxy's address as shown in the list of proxies.

(3) The official poll card must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, and must set out—

- (a) the name of the combined authority [^{F72}or combined county authority] to which the election relates,
- (b) that the election is a combined authority mayoral election [^{F73}or, as the case may be, combined county authority mayoral election],
- (c) the elector's name, qualifying address and number on the register,
- (d) the date and hours of the poll and the situation of the elector's polling station,
- (e) such other information as the returning officer thinks appropriate,

and different information may be provided in pursuance of sub-paragraph (e) to different electors or descriptions of elector.

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(4) In the case of an elector with an anonymous entry, instead of containing the matter mentioned in paragraph (3)(c), the poll card must contain such matter as is specified in the appropriate form in the Appendix.

(5) Paragraph (7) of rule 8 shall apply for the interpretation of this rule.

(6) If the returning officer and the returning officer for each relevant election or referendum think fit, an official poll card issued under this rule may be combined with the official poll card issued at every relevant election or referendum.

Textual Amendments

F72 Words in Sch. 3 rule 27(3)(a) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(15)(a)**

F73 Words in Sch. 3 rule 27(3)(b) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(15)(b)**

Marginal Citations

M9 See section 8(8)(b) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2) for meaning of “qualifying address”.

Equipment of polling stations

28.—(1) The returning officer must provide each presiding officer with such number of ballot boxes and ballot papers as in the returning officer's opinion may be necessary.

(2) The same ballot box may be used for the poll at the [^{F74}CA/CCA] mayoral election and the poll at every relevant election or referendum, if the returning officer thinks fit.

(3) Every ballot box must be so constructed that the ballot papers can be put in it, but cannot be withdrawn from it, without the box being unlocked or, where the box has no lock, the seal being broken.

(4) The returning officer must provide each polling station with—

- (a) materials to enable voters to mark the ballot papers,
- (b) copies of the register of electors for the electoral area or such part of it as contains the names of the electors allotted to the station,
- (c) the parts of any special lists prepared for the election corresponding to the register of electors for the electoral area or the part of it provided under sub-paragraph (b),
- (d) a list consisting of that part of the list prepared under rule 19 which contains the numbers (but not the other unique identifying marks) corresponding to those on the ballot papers provided to the presiding officer of the polling station.

[^{F75}(e) a ballot paper refusal list, in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to like effect, on which entries are to be made as mentioned in rule 41A (refusal to deliver ballot paper).]

(5) The reference in paragraph (3)(b) to the copies of the register of electors includes a reference to copies of any notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) ^{M10} of the 1983 Act in respect of alterations to the register.

(6) The returning officer must also provide each polling station with—

- (a) at least one large version of each ballot paper which must be printed on the same colour paper as the corresponding ballot paper and must be displayed inside the polling station for the assistance of voters who are partially sighted,

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- (b) an enlarged hand-held sample copy of the ballot paper for the assistance of voters who are partially sighted which must be clearly marked as a specimen provided only for the guidance of voters, and
- ^{F76}(c) such equipment as it is reasonable to provide for the purposes of enabling, or making it easier for, relevant persons to vote independently in the manner directed by rule 37 (voting procedure), including in relation to voting secretly; and for this purpose “relevant persons” means persons who find it difficult or impossible to vote in that manner because of—
 - (i) blindness or partial sight, or
 - (ii) another disability.]

^{F77}(6A) Paragraph (10) of rule 29 of Schedule 1 to the 1983 Act (Parliamentary elections rules: guidance to returning officers) applies for the purposes of paragraph (6)(c) of this rule as it applies for the purposes of that rule, but as if the reference in that paragraph to paragraph (3A)(b) were a reference to paragraph (6)(c) of this rule.]

(7) Where notwithstanding paragraph (2) above separate ballot boxes are to be used, each ballot box must be clearly marked with—

- (a) the election or referendum to which it relates, as shown on the ballot papers for that election or referendum,
 - (b) the words “Place the [*specify colour of ballot papers in question*] ballot papers in here”.
- (8) The ^{F78}CA/CCA] returning officer must prepare and provide each returning officer with—
- (a) a notice in the appropriate form in the Appendix giving directions for the guidance of voters in voting, ^{F79}which] must be printed in conspicuous characters and exhibited inside and outside every polling station, and

^{F80}(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 next to your choice.

^{F81}*[Specify name of combined county authority] COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTION

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

*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 COMMISSIONER 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.

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*[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 [F82CA/CCA] returning officer may decide.]

[F83(8A) A large notice must be displayed inside each polling station containing—

- (a) details of the documents the elector or proxy needs to produce when applying for a ballot paper, namely—
 - (i) in the case of an elector (other than an elector with an anonymous entry) or a proxy, any of the forms of identification for the time being referred to in rule 37(1H) of Schedule 1 to the 1983 Act (parliamentary elections rules);
 - (ii) in the case of an elector with an anonymous entry, the elector’s official poll card and an anonymous elector’s document showing the same electoral number as the electoral number shown on the official poll card; and
- (b) a statement that further proof of identity may be required to resolve any discrepancy between the name of the holder of a form of identification and the name of the elector or proxy that the voter claims to be.]

(9) The [F84CA/CCA] returning officer may also provide copies of the notice mentioned in paragraph (8) in such other form described in section 199B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 ^{M11} as the [F84CA/CCA] returning officer thinks appropriate and, if the returning officer agrees, these may also be exhibited inside and outside the polling station.

F85(10)

F86(11)

Textual Amendments

- F74** Word in Sch. 3 rule 28(2) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(a)**
- F75** Sch. 3 rule 28(4)(e) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(6)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F76** Sch. 3 rule 28(6)(c) substituted (29.12.2022) by The Assistance with Voting for Persons with Disabilities (Amendments) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1309), regs. 1(3), **13(3)(a)(i)(aa)** (with reg. 1(4))
- F77** Sch. 3 rule 28(6A) inserted (29.12.2022) by The Assistance with Voting for Persons with Disabilities (Amendments) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1309), regs. 1(3), **13(3)(a)(i)(bb)** (with reg. 1(4))
- F78** Word in Sch. 3 rule 28(8) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(b)(i)**
- F79** Word in Sch. 3 rule 28(8)(a) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(b)(ii)**
- F80** Sch. 3 rule 28(8)(b) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(3)(a)** (with art. 1(2))
- F81** Words in Sch. 3 rule 28(8)(b) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(b)(iii)(aa)**

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- F82** Word in Sch. 3 rule 28(8)(b) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(b)(iii)(bb)**
- F83** Sch. 3 rule 28(8A) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(6)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F84** Word in Sch. 3 rule 28(9) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(16)(c)**
- F85** Sch. 3 rule 28(10) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(3)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F86** Sch. 3 rule 28(11) omitted (29.12.2022) by virtue of The Assistance with Voting for Persons with Disabilities (Amendments) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1309), regs. 1(3), **13(3)(a)(i)(cc)** (with reg. 1(4))

Marginal Citations

- M10** 1983 c. 2. Section 13B was inserted by the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c. 2), **section 8** and Schedule 1; subsections (3B) and (3D) were inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2000 (c. 22), **section 11**.
- M11** 1983 c. 2. Section 199B was inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), **section 36**.

Appointment of polling and counting agents

29.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (5), (6) and (7), before the commencement of the poll each candidate may appoint—

- (a) polling agents to attend at polling stations for the purpose of detecting personation, and
- (b) counting agents to attend at the counting of the votes.

(2) The same person may be appointed as a polling agent or counting agent by more than one candidate.

(3) For each count, one (but no more than one) counting agent may be designated as a person authorised to require a re-count under rule 53.

(4) A designation under paragraph (3) must be made at the same time as the person's appointment as a counting agent.

(5) Not more than four polling agents, or such greater number as the returning officer may by notice allow, shall be permitted to attend at any particular polling station.

(6) If the number of such agents appointed to attend at a particular polling station exceeds the allowed number, the returning officer must determine which agents are permitted to attend by lot, and only the agents on whom the lot falls shall be deemed to have been duly appointed.

(7) The returning officer may limit the number of counting agents, but in doing so must ensure that—

- (a) the number is the same in the case of each candidate, and
- (b) the number allowed to a candidate must not (except in special circumstances) be less than the number obtained by dividing the number of clerks employed on the counting by the number of candidates.

(8) For the purposes of the calculations required by paragraph [^{F87}(7)], a counting agent appointed for more than one candidate is a separate agent for each of the candidates for whom the agent has been appointed.

(9) Notice in writing of the appointment, stating the names and addresses of the persons appointed, must be given by the candidate to the returning officer and must be so given not later than the fifth day (disregarding any day referred to in rule 4(1)) before the day of the poll.

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(10) Notices of the appointment of polling agents and counting agents which are required by paragraphs (9) and (11) to be given to the returning officer must be given to that returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations.

(11) If an agent dies, or becomes incapable of acting, the candidate may appoint another person in his or her place, and must forthwith give to the returning officer notice in writing of the name and address of that other person.

(12) Any appointment for a candidate authorised by this rule may be made and the notice of appointment given to the returning officer by the candidate's election agent, instead of by the candidate.

(13) In the following provisions of these Rules references to polling agents and counting agents shall be taken as references to agents—

- (a) whose appointments have been duly made and notified, and
- (b) where the number of agents is restricted, who are within the permitted numbers.

(14) Any notice required to be given to a counting agent by the returning officer may be delivered at, or sent by post to, the address stated in the notice of appointment.

(15) A candidate may do any act or thing which any polling or counting agent of the candidate's, if appointed, would have been authorised to do, or may assist his or her agent in doing any such act or thing.

(16) A candidate's election agent may do or assist in doing anything which the candidate's polling or counting agent is authorised to do; and anything required or authorised by these Rules to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agent may be done in the presence of a candidate's election agent instead of his polling agent or counting agent.

(17) Where by these Rules any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the polling or counting agent, the non-attendance of any agent or agents at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Textual Amendments

F87 Word in [Sch. 3 rule 29\(8\)](#) substituted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(17)**

Notification of requirement of secrecy

30.—(1) The returning officer must make such arrangements as the returning officer thinks fit to ensure that—

- (a) every person attending at a polling station (otherwise than for the purpose of voting or assisting a voter with disabilities to vote or as a constable on duty there) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of subsections (1), (3) and (6) of section 66 of the 1983 Act, and
- (b) every person attending at the counting of the votes (other than any constable on duty at the counting) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of subsections (2) and (6) of that section.

(2) In this rule, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002^{M12} (police powers for employees).

Marginal Citations

M12 2002 c. 30.

Return of postal ballot papers

31.—(1) Where—

- (a) a postal vote has been returned in respect of a person who is entered on the postal voters list, or
- (b) a proxy postal vote has been returned in respect of a proxy who is entered on the proxy postal voters list,

the returning officer must mark the list in the manner prescribed by regulations made under the 1983 Act.

(2) Rule 47(4) does not apply for the purpose of determining whether, for the purposes of this rule, a postal vote or a proxy postal vote is returned.

Admission to polling station

32.—(1) The presiding officer must exclude all persons from the polling station except—

- (a) voters,
- (b) persons under the age of 18 who accompany voters to the polling station,
- [^{F88}(ba) persons aged 18 or over returning a postal ballot paper or postal voting statement by hand in accordance with rule 47(3)(b),]
- (c) the candidates and their election agents,
- (d) the polling agents appointed to attend at the polling station,
- (e) the clerks appointed to attend at the polling station,
- (f) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000,
- (g) the returning officer and the returning officer's clerks,
- (h) the [^{F89}CA/CCA] returning officer and the [^{F89}CA/CCA] returning officer's clerks,
- (i) the constables on duty,
- (j) the companions of voters with disabilities, and
- (k) persons entitled to be admitted to the polling station at a relevant election or referendum with which the poll at the [^{F89}CA/CCA] mayoral election is combined.

(2) The presiding officer must regulate the total number of voters and persons under the age of 18 who accompany them to be admitted to the polling station at the same time.

(3) Not more than one polling agent shall be admitted at the same time to a polling station on behalf of the same candidate.

(4) A constable or person employed by a returning officer or by the [^{F90}CA/CCA] returning officer must not be admitted to vote in person elsewhere than at their own polling station allotted to them under these Rules, except on production and surrender of a certificate as to that person's employment which must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect (in these Rules referred to as “a certificate as to employment on duty on the day of the poll”), and signed by an officer of police of or above the rank of inspector or by the returning officer or [^{F90}CA/CCA] returning officer, as the case may be.

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(5) Any certificate surrendered under this rule must forthwith be cancelled.

(6) In this rule, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for employees).

Textual Amendments

F88 Sch. 3 rule 32(1)(ba) inserted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The Representation of the People (Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1225), reg. 11(4)(a)

F89 Word in Sch. 3 rule 32(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(18)

F90 Word in Sch. 3 rule 32(4) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(18)

Keeping of order in station

33.—(1) It is the presiding officer's duty to keep order at the polling station.

(2) If a person misconducts themselves in a polling station, or fails to obey the presiding officer's lawful orders, that person may immediately, by the presiding officer's order, be removed from the polling station—

(a) by a constable in or near that station, or

(b) by any other person authorised in writing by the returning officer to remove him or her, and the person so removed shall not, without the presiding officer's permission, again enter the polling station during the day.

(3) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.

(4) The powers conferred by this rule must not be exercised so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

Sealing of ballot boxes

34. Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer must—

(a) show the ballot box, empty, to such persons, if any, as are present in the polling station, so that they may see that the box is empty,

(b) lock up the box (if it has a lock),

(c) place the presiding officer's seal—

(i) on the lock, or

(ii) where the ballot box has no lock, on the box,

in such a manner as to prevent its being opened without breaking the seal,

(d) place the box in his or her view for the receipt of ballot papers, and

(e) keep the box locked and sealed or, as the case may be, sealed.

Questions to be put to voters

35.—(1) At the time of the application for a ballot paper (but not afterwards), the questions specified in the second column of the following Table—

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- (a) may be put by the presiding officer to a person applying for a ballot paper who is mentioned in the first column, and
- (b) must be put if ^{F91}the person has answered the previous question in the manner indicated (where applicable), and] the letter “R” appears after the question and the candidate or his election or polling agent requires the question to be put:

<i>Q</i>	<i>Person applying for ballot paper</i>	<i>Question</i>
No		
1	A person applying as an elector	<p>^{F92}(za) What is your name? (zb) What is your address? (a) Are you the person registered in the register of local government electors for this election for a combined authority mayor ^{F93}or, as the case may be, a combined county authority mayor,] as follows? <i>read the whole entry from the register</i> [R] (b) Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this election for a combined authority mayor ^{F94}or a combined county authority mayor,] otherwise than as proxy for some other person? [R]</p>
2	A person applying as proxy	<p>^{F92}(za) What is your name? (zb) What is your address? (a) Are you the person whose name appears as AB in the list of proxies for this election for a combined authority mayor ^{F93}or, as the case may be, a combined county authority mayor,] as entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of CD? [R] (b) Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this election for a combined authority mayor ^{F94}or a combined county authority mayor,] as proxy on behalf of CD? [R] ^{F95}(c) Disregarding any parliamentary election or police and crime commissioner election, have you already voted as proxy at this election or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, whether here or elsewhere in this electoral area or anywhere else in England, on behalf of four or more electors? [R] (d) If the person answers question (c) in the negative: “Disregarding any parliamentary election or police and crime commissioner election, have you already voted as proxy at this election or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, whether here or elsewhere in this electoral area or anywhere else in England, on behalf of two or more electors?” [R]</p>

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- (e) If the person answers question (d) in the affirmative: “Were two or more of the electors on whose behalf you have voted in this election, or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, registered in a register of electors otherwise than in pursuance of a service declaration?” [R]
- (f) If the person answers question (e) in the affirmative: “Is the elector (or are the electors) for whom you are voting today registered in a register of electors otherwise than in pursuance of a service declaration?” [R]
- 3 A person applying as proxy for an elector with an anonymous entry (instead of the questions at entry 2)
- [F92](za) What is your name?
- (zb) What is your address?
- (a) Are you the person entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of the elector whose number on the register of electors is *(read out the number)*? [R]
- (b) Have you already voted here or elsewhere as proxy on behalf of the elector whose number on the register of electors is *(read out the number)*? [R]
- [F95](c) Disregarding any parliamentary election or police and crime commissioner election, have you already voted as proxy at this election or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, whether here or elsewhere in this electoral area or anywhere else in England, on behalf of four or more electors? [R]
- (d) If the person answers question (c) in the negative: “Disregarding any parliamentary election or police and crime commissioner election, have you already voted as proxy at this election or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, whether here or elsewhere in this electoral area or anywhere else in England, on behalf of two or more electors?” [R]
- (e) If the person answers question (d) in the affirmative: “Were two or more of the electors on whose behalf you have voted in this election, or any other election or referendum for which the day of poll is today, registered in a register of electors otherwise than in pursuance of a service declaration?” [R]
- (f) If the person answers question (e) in the affirmative: “Is the elector (or are the electors) for whom you are voting

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		today registered in a register of electors otherwise than in pursuance of a service declaration?" [R]]
F96	F96	F96
...
5	A person applying as an elector in relation to whom there is an entry in the postal voters list	[F92](za) What is your name? (zb) What is your address? (a) Did you apply to vote by post? (b) Why have you not voted by post?
6	A person applying as proxy who is named in the proxy postal voters list	[F92](za) What is your name? (zb) What is your address? (a) Did you apply to vote by post as proxy? (b) Why have you not voted by post as proxy?

(2) In the case of an elector in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the references in the questions at entries 1(a) and [F97]3(a) and (b)] to reading from the register shall be taken as references to reading from the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act.

[F98](2A) Where a clerk—

- (a) gives a person the required information (see paragraph (5)),
- (b) puts a question specified in paragraph (1) to the person, and
- (c) decides that the person has failed to answer the question satisfactorily,

the clerk must refer the matter to the presiding officer, who must put the question to the person again.]

[F99](3) Where the presiding officer—

- (a) gives a person the required information,
- (b) puts a question specified in paragraph (1) to the person (whether or not following a referral under paragraph (2A)), and
- (c) decides that the person has failed to answer the question satisfactorily,

the officer must refuse to deliver a ballot paper to the person (and see rule 41A (procedure where ballot paper is refused under this paragraph)).

(3A) For the purposes of this rule, a person answers the question “What is your name?” or “What is your address?” satisfactorily if—

- (a) where one of those questions is put, the answer matches a name or address (as the case may be) in the register of local government electors;
- (b) where both those questions are put, the answers match a name and address in that register that relate to the same person.

(3B) In the case of an elector in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the references to the register in paragraph (3A) are to be read as references to the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D).]

(4) Except as authorised by this rule, no inquiry shall be permitted as to the right of any person to vote [F100](and for the purposes of this paragraph, an inquiry relating to the production of identification by a voter is not to be regarded as an inquiry as to the right of the person to vote)].

[F101](5) For the purposes of this rule, a person to whom any question is to be put is given “the required information” if the person is first informed that—

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- (a) a ballot paper will be refused if the person fails to answer each question satisfactorily, and
- (b) giving false information may be an offence.]

Textual Amendments

F91 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35(1)(b) inserted (31.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), regs. 1(3)(g), **20(7)(a)** (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 41(1))

F92 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35 Table inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(7)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

F93 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35(1) Table inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(19)(i)**

F94 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35(1) Table inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(19)(ii)**

F95 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35 table substituted (31.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), regs. 1(3)(g), **20(7)(b)(i)** (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 41(1))

F96 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35 table omitted (31.1.2024) by virtue of The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), regs. 1(3)(g), **20(7)(b)(ii)** (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 41(1))

F97 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35(2) substituted (31.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), regs. 1(3)(g), **20(7)(c)** (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 41(1))

F98 Sch. 3 rule 35(2A) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(7)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

F99 Sch. 3 rule 35(3)-(3B) substituted for Sch. 3 rule 35(3) (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(7)(c)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

F100 Words in Sch. 3 rule 35(4) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(7)(d)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

F101 Sch. 3 rule 35(5) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(7)(e)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 Sch. 3 rule 35 Table modified (temp.) (31.10.2023) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 41(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 40)

Challenge of voter

- 36.** A person must not be prevented from voting by reason only that—
- (a) a candidate or the candidate's election or polling agent declares that he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed an offence of personation, or
 - (b) the person is arrested on the grounds that he or she is suspected of committing or of being about to commit such an offence.

Voting procedure

37.—(1) ^{F102}Subject to rule 35(3) and to paragraphs (1A) to (1M), a] ballot paper must be delivered to a voter who applies for one, and immediately before delivery—

^{F103}(a)

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- (b) the number of the elector must be marked on the list mentioned in rule 28(4)(d) beside the number of the ballot paper to be issued to the elector,
- (c) a mark must be placed in the copy of the register of electors against the number of the elector to note that a ballot paper has been received but without showing the particular ballot paper which has been received, and
- (d) in the case of a person applying for a ballot paper as proxy, a mark must also be placed against his name in the list of proxies.

^{F104}(1A) A ballot paper must not be delivered to a voter unless the voter produces a specified document to the presiding officer or a clerk.

(1B) The presiding officer or clerk must arrange for the voter to produce any document in a private area of the polling station if the voter so requests, and, in such a case, must ensure that no other persons witness the production except as permitted by the voter.

(1C) Paragraph (1D) applies in relation to a voter where—

- (a) the voter produces a specified document to a clerk and the clerk decides that the document raises a reasonable doubt as to whether the voter is the elector or proxy that the voter claims to be, or
- (b) the voter produces a document to a clerk that the clerk reasonably suspects to be a forged document.

(1D) Where this paragraph applies, the clerk must refer the matter and produce the document to the presiding officer, who must proceed as if the voter had produced the document to the presiding officer in the first place.

(1E) The presiding officer must refuse to deliver a ballot paper to a voter where—

- (a) the voter produces a specified document to the officer and the officer decides that the document raises a reasonable doubt as to whether the voter is the elector or proxy that the voter claims to be, or
- (b) the voter produces a document to the officer that the officer reasonably suspects to be a forged document.

(1F) Paragraph (1E)(a) does not apply where—

- (a) a discrepancy between the name of the holder of a specified document and the name of the elector or proxy that the voter claims to be is resolved to the presiding officer's satisfaction at the time of the application by the voter producing further proof of identity, and
- (b) the presiding officer has no other reason (arising from any document produced by the voter) to doubt that the voter is the elector or proxy that the voter claims to be.

(1G) The refusal to deliver a ballot paper to a voter under paragraph (1E) does not prevent the voter making a further application under paragraph (1), and paragraphs (1A) to (1F) apply on any further application.

(1H) In this rule, a “forged document” means a false document made to resemble a specified document.

(1I) In this rule, a “specified document”—

- (a) except in the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry in the register of electors, means a document which for the time being falls within the list specified in rule 37(1H) of Schedule 1 to the 1983 Act (parliamentary election rules);
- (b) in the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry in the register of electors, means an anonymous elector's document which—
 - (i) was issued by the registration officer for the ^{F105}... council in whose area the polling station to which the voter is allotted is situated,

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(ii) contains the number—

(aa) allocated to the voter as stated in the copy of the register of electors, or

(bb) where an entry relating to the voter is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, as stated in the copy of that notice.

(1J) Subject to paragraph (1K), a reference in this rule to a document that is a specified document is a reference to the document regardless of any expiry date relating to it.

(1K) Paragraph (1J) does not apply to a temporary electoral identity document where the date of the poll for the election is after the date for which the document is issued.

(1L) No person other than the presiding officer or a clerk may inspect a document produced as proof of a voter’s identity, except as permitted by the voter.

(1M) References in this rule to producing a document are to producing it for inspection.]

(2) In the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, the elector (E) must show the presiding officer E's official poll card ^{F106}

(3) In the case of an elector who is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (1) is modified as follows

^{F107}(a)

(b) in sub-paragraph (c), for “in the register of electors” substitute “ on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”.

(4) The voter, on receiving the ballot paper, must forthwith proceed into one of the compartments in the polling station and there secretly mark the paper and fold it up so as to conceal the vote, and must then show to the presiding officer the back of the paper, so as to disclose the number and other unique identifying mark, and put the ballot paper so folded up into the ballot box in the presiding officer's presence.

(5) The voter must vote without undue delay, and must leave the polling station as soon as the voter's ballot paper has been put into the ballot box.

(6) The same copy of the register of electors which is used under paragraph (1) for the [^{F108}CA/CCA] mayoral election or, where paragraph (3) applies, the same copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) in the 1983 Act, may be used for each relevant election or referendum, and—

(a) one mark may be placed in that copy of the register or on that notice under paragraph (1) (c) or in the list of proxies under paragraph (1)(d) to denote that a ballot paper has been issued in respect of each election or referendum, but

(b) where a ballot paper has not been issued in respect of a relevant election or referendum, a different mark must be placed in the copy of that register or, as the case may be, on that notice or in that list so as to identify each election or referendum in respect of which a ballot paper was issued.

(7) A voter who at the close of the poll is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purposes of voting shall (despite the close of the poll) be entitled to apply for a ballot paper under paragraph (1), and these rules apply in relation to such a voter accordingly.

Textual Amendments

F102 Words in Sch. 3 rule 37(1) substituted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), 96(8)(a)(i) (with reg. 1(6)(7))

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- F103** Sch. 3 rule 37(1)(a) omitted (16.1.2023) by virtue of The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(8)(a)(ii)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F104** Sch. 3 rule 37(1A)-(1M) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(8)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F105** Word in Sch. 3 rule 37(11)(b)(i) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(20)(a)**
- F106** Words in Sch. 3 rule 37(2) omitted (16.1.2023) by virtue of The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(8)(c)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F107** Sch. 3 rule 37(3)(a) omitted (16.1.2023) by virtue of The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(8)(d)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F108** Word in Sch. 3 rule 37(6) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(20)(b)**

Votes marked by presiding officer

- 38.**—(1) [^{F109}Subject to paragraph (1A), the] presiding officer, on the application of a voter—
- (a) who is incapacitated by blindness or other disability from voting in the manner directed by these Rules, or
 - (b) who declares orally that he or she is unable to read,

must, in the presence of the polling agents, cause the voter's vote to be marked on a ballot paper in the manner directed by the voter, and the ballot paper to be placed in the ballot box.

[^{F110}(1A) Paragraphs (1A) to (1M) of rule 37 apply in the case of a voter who applies under paragraph (1) of this rule as those paragraphs apply in the case of a voter who applies under rule 37(1), but as if—

- (a) references to delivering a ballot paper to a voter were to causing a voter's vote to be marked on a ballot paper, and
- (b) in rule 37(1G), the reference to paragraph (1) of rule 37 were to paragraph (1) of this rule.]

(2) The name and number on the register of electors of every voter whose vote is marked in pursuance of this rule, and the reason why it is so marked, must be entered on a list (in these Rules called “the list of votes marked by the presiding officer”).

(3) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the voter's name shall be the elector's number.

(4) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (2) applies as if for “on the register of electors of every voter” there were substituted “relating to every voter in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

(5) The same list may be used for the [^{F111}CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that the ballot papers were so marked in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which the ballot paper was so marked.

Textual Amendments

- F109** Words in Sch. 3 rule 38(1) substituted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(9)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F110** Sch. 3 rule 38(1A) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(9)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

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F111 Word in Sch. 3 rule 38(5) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(21)

Voting by persons with disabilities

39.—(1) If a voter makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed, on the ground of—

- (a) blindness or other disability, or
- (b) inability to read,

to vote with the assistance of another person by whom the voter is accompanied (in these Rules referred to as “the companion”), the presiding officer must require the voter to declare, orally or in writing, whether the voter is so incapacitated by blindness or other disability, or by inability to read, as to be unable to vote without assistance.

(2) [^{F112}Subject to paragraph (2A), if] the presiding officer—

- (a) is satisfied that the voter is so incapacitated, and
- (b) is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these Rules referred to as “the declaration made by the companion of a voter with disabilities”) that the companion—
 - (i) is a qualified person within the meaning of this rule, and
 - (ii) has not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities to vote at the election,

the presiding officer must grant the application, and then anything which is by these Rules required to be done to or by that voter in connection with the giving of the voter's vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

[^{F113}(2A) Paragraphs (1A) to (1M) of rule 37 apply in the case of a voter who applies under paragraph (1) of this rule as those paragraphs apply in the case of a voter who applies under rule 37(1), but as if—

- (a) references to delivering a ballot paper to a voter were to granting a voter’s application, and
- (b) in rule 37(1G), the reference to paragraph (1) of rule 37 were to paragraph (1) of this rule.]

(3) For the purposes of these Rules—

- (a) a person is a voter with disabilities if the voter has made such a declaration as is mentioned in paragraph (1), and
- (b) a person shall be qualified to assist a voter with disabilities to vote if that person is [^{F114}aged 18 or over].

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), the name and number in the register of electors of every voter whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as “the list of voters with disabilities assisted by companions”).

(5) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be entered together with the voter's name shall be the elector's number.

(6) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (4) applies as if for “in the register of electors of every voter” there were substituted “relating to every voter in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act”.

(7) The same list may be used for the [^{F115}CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum and, where it is so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that the votes were so given in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which the vote was so given.

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- (8) The declaration made by the companion of a voter with disabilities—
 - (a) must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix or a form to the like effect,
 - (b) must be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter applies to vote with the assistance of the companion, and
 - (c) must forthwith be given to the presiding officer who must attest and retain it.
- (9) No fee or other payment shall be charged in respect of the declaration.

Textual Amendments

- F112** Words in Sch. 3 rule 39(2) substituted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(10)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F113** Sch. 3 rule 39(2A) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(10)(b)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))
- F114** Words in Sch. 3 rule 39(3)(b) substituted (29.12.2022) by The Assistance with Voting for Persons with Disabilities (Amendments) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1309), regs. 1(3), **13(3)(a)(ii)** (with reg. 1(4))
- F115** Word in Sch. 3 rule 39(7) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(22)**

Tendered ballot papers—circumstances where available

- 40.**—(1) If a person, representing themselves to be—
- (a) a particular elector named on the register and not named in the absent voters list, or
 - (b) a particular person named in the list of proxies as proxy for an elector and not entitled to vote by post as proxy,

applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted in person either as the elector or his proxy, the applicant shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 41, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as “a tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.

- (2) Paragraph (4) applies if—
- (a) a person (P) applies for a ballot paper representing themselves to be a particular elector named on the register,
 - (b) P is also named in the postal voters list, and
 - (c) P claims that P did not make an application to vote by post at the election.

- (3) Paragraph (4) also applies if—
- (a) a person (P) applies for a ballot paper representing themselves to be a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies,
 - (b) P is also named in the proxy postal voters list, and
 - (c) P claims that they did not make an application to vote by post as proxy.

(4) P shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 41, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.

(5) Paragraph (6) applies if, before the close of the poll but after the last time at which a person may apply for a replacement postal ballot paper, a person represents themselves to be—

- (a) a particular elector named on the register who is also named in the postal voters list, or
- (b) a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies and who is also named in the proxy postal voters list,

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and claims to have lost or not received the postal ballot paper.

(6) The person shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 41, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as a “tendered ballot paper”) in the same manner as any other voter.

[^{F116}(7) Paragraphs (1A) to (1M) of rule 37 apply in the case of a person who seeks to mark a tendered ballot paper under this rule as they apply in the case of a voter who applies for a ballot paper under rule 37(1), but as if, in rule 37(1G) the reference to making a further application under paragraph (1) of rule 37 were to seeking a further time to mark a tendered ballot paper under the paragraph of this rule under which the first such attempt was made.]

Textual Amendments

F116 Sch. 3 rule 40(7) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(11)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Tendered ballot papers—general provisions

41.—(1) A tendered ballot paper must—

- (a) be of a colour differing from that of the other ballot papers,
- (b) instead of being put into the ballot box, be given to the presiding officer and endorsed by the presiding officer with the name of the voter and the voter's number in the register of electors, and set aside in a separate packet.

(2) The name of the voter and the voter's number in the register of electors must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as the “tendered votes list”).

(3) The same list may be used for the [^{F117}CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum and, where it [^{F118}is] so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that tendered ballot papers were marked in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum at which a tendered ballot paper was marked.

(4) In the case of a person voting as proxy for an elector, the number to be endorsed or entered together with the voter's name shall be the number of that elector.

(5) In the case of an elector who has an anonymous entry, this rule and rule 40 apply subject to the following modifications—

- (a) in paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) above, the references to the name of the voter shall be ignored,
- (b) otherwise, a reference to a person named on a register or list shall be construed as a reference to a person whose number appears in the register or list (as the case may be).

(6) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, this rule and rule 40 shall apply as if—

- (a) in rule 40(1)(a), (2)(a) and (5)(a), for “named on the register” there were substituted “ in respect of whom a notice under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act has been issued ”,
- (b) in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule for “the voter's number in the register of electors” there were substituted “ the number relating to the voter on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”,
- (c) in paragraph (2) of this rule, for “the voter's number in the register of electors” there were substituted “ the number relating to the voter on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ”.

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Textual Amendments

F117 Word in Sch. 3 rule 41(3) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(23)(a)**

F118 Word in Sch. 3 rule 41(3) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(23)(b)**

[^{F119} Refusal to deliver ballot paper

41A.—(1) Where a presiding officer refuses to deliver a ballot paper to a voter who applied for one as an elector, the officer or a clerk must enter on the ballot paper refusal list—

- (a) the voter’s electoral number, and
- (b) against that number, the reason for the refusal.

(2) Where a presiding officer refuses to deliver a ballot paper to a voter who applied for one as a proxy, the officer or a clerk must enter on the ballot paper refusal list—

- (a) the name and address of the voter, and
- (b) against those details, the reason for the refusal.

(3) Paragraphs (4) and (5) apply where—

- (a) a presiding officer refuses to deliver a ballot paper to a voter under rule 37(1E), and
- (b) the voter makes a further application as permitted by rule 37(1G).

(4) If a ballot paper is delivered to the voter following that application, the presiding officer or a clerk must note that fact on the ballot paper refusal list.

(5) If the presiding officer again refuses to deliver a ballot paper to the voter, the presiding officer or a clerk must note that fact on the ballot paper refusal list.

(6) Entries required by this rule to be made on the ballot paper refusal list must be made as soon as practicable after delivery of a ballot paper to a voter is refused (or, in the case mentioned in paragraph (4), as soon as practicable after the delivery of a ballot paper to a voter).

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(a), a person’s “electoral number” is the number—

- (a) allocated to the person as stated in the copy of the register of electors, or
- (b) where an entry relating to the person is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, as stated in the copy of that notice.

(8) Subject to rule 37(1G) and paragraph (9), a refusal to deliver a ballot paper to a voter is final and may not be questioned in any proceeding whatsoever.

(9) A refusal to deliver a ballot paper to a voter is subject to review on an election petition.

(10) In this rule—

- (a) except in paragraph (3)(a), any reference to the refusal to deliver a ballot paper (however expressed) is to the refusal to do so under rule 35(3) or 37(1E), and
- (b) any reference to paragraph (1E) or (1G) of rule 37 includes a reference to that paragraph as applied by rule 38, 39 or 40.

Textual Amendments

F119 Sch. 3 rules 41A, 41B inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(12)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

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Collection and disclosure of information relating to applications made under rules 37 to 40

41B.—(1) This rule applies in relation to an election to which the Secretary of State’s duty under section 59A(4) of the 1983 Act (reports on voter identification requirements in respect of local government elections) applies by virtue of subsection (5A) of that section.

(2) The presiding officer must—

- (a) collect the information described in regulation 34 of the Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (collection of information by presiding officer) relating to applications made under rules 37(1), 38(1), 39(1) or 40(1), and
- (b) provide that information to the returning officer as soon as practicable after the close of the poll.

(3) The returning officer must forward the information to the relevant registration officer.

(4) As soon as reasonably practicable after receiving the information the relevant registration officer must—

- (a) anonymise the information by removing from it all names and electoral numbers of the people to whom the information relates, and
- (b) collate the information in accordance with regulation 35 of the Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (collation of information by relevant registration officer).

The information as anonymised and collated in accordance with this paragraph is referred to in the rest of this rule as “the paragraph (4) information”.

(5) The relevant registration officer must provide the paragraph (4) information—

- (a) to the Secretary of State, as soon as reasonably practicable after taking the steps required by paragraph (4), and
- (b) where they request the information, to the Electoral Commission.

(6) The relevant registration officer must not disclose the paragraph (4) information otherwise than in accordance with paragraph (5).

(7) The relevant registration officer must retain the information anonymised in accordance with paragraph (4)(a) for at least 10 years.

(8) For the purpose of paragraph (4)(a), a person’s “electoral number” is the number—

- (a) allocated to the person as stated in the copy of the register of electors, or
- (b) where an entry relating to the person is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, as stated in the copy of that notice.

(9) Except as provided by paragraph (10), a disclosure of information under this rule does not breach—

- (a) any obligation of confidence owed by the presiding officer, the returning officer or a registration officer, or
- (b) any other restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed).

(10) Nothing in this rule authorises the making of a disclosure that contravenes the data protection legislation (but in determining whether a disclosure would do so, the duties imposed by paragraphs (2) and (3) are to be taken into account).

(11) In this rule—

- (a) “the data protection legislation” has the same meaning as in the Data Protection Act 2018;
- (b) references to the relevant registration officer are to the registration officer of the ^{F120}... council in relation to whose area the returning officer exercises functions under this Order.]

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Textual Amendments

F119 Sch. 3 rules 41A, 41B inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(12)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

F120 Word in Sch. 3 rule 41B(11)(b) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(24)**

Spoilt ballot papers

42. A voter who has inadvertently dealt with the ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper may, on delivering it to the presiding officer and proving to the officer's satisfaction the fact of the inadvertence, obtain another ballot paper in the place of the ballot paper so delivered (in these Rules referred to as “a spoilt ballot paper”), and the spoilt ballot paper must be immediately cancelled.

Correction of errors on day of poll

43.—(1) The presiding officer must keep a list of persons to whom ballot papers are delivered in consequence of an alteration to the register made by virtue of section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act which takes effect on the day of the poll.

(2) The same list may be used for each relevant election or referendum and, where it [^{F121}is] so used, an entry in that list shall be taken to mean that ballot papers were issued in respect of each election or referendum, unless the list identifies the election or referendum for which a ballot paper was issued.

Textual Amendments

F121 Word in Sch. 3 rule 43(2) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(25)**

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

44.—(1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence, the presiding officer must adjourn the proceedings till the following day and must forthwith give notice to the returning officer.

(2) Where the poll is adjourned at any polling station—

- (a) the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned must be the same as for the original day, and
- (b) references in these Rules to the close of the poll shall be construed accordingly.

Procedure on close of poll

45.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the presiding officer must, in the presence of the polling agents, make up into separate packets, sealed with the presiding officer's own seal and the seals of such polling agents as desire to affix their seals—

- (a) each ballot box in use at the station, sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and unopened, but with the key, if any, attached,
- (b) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together,
- (c) the tendered ballot papers,

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- (d) the marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the list of proxies,
- [^{F122}(da) the ballot paper refusal list completed in accordance with rule 41A,]
- (e) the lists prepared under rule 19 including the parts which were completed in accordance with rule 37(1)(b) (together referred to in these Rules as “the completed corresponding number lists”),
- (f) the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll,
- (g) the tendered votes list, the list of voters with disabilities assisted by companions, the list of votes marked by the presiding officer, a statement of the number of voters whose votes are so marked by the presiding officer under the heads “disability” and “unable to read”, the list maintained under rule 43 (correction of errors on day of poll), and the declarations made by the companions of voters with disabilities,

and must deliver the packets or cause them to be delivered to the returning officer to be taken charge of by the returning officer; but if the packets are not delivered by the presiding officer personally to the returning officer, the arrangements for their delivery shall require the returning officer's approval.

(2) The contents of the packets referred to in sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (f) of paragraph (1) above must not be combined with the contents of the packets made under the corresponding rule that applies at any relevant election or referendum; nor shall the statement prepared under paragraph (5) below be so combined.

(3) References to the returning officer in paragraph (1) above are references to the returning officer who discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations.

(4) The marked copies of the register of electors and of the list of proxies must be in one packet but must not be in the same packet as the completed corresponding number lists or the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

(5) The packets must be accompanied by a statement (in these Rules referred to as “the ballot paper account”) made by the presiding officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to the presiding officer, and accounting for them under the heads—

- (a) ballot papers issued and not otherwise accounted for,
- (b) unused ballot papers,
- (c) spoilt ballot papers and
- (d) tendered ballot papers.

Textual Amendments

F122 Sch. 3 rule 45(1)(da) inserted (16.1.2023) by [The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1382\)](#), regs. 1(3), **96(13)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Attendance at verification

46.—(1) This rule and rules 47 and 48 apply where the returning officer at the [^{F123}CA/CCA] mayoral election discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations.

- (2) The returning officer must—
 - (a) make arrangements for the verification of the ballot paper accounts in the presence of the counting agents appointed for the purposes of the [^{F124}CA/CCA] mayoral election

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and those appointed for the purpose of each relevant election or referendum as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, and

- (b) give to the counting agents appointed for the purposes of the [F124CA/CCA] mayoral election and those appointed for the purpose of each relevant election or referendum notice in writing of the time and place at which the verification of the ballot paper accounts will begin.

(3) No person other than—

- (a) the returning officer and the returning officer's clerks,
(b) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them,
(c) the election agents,
(d) the counting agents,
(e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000,
(f) the [F125CA/CCA] returning officer and the [F125CA/CCA] returning officer's clerks,

may be present at the verification of the ballot [F126paper accounts], unless permitted by the returning officer to attend.

(4) A person not entitled to attend at the verification of the ballot [F127paper accounts] shall not be permitted to do so by the returning officer unless the returning officer—

- (a) is satisfied that the efficient [F128conduct of those proceedings] will not be impeded, and
(b) has either consulted the election agents or thought it impracticable to do so.

(5) The returning officer must give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as the returning officer can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of the returning officer's duties in connection with them.

Textual Amendments

- F123** Word in Sch. 3 rule 46(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(a)**
- F124** Word in Sch. 3 rule 46(2) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(a)**
- F125** Word in Sch. 3 rule 46(3)(f) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(b)(i)**
- F126** Words in Sch. 3 rule 46(3) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(b)(ii)**
- F127** Words in Sch. 3 rule 46(4) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(c)(i)**
- F128** Words in Sch. 3 rule 46(4)(a) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(26)(c)(ii)**

Procedure at verification of ballot paper accounts

47.—(1) The returning officer must—

- (a) in the presence of the counting agents appointed for the purposes of the [F129CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum open each ballot box and count and record separately the number of ballot papers used in each election,

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- (b) in the presence of the election agents appointed for the purposes of the [F129CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum verify each ballot paper account,
 - (c) count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record separately the number counted at the [F129CA/CCA] mayoral election and each relevant election or referendum,
 - (d) separate the ballot papers relating to the [F129CA/CCA] mayoral election from the ballot papers relating to each relevant election or referendum,
 - (e) make up into packets the ballot papers for each relevant election or referendum and seal them up into separate containers endorsing on each a description of the area to which the ballot papers relate,
 - (f) deliver or cause to be delivered to the returning officer for the relevant election or referendum to which the ballot papers relate—
 - (i) those containers, together with a list of them and of the contents of each, and
 - (ii) the ballot paper accounts together with a copy of the statement as to the result of their verification in respect of that election, and
 - (g) at the same time deliver or cause to be delivered to that officer packets that so relate containing—
 - (i) the unused and spoilt ballot papers,
 - (ii) the tendered ballot papers.
 - (iii) the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.
- (2) A postal ballot paper must not be taken to be duly returned unless—
- (a) it is returned in the manner set out in paragraph (3) and reaches the returning officer or any polling station in the local authority area for which the returning officer acts before the close of the poll, and
 - (b) the postal voting statement, duly signed, is also returned in the manner set out in paragraph (3) and reaches the returning officer or such a polling station before that time,
 - (c) the postal voting statement also states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be), ^{F130} ...
 - (d) in a case where steps for verifying the date of birth and signature of an elector or proxy have been prescribed by regulations made under the 1983 Act, the returning officer (having taken such steps) verifies the date of birth and signature of the elector or proxy (as the case may be) ^{F131}and
 - (e) the postal ballot paper is not one that falls to be rejected in accordance with regulation 79B, 79D, 82B or 82D of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001.]
- (3) The manner in which any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement may be returned—
- (a) to the returning officer, is by hand or by post,
 - (b) to a polling station, is by hand.
- (4) A postal ballot paper or postal voting statement that reaches the returning officer or a polling station on or after the close of the poll is treated for the purposes of this rule as reaching that officer or polling station before the close of the poll if it is delivered by a person who, at the close of the poll, is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of returning it.
- (5) Where separate ballot boxes are used, no vote for any candidate shall be rendered invalid by the ballot paper being placed in the ballot box intended for use at any relevant election or referendum.

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(6) The returning officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers, must keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the papers.

(7) Unless otherwise directed by the [F129CA/CCA] returning officer, the returning officer must determine the hours during which the procedure under this F132... rule is to be carried out and must take proper precautions for the security of the ballot papers and documents.

(8) The returning officer (R) must verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by R, and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in R's possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt ballot papers and the tendered votes list) and must draw up a provisional statement as to the result of the verification, which any election agent may copy.

(9) As soon as practicable after the returning officer has drawn up the statement as to the result of the verification, the returning officer must inform the [F129CA/CCA] returning officer of its contents.

Textual Amendments

F129 Word in Sch. 3 rule 47 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(27)(a)

F130 Word in Sch. 3 rule 47(2)(c) omitted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by virtue of The Representation of the People (Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1225), reg. 11(4)(b)(i)

F131 Sch. 3 rule 47(2)(e) and word inserted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The Representation of the People (Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1225), reg. 11(4)(b)(ii)

F132 Word in Sch. 3 rule 47(7) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(27)(b)

Additional steps: verification and count carried out at different places

48.—(1) This rule applies where the votes at an election are to be counted at a place other than that at which the procedures for the verification of the ballot paper accounts are carried out.

(2) The returning officer must on completing the procedure under rule 47—

- (a) make up into packets the ballot papers and the postal ballot papers for the election and seal them up into containers endorsing on each the description of the voting area to which those ballot papers relate; and
- (b) deliver or cause to be delivered to the place at which the counting of the votes is to be carried out—
 - (i) those containers together with a list of them and of the contents of each, and
 - (ii) the ballot paper accounts together with a copy of the statement as to the result of their verification.

(3) If the packets are not delivered by the returning officer personally, their delivery must be in accordance with arrangements approved by the [F133CA/CCA] returning officer.

(4) The [F133CA/CCA] returning officer may give a returning officer directions which, once the packets have been delivered to the place where the votes at the election are to be counted, require the returning officer to take specified steps for the carrying out of further specified verification procedures in relation to the ballot papers and other documents relating to the election.

(5) In paragraph (4), “specified” means specified by the [F133CA/CCA] F134... returning officer in directions given under that paragraph.

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Textual Amendments

- F133** Word in Sch. 3 rule 48 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(a)**
- F134** Word in Sch. 3 rule 48(5) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(4)** (with art. 1(2))

Attendance at the count

49.—(1) Where the returning officer at the [F135CA/CCA] mayoral election discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, the returning officer must—

- (a) make arrangements for counting the votes at the election as soon as practicable after the close of the poll in the presence of the counting agents appointed for the purposes of that election; and
- (b) give the counting agents notice in writing of the time and place at which the counting of votes will begin.

(2) Where the returning officer at the [F135CA/CCA] mayoral election does not discharge the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, the returning officer must—

- (a) make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting agents as soon as practicable after the delivery of the ballot papers to the returning officer by the person who does discharge those functions, and
- (b) give to the counting agents notice in writing of the time, if by then the returning officer has received the ballot papers, and of the place at which the returning officer will begin to count the votes.

(3) No person other than—

- (a) the returning officer and the returning officer's clerks,
- (b) the candidates and one other person chosen by each of them,
- (c) the election agents,
- (d) the counting agents,
- (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000,
- (f) the [F135CA/CCA] returning officer and the [F135CA/CCA] returning officer's clerks,

may be present at the counting of the votes under rule 50, unless permitted by the returning officer to attend.

(4) A person not entitled to attend at the counting of the votes shall not be permitted to do so by the returning officer unless the returning officer—

- (a) is satisfied that the efficient separation of the ballot papers or, as the case may be, the efficient counting of the votes will not be impeded, and
- (b) has either consulted the election agents or thought it impracticable to do so.

(5) The returning officer must give the counting agents all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as the returning officer can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of the returning officer's duties in connection with them.

(6) In particular, where the votes are counted by sorting the ballot papers according to the candidate for whom the vote is given and then counting the number of ballot papers for each candidate, the counting agents shall be entitled to satisfy themselves that the ballot papers are correctly sorted.

Textual Amendments

F135 Word in Sch. 3 rule 49 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(b)**

The ^{F136} ... count

50.—(1) Where the returning officer at the [^{F137}CA/CCA] mayoral election discharges the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, the returning officer must, after completion of the proceedings under rule 47, mix together all of the ballot papers used at the [^{F137}CA/CCA] mayoral election and count the votes given on them.

(2) Where the returning officer at the [^{F137}CA/CCA] mayoral election does not discharge the functions specified in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, the returning officer must—

- (a) on receipt of containers containing the ballot papers from the returning officer who does discharge those functions, and after the time specified in the notice given under rule 49(2), in the presence of the counting agents, open each container,
- (b) where the proceedings on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers are not taken together with those proceedings at a relevant election or referendum under regulation 65 of the Elections Regulations, or under that regulation as applied by this Order or regulations made under sections 9MG and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000 ^{M13} or sections 52ZQ and 113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ^{M14}, count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted; and
- (c) mix together the postal ballot papers and the ballot papers from all of the containers and count the votes given on them.

(3) Paragraph (10) does not apply to proceedings under paragraph (2).

[^{F138}(4) The returning officer must then count the votes given on them.]

(5) A postal ballot paper must not be taken to be duly returned unless—

- (a) it is returned in the manner set out in paragraph (6) and reaches the returning officer or any polling station in the appropriate electoral area before the close of the poll,
- (b) the postal voting statement, duly signed, is also returned in the manner set out in paragraph (6) and reaches the returning officer or such a polling station before that time,
- (c) the postal voting statement also states the date of birth of the elector or proxy (as the case may be), and
- (d) in a case where steps for verifying the date of birth and signature of an elector or proxy have been prescribed by regulations made under the 1983 Act, the returning officer (having taken such steps) verifies the date of birth and signature of the elector or proxy.

(6) The manner in which any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement may be returned—

- (a) to the returning officer, is by hand or by post,
- (b) to a polling station, is by hand.

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(7) A postal ballot paper or postal voting statement that reaches the returning officer or a polling station on or after the close of the poll is treated for the purposes of this rule as reaching that officer or polling station before the close of the poll if it is delivered by a person who, at the close of the poll, is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of returning it.

(8) The appropriate electoral area in respect of any voter shall be—

(a) the area which is common to the parliamentary constituency, electoral area,^{F139} ..., local authority area or voting area (as the case may be) in which the polls at the [F137CA/CCA] mayoral election and any relevant election or referendum are being taken together, and

(b) in respect of which polls the voter has been issued with a postal ballot paper,

and in subparagraph (a) “electoral area” means the local authority area for which the returning officer acts.

(9) The returning officer must not count any tendered ballot papers.

(10) While counting and recording the number of postal ballot papers and counting the votes, the returning officer must keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the papers.

(11) The returning officer must so far as practicable proceed continuously with counting the votes, allowing only time for refreshment, except that the returning officer may exclude the hours between 7 in the evening and 9 on the following morning.

(12) During the time so excluded the returning officer must—

(a) place the ballot papers and other documents relating to the election under the returning officer's own seal and the seals of such of the counting agents as desire to affix their seals, and

(b) otherwise take proper precautions for the security of the papers and documents.

Textual Amendments

F136 Word in Sch. 3 rule 50 heading omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(5)(a)** (with art. 1(2))

F137 Word in Sch. 3 rule 50 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(c)**

F138 Sch. 3 rule 50(4) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(5)(b)** (with art. 1(2))

F139 Words in Sch. 3 rule 50(8)(a) revoked (31.12.2020) by The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. (Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions) (United Kingdom and Gibraltar) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1310), reg. 1, **Sch. 1 Pt. 2** Table 1 (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, **2(2)**)

Marginal Citations

M13 Section 9MG was inserted by the Localism Act 2011 (c. 20), **section 21** and Schedule 2.

M14 Section 52ZQ was inserted by the Localism Act 2011, section 72 and Schedule 5.

Rejected ballot papers

51.—(1) Any ballot paper—

(a) which does not bear the official mark, or

(b) on which more than one^{F140} ... vote is given, or

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- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified except the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back, or
 - (d) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty ^{F141} ...,
- shall, subject to paragraph (2), be void and not counted.

- (2) A ballot paper on which the vote is marked—
- (a) elsewhere than in the proper place, or
 - (b) otherwise than by means of a cross, or
 - (c) by more than one mark,

shall not for such reason be deemed to be void if—

^{F142}(i)

- (ii) ^{F143} ... an intention that a vote shall be for one only of the candidates clearly appears,
- and ^{F144} ... the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter and it is not shown that he can be identified by it.

^{F145}(3)

(4) The returning officer must endorse the word “rejected” on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and shall add to the endorsement the words “rejection objected to” if any objection is made to the returning officer’s decision by a counting agent.

(5) The returning officer must draw up a provisional statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected, under the several heads of—

- (a) want of official mark,
- (b) voting for more than one candidate ^{F146} ...,
- (c) writing or mark by which the voter could be identified, and
- (d) unmarked or void for uncertainty ^{F147} ...

(6) As soon as practicable after the completion of that statement, the returning officer must inform the [^{F148}CA/CCA] returning officer of its contents.

^{F149}(7)

Textual Amendments

- F140** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(1)(b) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(a)** (with art. 1(2))
- F141** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(1)(d) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F142** Sch. 3 rule 51(2)(i) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(c)** (with art. 1(2))
- F143** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(2)(ii) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(d)** (with art. 1(2))
- F144** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(2) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(e)** (with art. 1(2))
- F145** Sch. 3 rule 51(3) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(f)** (with art. 1(2))
- F146** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(5)(b) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(g)** (with art. 1(2))
- F147** Words in Sch. 3 rule 51(5)(d) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(g)** (with art. 1(2))

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F148 Word in Sch. 3 rule 51 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(d)**

F149 Sch. 3 rule 51(7) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(6)(h)** (with art. 1(2))

Decisions on ballot papers

52. The decision of the returning officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, but shall be subject to review on an election petition.

Re-count

53.—(1) A candidate, the candidate's election agent or the counting agent designated under rule 29(3) may, if present when the counting or any re-count of the votes ^{F150}... is completed, require the returning officer to have the votes re-counted or again re-counted but the returning officer may refuse to do so if in the returning officer's opinion the request is unreasonable.

(2) No step shall be taken on the completion of the counting or any re-count of votes, ^{F151}... until the candidates and election agents present at its completion have been given a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right conferred by this rule.

Textual Amendments

F150 Words in Sch. 3 rule 53(1) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(7)** (with art. 1(2))

F151 Words in Sch. 3 rule 53(2) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(7)** (with art. 1(2))

Procedure at conclusion of ^{F152}... count

54.—[^{F153}(1) As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the 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, and
- (c) the number of votes given for each candidate.]

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

- (a) inform such of the candidates and their election agents as are then present of the contents of the statements prepared in accordance with rule 51(5) and paragraph (1) of this rule, and
- (b) inform the [^{F154}CA/CCA][^{F155}returning officer] of the contents of those statements.

Textual Amendments

F152 Word in Sch. 3 rule 54 heading omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(8)(a)** (with art. 1(2))

F153 Sch. 3 rule 54(1) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(8)(b)** (with art. 1(2))

F154 Word in Sch. 3 rule 54 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(e)**

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F155 Words in Sch. 3 rule 54(2)(b) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(8)(c)** (with art. 1(2))

^{F156}**PART 5**

Further provision: more than two candidates

Textual Amendments

F156 Sch. 3 Pt. 5 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(9)** (with art. 1(2))

The count of second preference votes

55.

The calculation of total votes

56.

PART 6

Final proceedings in contested and uncontested elections

^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer's re-count

57.—(1) Once the ^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer has received the report of any returning officer on the contents of his or her provisional statement prepared under rule 47(8) [^{F158}or 54(1)], the ^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer may direct the returning officer to re-count (or further re-count) the votes.

(2) A re-count directed by the ^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer under paragraph (1) may be of the votes in all the electoral area, or in such part of the electoral area as the ^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer considers reasonable.

(3) A returning officer must proceed with a re-count as soon as practicable after receipt of the ^{F157}CA/CCA] returning officer's direction, and if not proceeding forthwith shall notify those counting observers entitled to be present at the re-count of the time and place at which the returning officer will begin to re-count the votes.

Textual Amendments

F157 Word in Sch. 3 rule 57 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(28)(f)**

F158 Words in Sch. 3 rule 57(1) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(10)** (with art. 1(2))

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Combined authority returning officer's direction to count second preference votes

^{F159}58.

Textual Amendments
F159 Sch. 3 rule 58 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), 5(11) (with art. 1(2))

Returning officer's final statement, central calculation and declaration of result

59.—(1) When the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer has determined not to direct that any re-count (or further re-count) must take place, he or she must direct the returning officers to draw up a final statement of the matters referred to in rule 47(8) [^{F161}and 54(1)] and to provide final versions of their statements of rejected ballot papers.

- (2) The returning officer, having drawn up the final statement, must—
 - (a) forthwith inform the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer of its contents, and
 - (b) as soon as reasonably practicable give the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer notice of the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the final statement of rejected ballot papers.
- (3) When authorised by the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer to do so, the returning officer must—
 - (a) make a declaration of the matters referred to in the final statement, and
 - (b) give public notice of those matters together with the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the final statement of rejected ballot papers.
- (4) The [^{F160}CA/CCA]^{F162}... returning officer—
 - (a) must make arrangements for the making of the calculation under this rule in the presence of the election agents, and
 - (b) must give to those agents notice in writing of the time and place at which the calculation will begin.
- (5) No person other than—
 - (a) the [^{F160}CA/CCA]^{F163}... returning officer and the officer's clerks;
 - (b) the returning officers and a clerk chosen by each of them;
 - (c) the candidates and one person chosen by each of them;
 - (d) the election agents;
 - (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 ^{M15},

may be present at a calculation, unless permitted by the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer to attend.

(6) A person not entitled to attend a calculation must not be permitted to do so by the [^{F160}CA/CCA]^{F164}... returning officer unless the officer—

- (a) is satisfied that the efficiency of the calculation will not be impeded, and
- (b) has either consulted the election agents or thought it impracticable to do so.

^{F165}(7) As soon as the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer has received the information required by paragraph (3) from every returning officer, the [^{F160}CA/CCA] returning officer must ascertain the total number of votes given to each candidate.]

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(8) As soon as the [F160CA/CCA]^{F166}... returning officer has ascertained the result of the calculation, the officer must inform such of the election agents as are then present of the relevant figures and must give them a reasonable opportunity to satisfy themselves as to the accuracy of the calculation.

(9) A person informed of the relevant figures under paragraph (8) may require the [F160CA/CCA] returning officer to make a calculation again but the officer may refuse to do so if in the officer's opinion the request is unreasonable.

[F167(10) In paragraphs (8) and (9), “the relevant figures” means the total number of votes given for each candidate.]

^{F168}(11)

(12) Where—

- (a) an election is contested ^{F169}..., and
- (b) the total number of votes for each [F170 candidate] is unequal,

the [F171CA/CCA] returning officer must declare the candidate to whom the majority of the votes is given as the person to be returned as the combined authority mayor [F172or, as the case may be, combined county authority mayor].

[F173(13) 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 mayor, the [F174CA/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.]

^{F175}(14)

^{F176}(15)

(16) The [F177CA/CCA] returning officer must give public notice of—

- (a) the name of the successful candidate,
- (b) the total number of ^{F178}... votes given for each candidate, [F179and]
- (c) the number of rejected ballot papers at the election under each head shown in the statement of rejected ballot papers (rule 51(5)). ^{F180}...

^{F180}(d)

(17) In an uncontested election, the [F177CA/CCA] returning officer must as soon as practicable after the latest time for the delivery of notices of withdrawals of candidature—

- (a) declare to be elected the person remaining validly nominated,
- (b) give public notice of the name of the person declared to be elected.

(18) [F181Where the election is a combined authority mayoral election,] the combined authority returning officer must inform the proper officer of the combined authority concerned of the result of the election.

[F182(19) Where the election is a combined county authority mayoral election, the combined county authority returning officer must inform the proper officer of the combined county authority concerned of the result of the election.]

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Textual Amendments

- F160** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(1)-(9) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(a)**
- F161** Words in Sch. 3 rule 59(1) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(a)** (with art. 1(2))
- F162** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(4) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F163** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(5)(a) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F164** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(6) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F165** Sch. 3 rule 59(7) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(c)** (with art. 1(2))
- F166** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(8) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(b)** (with art. 1(2))
- F167** Sch. 3 rule 59(10) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(d)** (with art. 1(2))
- F168** Sch. 3 rule 59(11) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(e)** (with art. 1(2))
- F169** Words in Sch. 3 rule 59(12)(a) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(f)(i)** (with art. 1(2))
- F170** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(12)(b) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(f)(ii)** (with art. 1(2))
- F171** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(12) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(b)(i)**
- F172** Words in Sch. 3 rule 59(12) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(b)(ii)**
- F173** Sch. 3 rule 59(13) substituted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(g)** (with art. 1(2))
- F174** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(13) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(c)**
- F175** Sch. 3 rule 59(14) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(h)** (with art. 1(2))
- F176** Sch. 3 rule 59(15) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(h)** (with art. 1(2))
- F177** Word in Sch. 3 rules 59(16), (17) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(c)**
- F178** Words in Sch. 3 rule 59(16)(b) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(i)** (with art. 1(2))
- F179** Word in Sch. 3 rule 59(16)(b) inserted (13.12.2022) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(i)** (with art. 1(2))
- F180** Sch. 3 rule 59(16)(d) and word omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(12)(i)(ii)** (with art. 1(2))
- F181** Words in Sch. 3 rule 59(18) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(d)**
- F182** Sch. 3 rule 59(19) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(29)(e)**

Marginal Citations

- M15** 2000 c. 41. Sections 6A to 6D were inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22), **section 29**.

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Return or forfeiture of candidate's deposit

60.—(1) Unless forfeited in accordance with paragraph (5), the deposit made under rule 10 of these Rules shall be returned to the person making it or that person's personal representative.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), the deposit shall be returned not later than the next day after that on which the result of the election is declared.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)—

(a) a day shall be disregarded if it would be disregarded under rule 4 in computing any period of time for the purpose of the timetable for a [^{F183}CA/CCA] mayoral election, and

(b) the deposit shall be treated as being returned on a day if a cheque for the amount of the deposit is posted on that day.

(4) If the candidate is not shown as standing nominated in the statement of persons nominated, or if proof of the candidate's death has been given to the [^{F184}CA/CCA] returning officer before the conclusion of the ^{F185}... count, the deposit shall be returned as soon as practicable after the publication of the statement or after the death, as the case may be.

(5) Where a poll is taken, if, after the conclusion of the ^{F186}... count, the candidate is found not to have polled more than one-twentieth of the total number of ^{F186}... votes polled by all the candidates, the deposit shall be forfeited to the combined authority [^{F187}or, as the case may be combined county authority].

Textual Amendments

F183 Word in Sch. 3 rule 60(3)(a) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(30)(a)**

F184 Word in Sch. 3 rule 60(4) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(30)(a)**

F185 Word in Sch. 3 rule 60(4) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(13)(a)** (with art. 1(2))

F186 Words in Sch. 3 rule 60(5) omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(13)(b)** (with art. 1(2))

F187 Words in Sch. 3 rule 60(5) inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(30)(b)**

PART 7

Disposal of documents

Sealing up of ballot papers

61.—(1) On the completion of the counting at a contested election the returning officer must seal up in separate packets the counted and rejected ballot papers ^{F188}....

(2) The returning officer must not open the sealed packets of—

(a) tendered ballot papers,

(b) the completed corresponding number lists,

[^{F189}(ba) the completed ballot paper refusal list,]

(c) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll, or

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- (d) marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies.
- (3) Where the returning officer discharges the functions referred to in regulation 5 of the Combinations of Polls Regulations, the returning officer must also not open the sealed packets of—
 - (a) the completed corresponding number lists, or
 - (b) the marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies

Textual Amendments

F188 Words in Sch. 3 rule 61(1) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(31)**

F189 Sch. 3 rule 61(2)(ba) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(14)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Delivery and retention of documents

62.—(1) The returning officer must then forward to the relevant registration officer of the ^{F190}... council concerned the following documents—

- (a) the packets of ballot papers in the returning officer's possession,
- (b) the ballot paper accounts and the statements of rejected ballot papers and of the result of the verification of the ballot paper accounts,
- (c) the tendered votes lists, the lists of voters with disabilities assisted by companions, the lists of votes marked by the presiding officer and the related statements, the lists maintained under rule 43 and the declarations made by the companions of voters with disabilities,
- [^{F191}(ca) the packet containing the completed ballot paper refusal list,]
- (d) the packets of the completed corresponding number lists,
- (e) the packets of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll,
- (f) the packets containing marked copies of registers (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the postal voters list, of the lists of proxies and of the proxy postal voters list,

endorsing on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the election to which they relate and the name of the electoral area for which the election was held.

(2) At an election where the returning officer does not discharge the functions referred to in regulation 5 of the Combination of Polls Regulations, paragraph (1) shall have effect as if subparagraphs (c), (d) and (f) were omitted.

(3) In this rule and in rules [^{F192}63, 64 and 65] references to the relevant registration officer are to the registration officer of the ^{F193}... council in relation to whose area the returning officer exercises functions under this Order.

Textual Amendments

F190 Word in Sch. 3 rule 62(1) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(32)(a)**

F191 Sch. 3 rule 62(1)(ca) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(15)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

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F192 Words in Sch. 3 rule 62(3) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(32)(b)(i)**

F193 Word in Sch. 3 rule 62(3) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(32)(b)(ii)**

Orders for production of documents

63.—(1) An order—

- (a) for the inspection or production of any rejected ballot papers ^{F194}... in the custody of the relevant registration officer, or
- (b) for the opening of a sealed packet of the completed corresponding number lists or certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in his custody,

may be made by the County Court, if the court is satisfied by evidence on oath that the order is required for the purpose of instituting or maintaining a prosecution for an offence in relation to ballot papers, or for the purpose of an election petition.

[^{F195}(1A) An order—

- (a) for the opening of the sealed packet containing a completed ballot paper refusal list, or
- (b) for the inspection or production of that list,

may be made by the county court if satisfied by evidence on oath that the order is required for the purpose of an election petition.]

(2) An order for the opening of a sealed packet of completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer may be made by an election court.

(3) An order under this rule may be made subject to such conditions as to—

- (a) persons,
- (b) time,
- (c) place and mode of inspection,
- (d) production or opening,

as the court making the order may think expedient.

(4) In making and carrying into effect an order for the opening of a packet of completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of counted ballot papers, care must be taken that the way in which the vote of any particular elector has been given shall not be disclosed until it has been proved—

- (i) that the elector's vote was given, and
- (ii) that the vote has been declared by a competent court to be invalid.

(5) An appeal lies to the High Court from any order of the County Court under this rule.

(6) Any power given under this rule to the County Court may be exercised by any judge of the court otherwise than in open court.

(7) Where an order is made for the production by the relevant registration officer of any document in his possession relating to any specified election—

- (a) the production by the registration officer or agent of the document ordered in such manner as may be directed by that order shall be conclusive evidence that the document relates to the specified election, and

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- (b) any endorsement on any packet of ballot papers so produced shall be prima facie evidence that the ballot papers are what they are stated to be by the endorsement.
- (8) The production from proper custody of—
 - (a) a ballot paper purporting to have been used at any election, and
 - (b) a completed corresponding number list with a number marked in writing beside the number of the ballot paper,

shall be prima facie evidence that the elector whose vote was given by that ballot paper was the person whose entry in the register of electors or on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act at the time of the election contained the same number as the number written as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph.

(9) Save as provided by this rule, no person shall be allowed to inspect any rejected or counted ballot papers in the possession of the relevant registration officer or open any sealed packets of completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

Textual Amendments

F194 Words in Sch. 3 rule 63(1)(a) omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(33)**

F195 Sch. 3 rule 63(1A) inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(16)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Retention of documents

64. The relevant registration officer must retain for one year all documents relating to an election forwarded to him in pursuance of these Rules by a returning officer, and then, unless otherwise directed by an order of the County Court, the Crown Court, a magistrates' court or an election court, must cause them to be destroyed.

[^{F196}Destruction of home address forms

64A.—(1) The [^{F197}CA/CCA] returning officer must destroy each candidate's home address form—

- (a) on the next working day following the 35th day after the officer returns the name of the mayor elected, or
- (b) if an election petition questioning the election or return is presented before that day, on the next working day following the conclusion of proceedings on the petition or on appeal from such proceedings.
- (2) In this rule, “working day” means a day other than—
 - (a) a Saturday or Sunday,
 - (b) Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday, or
 - (c) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), “bank holiday” has the meaning given in rule 4(2).]

Textual Amendments

F196 Sch. 3 rule 64A inserted (23.2.2019) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019 (S.I. 2019/350), arts. 1, **6(7)** (with arts. 3, 4)

F197 Word in Sch. 3 rule 64A(1) substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(34)

PART 8

Death of candidate

Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of a candidate

65.—(1) If at a contested election proof is given to the returning officer's satisfaction before the result of the election is declared that one of the persons named or to be named as candidate in the ballot papers has died, then the returning officer must countermand notice of the poll or, if polling has begun, direct that the poll be abandoned, and the provisions of subsections (1) and (5) of section 39 (local elections void etc. in England and Wales) of the 1983 Act apply in respect of any vacancy which remains unfilled.

(2) Neither the countermand of the poll at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election nor the direction that the poll be abandoned shall affect the poll at each relevant election or referendum.

(3) Where the poll at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election is abandoned by reason of a candidate's death no further ballot papers shall be issued.

(4) Subject to paragraph (6), at the close of the poll at any relevant election or referendum the presiding officer must take the like steps (so far as not already taken) for the delivery to the returning officer of ballot boxes and ballot papers and other documents as he would be required to do if the poll at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election had not been abandoned.

(5) The returning officer must dispose of ballot papers used at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election (at which the candidate has died) as he is required to do on the completion in due course of the counting of the votes subject to paragraphs (6) and (7).

(6) It is not necessary for any ballot paper account at that election to be prepared or verified.

(7) The returning officer, having separated the ballot papers relating to each relevant election or referendum must take no step or further step for the counting of the ballot papers used at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election (at which a candidate has died) or of the votes cast at that mayoral election.

(8) The returning officer must seal up all those ballot papers used at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election, whether the votes on them have been counted or not, and it is not necessary to seal up counted and rejected ballot papers in separate packets.

(9) The provisions of these Rules as to the inspection, production, retention and destruction of ballot papers and other documents by the relevant registration officer relating to a poll at the [F198CA/CCA] mayoral election apply to any such documents relating to a poll abandoned by reason of a candidate's death, subject to paragraphs (10) and (11).

(10) Ballot papers on which the votes were neither counted nor rejected must be treated as counted ballot papers.

(11) No order is to be made for—

(a) the inspection or production of any ballot papers, or

(b) for the opening of a sealed packet of the completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll,

unless the order is made by a court with reference to a prosecution.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F198** Word in Sch. 3 rule 65 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(35)**

PART 9

Appendix of Forms

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 9 modified (temp.) (31.10.2023) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 42(3)** (with Sch. 2 para. 40)
- C4** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 8 modified (temp.) (31.10.2023) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 42(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 40)
- C5** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 11 modified (temp.) (31.10.2023) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 42(3)** (with Sch. 2 para. 40)
- C6** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 10 modified (temp.) (31.10.2023) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 42(2)** (with Sch. 2 para. 40)
- C7** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 2 modified (16.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Overseas Electors etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1406), regs. 1(2), **17(3)(4)**
- C8** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 9 modified (temp.) (31.1.2024) by S.I. 2023/1147, **Sch. 2 para. 42(6)(7)** (as inserted by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/99), regs. 1(1), **2(8)**)
- C9** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 11 modified (temp.) (31.1.2024) by S.I. 2023/1147, **Sch. 2 para. 42(6)(7)** (as inserted by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/99), regs. 1(1), **2(8)**)
- C10** Sch. 3 Form 2 modified (temp.) (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **23**

Notes: In this Appendix any reference to a numbered rule is a reference to the rule of that number in the ^{F199}... Mayoral Elections Rules.

Textual Amendments

- F199** Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(36)(a)(i)**

The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

^{F200}Where the forms are to be used in relation to a combined county authority mayoral election, rather than a combined authority mayoral election—

- (a) for “combined authority” in each place where those words occur in a form substitute “combined county authority”;

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- (b) in Form 2 (form of candidate’s consent to nomination)—
- (i) for “paragraph 9 or 9A of Schedule 5B of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009” in each place where those words occur substitute “paragraph 8 or 9 of Schedule 2 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023”;
 - (ii) for “paragraph 9A of Schedule 5B of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009” substitute “paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023”;

Textual Amendments

F200 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 inserted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(36)(a)(ii)**

Form 1: Nomination paper

Form 2: Candidate's consent to nomination

Form 3: Ballot paper ^{F201} ... including directions as to printing

^{F202} ...

Form 5: Corresponding Number List M1

Form 6: Corresponding Number List M2

Form 7(1): Postal Voting Statement

Form 7(2): Postal Voting Statement

Form 8: Elector's official poll card

Form 9: Official postal poll card

Form 10: Official proxy poll card

Form 11: Official proxy postal poll card

[^{F203}Form 11A: Ballot paper refusal list]

Form 12: Directions for guidance of voters

Form 13: Certificate of employment

Form 14: Declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities.

Textual Amendments

F201 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(14)(a)(i)** (with art. 1(2))

F202 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/1353), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(14)(a)(ii)** (with art. 1(2))

F203 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 inserted (16.1.2023) by The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1382), regs. 1(3), **96(17)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Textual Amendments

F199 Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (7.2.2024) by virtue of The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), **13(36)(a)(i)**

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- F200** Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 inserted (7.2.2024) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) Order 2017 \(Amendment\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 2024/131\)](#), regs. 1(3), **13(36)(a)(ii)**
- F201** Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1353\)](#), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(14)(a)(i)** (with art. 1(2))
- F202** Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 omitted (13.12.2022) by virtue of [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1353\)](#), arts. 1(1)(c), **5(14)(a)(ii)** (with art. 1(2))
- F203** Words in Sch. 3 Pt. 9 inserted (16.1.2023) by [The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1382\)](#), regs. 1(3), **96(17)(a)** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

[^{F204}Form 1: Nomination paper]

.....
Textual Amendments

- F204** Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 1 substituted (1.11.2023) by [The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums \(Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1141\)](#), reg. 1(2), **Sch. 4 Pt. 2** (with reg. 1(6)(c)(8))

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Form of Nomination Paper

Office use only

Form 1

(for use at combined authority mayoral elections)

Date Delivered	Time delivered	Initials

ELECTION OF MAYOR for the Combined Authority of.....

Date of election

We, the undersigned, being local government electors for the said (*combined authority area*), do hereby nominate the person whose name appears below as a candidate at the mayoral election.

Candidate's surname	Other forenames in full	Commonly used surname (if any)	Commonly used forenames (if any)	Description (if any) use no more than six words

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Other

Signature	Print name	Local Authority	Electoral number	
			Polling District	Number
Proposer.....
Secunder.....
We, the undersigned being electors for the said (electoral area), do hereby assent to the foregoing nomination				
1.....
2.....
3.....

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Form 1

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NOTES

1. The attention of candidates and electors is drawn to the rules for filling up nomination papers and other provisions relating to nomination papers contained in rules in Schedule 3 to the Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017.
2. Where a candidate is commonly known by some title they may be described by their title as if it were their surname.

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Form 1

3. Where a candidate commonly uses a name or names

- (a) that are different from the candidate's full names as stated on the nomination paper, or
- (b) in a different way from the candidate's full names as stated on the nomination paper,

the commonly used name or names may also appear on the nomination paper; but if they do so, the commonly used name or names (instead of any other name) will appear on the ballot paper.

4. But the ballot paper will show the other name if the combined authority returning officer

- (a) thinks that the use of the commonly used name may be likely to mislead or confuse electors, or
- (b) that the commonly used name is obscene or offensive.

5. The description, if any, can only be

- (a) one certified as an authorised or registered description as mentioned in rule 7 of the election rules, or
- (b) the word "Independent".

6. In this form "elector"

- (a) means a person entitled to vote as an elector at the combined authority mayoral election and who is registered in the register of local government electors on the last day for the publication of notice of the election; and
- (b) includes a person then shown in the register as below voting age if (but only if) it appears from the register that the person will be of voting age on the day fixed for the poll.

7. However, a person who has an anonymous entry in the register of local government electors cannot nominate a candidate for election.

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F205 [F206 Form 2: Candidate’s consent to nomination]

Textual Amendments

F205 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 2: words "paragraph 9A" substituted for words "Section 9A" (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), regs. 1(3), 13(36)(b)

F206 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 2 substituted (1.11.2023) by The Mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections, Recall Petitions and Referendums (Ballot Secrecy, Candidates and Undue Influence) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1141), reg. 1(2), Sch. 4 Pt. 2 (with reg. 1(7)(8))

Form 2

Form of Candidate's Consent to Nomination
(for use at combined authority mayoral elections)

Front of form

Date of election

I (name in full)

hereby consent to my nomination as a candidate for election as the mayor for the (insert name) Combined Authority

I declare that on the day of my nomination I am qualified and that, if there is a poll on the day of election, I will be qualified to be so elected by virtue of being on that day or those days a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen, or an EU citizen with retained rights, who has attained the age of 18 years and that

*[a] I am registered as a local government elector within the area of the combined authority named above; or

*[b] I have during the whole of the 12 months preceding that day or those days occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the area named above; or

*[c] my principal or only place of work during those 12 months has been in that combined authority area; or

*[d] I have during the whole of those 12 months resided in the area named above

*Delete whichever is inappropriate

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief I am not disqualified for being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in, or decision or order made under, paragraphs 9 or 9A of Schedule 5B of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, section 34 of the Localism Act 2011, [sections 64 to 68 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011], or section 30 of the Elections Act 2022 (copies of which are printed overleaf), and I do not hold a politically restricted post, within the meaning of Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, under a local authority, within the meaning of that Part.

*Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to insert in case of elections for Mayors exercising Police and Crime Commissioner functions.

Date of birth

Signature

Date of consent

Signed in my presence

Signature of witness

Name of witness

(WRITE CLEARLY)

NOTES

1. A candidate who is qualified by more than one qualification may complete any of those that may apply.
2. Disqualifications set out under Section 9A of Schedule 5B of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 only apply to a person who is subject to any relevant notification requirements, or a relevant order, made on or after 28 June 2022.

Back of form

Set out paragraphs 9 and 9A of Schedule 5B of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, section 34 of the Localism Act 2011, section 30 of the Elections Act 2022 [and sections 64 to 68 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011] (as amended from time to time).

*Relevant Returning or Counting Officer to insert in case of elections for Mayors exercising Police and Crime Commissioner functions.

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[^{F207}Form 3: Ballot paper

Textual Amendments

F207 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 3 substituted (13.12.2022) by [The Combined Authorities \(Mayoral Elections\) \(Amendment\) Order 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1353\)](#), art. 1(1)(c), **Sch. 2** (with art. 1(2))

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

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

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



Changes to legislation: *There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)*

Number

Other unique identifying mark

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

on..... 20....

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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 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
 - (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:

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- (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.

1

Form 4: Ballot paper (three or more candidates)

F208 ...

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

[^{F209}Form 7(1): Postal voting statement (joint issue)]

Textual Amendments

F209 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 7(1) substituted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by [The Representation of the People \(Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1225\)](#), **Sch. 9 Pt. 2**

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

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.
- * [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 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.
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 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).

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

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

[^{F210}Form 7(2): Postal voting statement (standalone issue)]

Textual Amendments

F210 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 7(2) substituted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by [The Representation of the People \(Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1225\)](#), **Sch. 9 Pt. 2**

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Postal voting statement	[Space for barcode]
Election of the Mayor for [insert name of combined authority]	
Date of election [day] [date] [month] [year]	
<p>Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted.</p> <p>Please read the instructions carefully and use a black pen.</p> <p>* Name _____ Ballot paper number _____</p> <p>* <i>Returning Officer to insert name but omit where sent to an anonymous elector</i></p> <p>(!) 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].</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to.</p> <p>My Date of Birth is: <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Day Month Year</p> <p>* My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box)</p> <p>* <i>Returning Officer to omit box where the elector has been granted a waiver</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 60px; margin-top: 5px;"></div> <p>We will check this information against our records for security.</p> </div> <p>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).</p> <p><i>Returning Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.</i></p>	

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.
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.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F211}Form 8 (elector’s official poll card)]

Textual Amendments
F211 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 8 substituted (31.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(3)(g), Sch. 11 Pt. 2 (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 42(1))

Front of form

YOU MUST BRING PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE
 You will not be able to vote unless you show photographic identification to the polling station staff.
 A full list of accepted photographic identification is set out overleaf.

Your details:

- * [Elector’s name and qualifying address details here]
- * Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope

Electoral register number:

- ** [You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote.]
- ** [You must have this card with you. You cannot vote without it.]
- ** If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.

[Insert helpline and other details including website].

This space for map or other information such as helpline and website details

It is an offence to:

- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be on behalf of other domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not a service elector).
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

i If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

If undelivered, return to:
 [insert return address]

Please turn over

Poll card	
Election of Mayor for [insert name of combined authority]	
Date of election: [Day] [Date] [Month] [Year]	
Voting information	
Polling day	
Voting hours	
Your polling station will be	

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] you can do one of the following:

- Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election.

OR

- Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you appoint a proxy, you can vote if you wish, but only if your proxy has not already voted on your behalf and has not got a postal vote for you.

If after 5pm on [the sixth day before the date of the poll] you are unable to vote in person because:

- You have a medical emergency after 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]
- You learn you cannot go to the polling station because of work reasons
- The form of accepted photographic identification that you were intending to use to vote has been lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, or has not yet been received if applied for recently

You can apply to vote by proxy. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. To find out how to apply, call the helpline immediately.

The Returning Officer issued this card.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Rear of form

[Where the elector is not an Anonymous Elector, insert the text below]

Accepted forms of photographic identification

You must present one of the following forms of photographic identification in order to vote in person at a polling station:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- A biometric immigration document
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass
- A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- An Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- a Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate

If you do not possess any of the above forms of photographic identification, you can apply to your local Electoral Registration Officer for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on *[day]* *[date of deadline]*.

If your photographic identification document has expired it will still be accepted so long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you, unless it is a temporary Voter Authority Certificate which is not valid for use on the date of poll.

You may be required to provide further proof of identity if there is any discrepancy between your name as shown on your form of photographic identification and the name of the elector that you claim to be.

[Where the elector is an Anonymous Elector, insert the text below]

Accepted form of photographic identification

You must present your Anonymous Elector's Document in addition to this poll card in order to vote in person at a polling station. The electoral register number on the Anonymous Elector's Document must match the electoral register number shown on this poll card to be accepted.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F212}Form 9: Official postal poll card]

Textual Amendments

F212 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 9 substituted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The Representation of the People (Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1225), **Sch. 9 Pt. 2**

Postal poll card
Election of Mayor for <i>[insert name of combined authority]</i>
Date of election <i>[day] [date] [month] [year]</i>
Voting information
We will send your postal vote around <i>[day] [date] [month] [year] *[addressed to:]</i>
<i>*[Elector's name and address]</i> <i>* Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous elector.</i>

Please turn over

Your details:

** [Elector's name and qualifying address details here]*

** Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope*

Electoral register number:

Your postal vote

- You will receive a postal vote for this election because you asked to vote by post.
- You will not be able to vote in a polling station.
- **If you have not received your postal vote by *[day] [date] [month]* call *[insert helpline number]*.**

If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake


- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote **before 5pm on *[day/date of deadline]*.**


Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

How to vote

1. When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully.
2. Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement.
3. Complete both of these and return them immediately.
4. We need to receive your postal vote by **10pm on [day/date of poll]**.

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 electoral area before **10pm on [day] [date of poll]**.

 If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.

 If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:

[Insert helpline and other details including website]

The Returning Officer issued this card.

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
- vote more than once at the same election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be on behalf of other domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector).
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

If you would rather vote in person, or ask someone else to vote on your behalf

- you must cancel your postal vote **before 5pm on [day/date of deadline]**.
- Please note that when voting in person, you or someone who is voting on your behalf must show an accepted form of photographic identification. For more information, please *[insert suggestion to call helpline and/or visit a relevant website, as appropriate]*.

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.

If undelivered return to
[insert return address]

[^{F213}Form 10 (official proxy poll card)]

Textual Amendments

F213 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 10 substituted (31.1.2024) by The Representation of the People (Postal and Proxy Voting etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1147), reg. 1(3)(g), **Sch. 11 Pt. 2** (with Sch. 2 paras. 40, 42(1))

Front of form

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

YOU MUST BRING PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VOTE

You will not be able to vote unless you show photographic identification to the polling station staff.
 You will need to bring your own photographic identification, not that of the person you are proxy for.
 A full list of accepted photographic identification is set out overleaf.

Your details:

- * [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here]
- * Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous elector. Poll card to an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope

For this election you are proxy for:

*[[Elector's name]
 (Elector's Address
 (Elector's electoral register number)]
 [The person with this electoral register number: (insert elector's electoral register number)]

*if anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets

Proxy Poll card	
Election of Mayor for [insert name of combined authority]	
Date of election: [Day] [Date] [Month] [Year]	
Voting information	
Polling day	
Voting hours	
Your polling station will be	

You will receive a proxy vote

- ** [The person named on this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at this election.
- ** [You do not need to take this card with you to vote.] [You must have this card with you when you vote. You cannot vote as a proxy without it.]
- ** If sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector omit the words in each of the first sets of brackets, if not omit the words in each of the second sets of brackets.

[insert helpline and other details including website].

It is an offence to:

- vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be on behalf of domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not a service elector).
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

If undelivered, return to:
[insert return address]

Please turn over

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll]

- You can apply to vote by post. The deadline for completed applications is **5pm** on [day] [date of deadline].
- If you are given a postal vote, you or the person you are proxy for will not be able to vote in person at this election.
- **To find out how to apply, please call us on [insert helpline number or other contact details].**

How to vote as a proxy

1. * [At the polling station, tell the staff that you are a proxy for the person named above. They will give you that person's ballot paper.] * [At the polling station, ask to speak to the presiding officer and show them this card. They will give you the ballot paper of the person you are proxy for.]
 * if anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets
2. Go to one of the voting booths.
3. Follow the instructions on how to mark the ballot paper.
4. Fold the ballot paper and put in the ballot box.

If you need any help, just ask the staff.

The person you are proxy for can vote themselves if they wish – but only if you have not already voted on their behalf.

The Returning Officer issued this card

Rear of form

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[Where the elector is not an Anonymous Elector, insert the text below]

Accepted forms of photographic identification

You must present one of the following forms of photographic identification in order to vote in person at a polling station:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- A biometric immigration document
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass
- A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- A 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- An Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate

You will need to bring your own photographic identification, not that of the person you are proxy for.

If you do not possess any of the above forms of photographic identification, you can apply to your local electoral registration officer for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on *[day]* *[date of deadline]*.

If your photographic identification document has expired it will still be accepted so long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you, unless it is a temporary Voter Authority Certificate which is not valid for use on the date of poll.

You may be required to provide further proof of identity if there is any discrepancy between your name as shown on your form of photographic identification and the name of the proxy that you claim to be.

[Where the elector is an Anonymous Elector, insert the text below]

Accepted form of photographic identification

You must present your Anonymous Elector's Document in addition to this poll card in order to vote in person at a polling station. The electoral register number on the Anonymous Elector's Document must match the electoral register number shown on this poll card to be accepted.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F214}Form 11: Official proxy postal poll card]

Textual Amendments

F214 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 11 substituted (with effect in accordance with reg. 1(2) of the amending S.I.) by The Representation of the People (Postal Vote Handling and Secrecy) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/1225), **Sch. 9 Pt. 2**

Proxy postal poll card
Election of Mayor for <i>[insert name of combined authority]</i>
Date of election <i>[day] [date] [month] [year]</i>

Voting information
We will send your postal vote around <i>[day] [date] [month] [year]</i> <i>*[addressed to:]</i>
<p><i>* [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here]</i></p> <p><i>* Returning Officer to omit where poll card sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector. Poll card to proxy of an anonymous elector must be delivered in a sealed envelope.</i></p>

Please turn over

Voting as a proxy

** [The person named on the back of this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at this election.

** *If sent to the proxy of an anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.*

Your postal vote

- You will receive a postal vote for this election because you asked to vote by post.
- You will not be able to vote as a proxy in a polling station.
- **If you have not received your postal vote by *[day] [date] [month]* call *[insert helpline number]*.**

Whether you vote in person or via post, it is an offence for someone else 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.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

For this election you are proxy for:

* [(Elector's name)
(Elector's address)
(Elector's number on register)]


[the person with this elector number: (Insert elector's number on register)]


* If anonymous elector omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets

How to vote

1. When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully.
2. Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement.
3. Complete both of these and return them immediately.
4. We need to receive your postal vote by **10pm on [day/date of poll]**.

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]**.

 If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.

 If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:

[insert helpline or other details including website]

If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake

- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote before **5pm on [day/date of deadline]**.

If you would rather vote in person, you must cancel your postal vote before **5pm on [day/ date of deadline]**. Please note that when voting in person, you must show an accepted form of photographic identification and this must be your own identification, not that of the person you are voting on behalf of. For more information, please [insert suggestion to call helpline and/or visit a relevant website, as appropriate]

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
- vote more than once at the same election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be on behalf of other domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector).
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

The Returning Officer issued this card.

If undelivered return to
[insert return address]

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F214}Form 11: Official proxy postal poll card]

Ballot Paper Refusal List

Guidance

You should only record a refusal to issue a ballot paper on this List when an elector or proxy presents one of the required forms of identification, but **either**:

1. You are not satisfied the identification is of who they claim to be (e.g. the photo was not a good likeness); **or**
2. You believe the document is a forgery; **or**
3. The elector or proxy was asked the Voter Identification statutory questions and did not answer as required.

Please enter 1, 2 or 3 based on the reasons outlined above in the ‘reason for refusal’ column.

If an elector or proxy is initially refused for one of the above reasons, but then produces an accepted document before leaving the desk and is issued a ballot paper – you do not need to record their details on this form.

If you refuse to issue a ballot paper to an elector **for any other reason** (e.g. they did not bring any identification or do not have one of the required forms of identification) - **DO NOT record this on this form.**

An elector or proxy can only be refused for one reason at a time but can be refused more than once if they return and attempt to vote again. **If you refuse an elector or proxy more than once, mark each reason for refusal in order on the same row for that elector.**

Elector’s elector number <i>OR</i> If a proxy voted on behalf of that elector, the proxy’s name and address	Reason for refusal(s) – separate by comma if elector or proxy refused more than once 1. You are not satisfied the identification is of who they claimed to be 2. You believe the document is a forgery 3. The elector or proxy was asked the Voter Identification statutory questions, and did not answer as required	Tick if elector or proxy later returned and was issued a ballot paper

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

[^{F215}Form 12: Directions for guidance of voters

Textual Amendments

F215 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 12 substituted (16.1.2023) by [The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1382\)](#), regs. 1(3), 96(17)(e), **Sch. 13 Pt. 2** (with reg. 1(6)(7))

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

How to vote at [this] [these] election(s) [and referendum(s)]

1

Go to the desk and tell the staff your name and address. They will ask you to present your photographic identification. They will then give you your ballot papers.



2

Take your ballot papers to a voting booth.



3

Read the instructions in the booth and mark your ballot papers.



4

When you have marked your ballot papers, fold them so that nobody can see how you have voted.



5

Put your folded ballot papers into the [appropriate] ballot box[es].



(!) Voting is secret. Do not let anyone see how you have voted. If you make a mistake or need some help, just ask the staff.

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Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

[^{F216}Form 13 – Certificate of employment]

Textual Amendments

F216 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 13 substituted (7.2.2024) by The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 (Amendment) Regulations 2024 (S.I. 2024/131), reg. 1(3), **Sch. Pt. 2**

Certificate of Employment
Election of the Mayor for the area of [insert name of combined authority]
*Relevant council:
Date of election (day) (date) (month) (year)
The person named below is entitled to vote at any polling station in the area of the above named relevant council on production and surrender of this certificate to the Presiding Officer.
I certify that _____ (name of elector) Who is numbered** _____ in the register of electors for the area of the relevant council named above, cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the polling station allotted to him/her at this election by reason of his/her employment on the above date for a purpose connected with this election: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- as a constable***- as a Police Community Support Officer***- by me (only applies to Returning Officer's or Combined Authority Returning Officer's

staff)*** Signature _____ Returning Officer / Combined Authority Returning Officer / Police Officer (Inspector or above)*** Date _____ <p>*A relevant council is a district council, the area of which is part of the area of the combined authority, or in the case of a part of the combined authority area for which there is a county council but no district councils, the county council.</p> <p>**The elector's number can be found on the poll card which was sent to them shortly after the election was announced, or can be checked by contacting the Electoral Registration Officer.</p> <p>***Person completing the form to delete whichever does not apply.</p>
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[^{F217}Form 14: declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities

Textual Amendments
F217 Sch. 3 Pt. 9 Form 14 substituted (29.12.2022) by [The Assistance with Voting for Persons with Disabilities \(Amendments\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1309\)](#), reg. 1(3), **Sch. 7 Pt. 2** (with reg. 1(4))

Declaration for the companion of a voter with disabilities	
<p>[Election of the Mayor for <i>[insert name of combined authority]</i> * [Election of Member of Parliament for the <i>[insert name of the constituency]</i> constituency] * [Election of councillors to <i>[insert name of local authority/parish/community council in full]</i>] * [[<i>Insert name of election/referendum</i>]election/referendum]</p>	
<p>Date of election(s) [and referendum(s)] <i>[day] [date] [month] [year]</i></p>	
<p>A voter with disabilities is a voter who has made a declaration that he or she is so incapacitated by his or her blindness or other disability, or by his or her inability to read, as to be unable to vote at [this] [these] election(s) [and referendum(s)] without assistance. In this form, "voter" means the person casting the vote at the election or referendum and includes a person voting as a proxy.</p>	
Part 1 To be completed by the voter's companion	
Companion's name	
Companion's address	
Voter's name	
<p><i>[Only for use if the disabled voter is acting as a proxy]</i> Voter is acting as proxy for:</p>	
<p>Elector's number <i>[If the disabled voter is acting as a proxy, this is the number of the person for whom the voter is acting]</i></p>	

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<p>I have been requested to assist the voter named above to record their vote at [this] [these] election(s) [and referendum(s)]. I declare that:</p> <p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am aged 18 or over <p>AND</p> <p>(2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities at [this] [these] election(s) [or referendum(s)]. If I have assisted one other voter their name and address is: 			
<p>[Complete if appropriate] Name and address of other person assisted</p>			
<p>NOTE – It is a criminal offence to communicate at any time to any person any information as to the way in which the voter intends to vote or has voted.</p>			
Companion's signature		Date	
<p>Part 2 To be completed by the Presiding Officer</p>			
<p>I, the undersigned, being the Presiding Officer for:</p>			
Polling station		Electoral area of	
<p>Hereby certify that the above declaration was signed in my presence.</p>		Presiding Officer signature	
Date		Time (exact)	

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Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 3 Table of Contents words inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 96\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The table of contents for this legislation will be dynamically updated when its provisions are revised)
- Sch. 3 Table of Contents words inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 96\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The table of contents for this legislation will be dynamically updated when its provisions are revised)
- Sch. 3 Table of Contents words inserted by [S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 96\(2\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The table of contents for this legislation will be dynamically updated when its provisions are revised)
- Sch. 3 Table of Contents words substituted by [S.I. 2024/131 reg. 13\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The table of contents for this legislation will be dynamically updated when its provisions are revised)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

- Order modified by [S.I. 2024/402 art. 16](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 9 inserted by [S.I. 2024/131 reg. 9](#)