

Research Briefing

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Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2024

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Summary

On Thursday 2 May 2024 the fourth elections for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took place in 37 PCC areas in England and Wales.

Results

Of the 37 police forces which elected a PCC in 2024, 33 were in England and four in Wales. 12 of those elected PCCs were female (32% of successful candidates).

In England, 19 of the 33 successful candidates were Conservative (58%), and 14 of the successful candidates were Labour (42%). Of the four PCC elections in Wales, three Labour candidates were successful, and one from Plaid Cymru.

Labour was the only party to gain PCCs in 2024 (+10) while the Conservatives lost 10. Plaid Cymru were the only other party to win a PCC election (Dyfed-Powys).

PCC successful election candidates

	CON	LAB	LD	GRN	PC	Oth
2016	19	13	0	0	2	3
2021	29	7	0	0	1	0
2024	19	17	0	0	1	0
Change 2021 to 2024	-10	10	0	0	0	0

Note: Excludes police forces with metro mayors for comparison purposes

Candidates and turnout

A total of 136 candidates stood in the 37 PCC elections. Of these, 37 candidates were Conservative, 37 Labour, 35 Liberal Democrat, 4 Plaid Cymru, 8 Green, 7 Independents, and 8 others.

Turnout (measured as valid votes as a proportion of the electorate) averaged 23.2% across the 35 PCC elections for which we able to collect electorate data. Turnout was on average higher in the English PCC elections (24%) compared to those in Wales (17%).

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Background

What are Police and Crime Commissioners?

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are directly elected individuals responsible for securing an “effective and efficient” police force for their area.¹ Their main purpose is to set the strategy for the police force and hold it to account. They can hire and, if necessary, fire, chief constables.

There are currently 39 PCCs in England and Wales. Five of them, the PCCs for Essex, Staffordshire, West Mercia, Northamptonshire and Cambridge, also hold responsibilities relating to their local Fire & Rescue Service. These PCCs are technically known as Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners (PFCCs). Throughout this briefing the term PCC includes PFCCs.

PCCs were created by the [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. The first elections were held in 41 police force areas in November 2012. PCC elections took place in 40 police force areas in 2016. The election results are set out in the Library’s briefing [Police and Crime Commissioner Elections: 2016](#).

The last PCC elections took place in 39 police forces in 2021. The election results are set out in the Library’s briefing [PCC Elections 2021](#).

Further information on PCCs is given in Commons Library Briefing Paper, [Police and Crime Commissioners](#).

Why 37 PCCs?

There are 43 geographic police forces across England and Wales, however six of these did not hold PCC elections in 2024.

In London, the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime took over from the Metropolitan Police Authority in January 2012, while the City of London Police retained a police authority.

Similarly, in Greater Manchester (2017), West Yorkshire (2021), North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire (both 2024) as part of the devolution deal, the elected mayors there have taken over PCC functions. PCC elections have therefore not been held in these police forces since.

¹ [s1\(6\), Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#).

Comparisons with 2021 PCC election results

Comparisons with 2021 are made with the same 37 PCCs that successfully elected candidates in 2024.

For full detail of the results of the 2021 PCC Election please refer to the House of Commons Library briefing, [PCC Elections 2021](#)

What do PCCs do?

PCCs have three core functions:

- **Police governance:** They set an annual budget and a five-year police and crime plan for their force.² As part of their budgetary responsibilities they set the council tax precept for their police force area. They are also responsible for appointing a chief officer to lead their force.³
- **Police oversight:** They are responsible for scrutinising their force's performance and holding their chief officer accountable for the delivery of their police and crime plan.⁴ They also play a role delivering the local police complaints system.
- **Commissioning criminal justice services:** They are responsible for commissioning victims' services and some crime prevention programmes in their police force area.⁵

The remit of PCCs has expanded since their introduction. For example, PCCs took over commissioning for the majority of victims' services in October 2014. The [Conservative Party Manifesto 2015](#) promised to develop the role further. The [Policing and Crime Act 2017](#) enabled police and crime commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services where a local case is made. It also gave PCCs a much greater role in the police complaints system.

Electoral process and timing

On Thursday 2 May 2024 the fourth elections for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took place in England and Wales.

PCC elections (usually) take place every four years. Elections last took place in 2021 (postponed from May 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic).⁶ People

² [s41](#), *Police Act 1996* & [s5](#), *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*.

³ [s38](#), *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*

⁴ [s1\(7-8\)](#), *Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011*

⁵ [s143](#), *Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014*

⁶ Cabinet Office, [Postponement of May 2020 elections](#), 13 March 2020

who are registered to vote at local government elections are entitled to vote for the PCC in that area.

Who can stand?

For the May 2024 elections, candidates needed to be:

- at least 18 years old on the day of nomination;
- a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union; and
- registered as a local government elector in a local council area that is within the police area in which the candidate wishes to stand, both at the time of nomination and on polling day.

There are a number of disqualifications. For example, individuals cannot stand if they:

- are a police officer or are directly or indirectly employed by the police;
- have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence; or
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order.

In future PCC elections, individuals are disqualified from standing if they “have been convicted of an intimidatory criminal offence motivated by hostility towards a candidate, future candidate or campaigner or holder of a relevant elective office”.⁷

⁷ Sections 64-69, [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#), as amended. See also Electoral Commission, Police and Crime Commissioner Elections in England and Wales Guidance for Candidates and Agents: [Disqualifications that apply on nomination and on polling day](#), accessed 19 June 2024.

2 Summary of results

In 2024 there were 37 PCC elections which successfully elected a candidate: 33 in England, and four in Wales. 32% of these successful candidates were women (compared to 21% in 2021).

The vote share of Labour increased +7.6 percentage points (compared to 2021) to 38.2%. Labour's share of the vote increased in every PCC apart from Durham (-7.8 percentage points) and Humberside (-3.5 percentage points).

In contrast the Conservative's vote share decreased in most PCCs (32 out of 37). The Conservative's vote share overall decreased 8.1 percentage points to 35.5%.

Liberal Democrats and Other parties vote shares increased by 3.0 and 2.3 percentage points respectively. Plaid Cymru's share decreased by one percentage point to 1.2%.

Results by party, May 2024

	Number of votes	Percentage of votes	Number of candidates	Number elected	Percentage of PCCs elected
LAB	2,937,151	38.2%	37	17	46%
CON	2,729,729	35.5%	37	19	51%
LD	1,255,345	16.3%	35	0	0%
GRN	257,558	3.4%	8	0	0%
PC	92,063	1.2%	4	1	3%
Other	407,596	5.3%	15	0	0%
of which:					
Independent	188,901	2.5%	7	0	0%
Reform UK	48,462	0.6%	2	0	0%
Workers Party	8,396	0.1%	1	0	0%
Justice	40,691	0.5%	1	0	0%
More Police Officers for Thames Valley	46,853	0.6%	1	0	0%
English Democrats	74,293	1.0%	3	0	0%
Total	7,679,442		136	37	

Source: House of Commons Library

Labour was the only party to gain PCCs in 2024 (+10) while the Conservatives lost 10. Plaid Cymru were the only other party to win a PCC election (Dyfed-Powys). As in 2021, the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, Independents and Others did not win any PCC elections.

PCC successful election candidates						
	CON	LAB	LD	GRN	PC	Other
2016	19	13	0	0	2	3
2021	29	7	0	0	1	0
2024	19	17	0	0	1	0
Change 2021 to 2024	-10	10	0	0	0	0

Note: Excludes police forces with metro mayors for comparison purposes

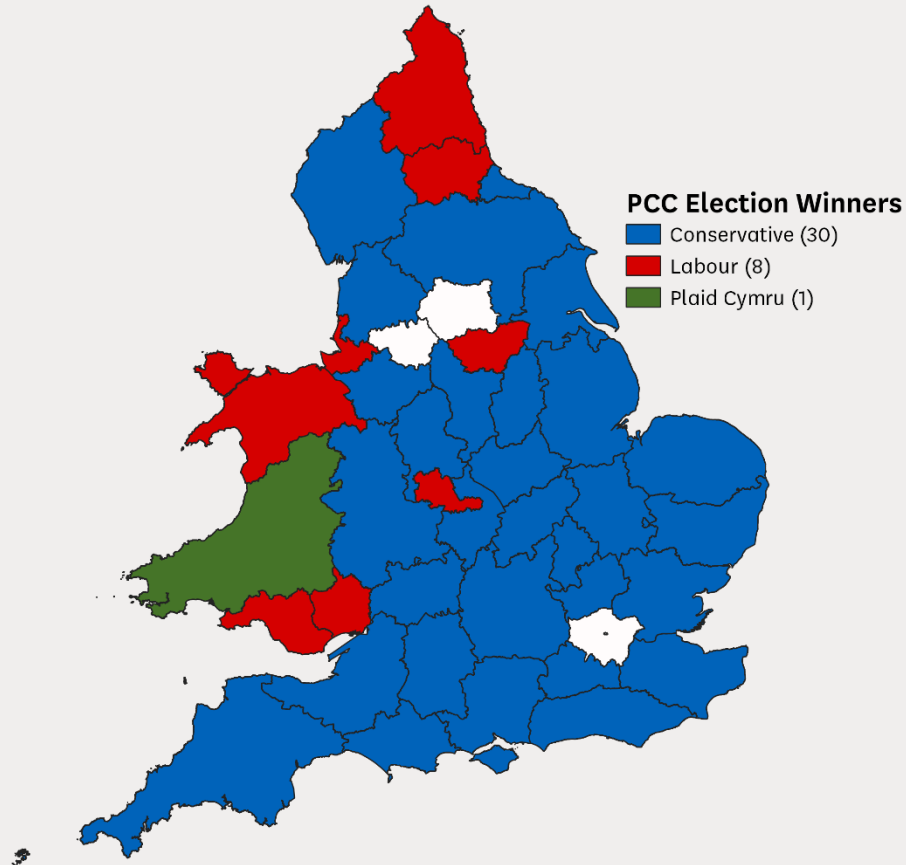
Source: House of Commons Library

In England, 19 of the 33 successful candidates were Conservative (58% of successful candidates), and 14 of the successful candidates were Labour (42% of successful candidates). Of the four PCC elections in Wales, three returned Labour candidates, and one a Plaid Cymru candidate.

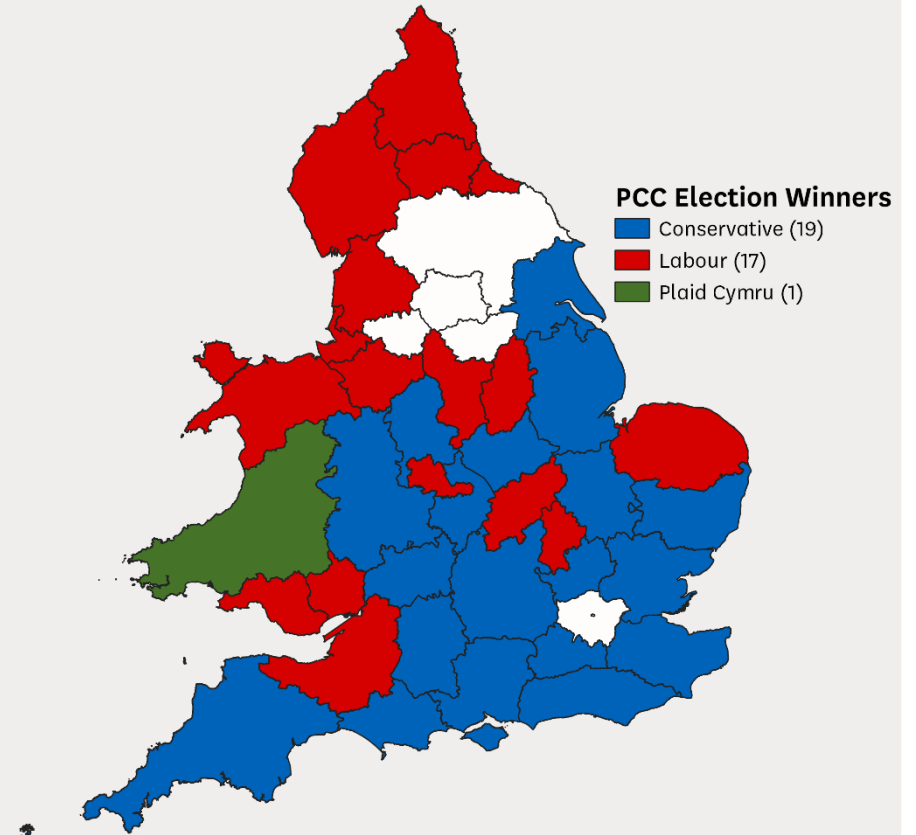
In England and Wales combined, Labour received 38% of votes and successfully elected 46% of the 37 PCCs. The Conservative party received 36% votes and successfully elected 51% of the 37 PCCs. The Liberal Democrats received 16% of votes but returned no successful candidates.

The difference in the total number of PCC elections in England in 2021 and 2024 is because two authorities – North and South Yorkshire – elected new metro mayors that assume the role of PCC.

PCC Elections 2021



PCC Elections 2024



Note: 2021 includes North Yorkshire and South Yorkshire, who elected mayors in 2024.

3 Results by party

Conservative

- The Conservatives won 19 PCC seats, over half of all available.
- The Conservatives won 36% of available votes, a decrease of 8 percentage points from 2021.
- The Conservatives performed best in Cleveland (47.4% of votes) and worst in Merseyside (14.2%).
- The biggest increase in vote share occurred in Durham (+8.1 percentage points) and the largest drop in Lincolnshire (-23.2 percentage points).

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021-2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	19	-10	2,729,729	36.0%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)	
Highest/largest	1 Cleveland	47.4%	Durham	+8.1
	2 Staffords hire	45.6%	Gwent	+3.2
	3 Kent	44.1%	South Wales	+3.1
Lowest/smallest	1 Merseyside	14.2%	Lincolnshire	-23.2
	2 Northumbria	22.8%	Cumbria	-23.1
	3 Dyfed-Powys	25.0%	West Mercia	-21.0

Labour

- Labour won 17 PCC seats, 46% of all available.
- Labour won the largest share of votes (36%), an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2021.
- Labour performed best in Merseyside (61.7% of votes) and worst in Surrey (16.3%).
- The biggest increase in vote share occurred in Cleveland (+23.7 percentage points) and the largest drop in Durham (-7.8 percentage points).

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021-2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	17	+10	2,937,151	38.2%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)	
Highest/largest	1 Merseyside	61.7%	Cleveland	+23.7
	2 West Midlands	57.5%	Cumbria	+21.3
	3 Durham	56.0%	Staffordshire	+15.3
Lowest/smallest	1 Surrey	16.3%	Durham	-7.8
	2 Dorset	17.7%	Humberside	-3.5
	3 Dyfed-Powys	24.0%	Gwent	-0.1

Liberal Democrats

- The Liberal Democrats did not win any of the available PCC seats.
- The Liberal Democrats won 16% of the vote, an increase of 3.0 percentage points from 2021.
- The Liberal Democrats performed best in Gloucestershire (32.1% of votes) and worst in North Wales (8% of votes).
- The biggest increase in vote share occurred in Gloucestershire (+13.1 percentage points) and the largest drop was in Merseyside (-5.2 percentage points).

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021 -2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	0	0	1,255,345	16.3%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)		
Highest/largest	1	Gloucestershire	32.1%	Gloucestershire	+13.1
	2	Surrey	31.3%	Dorset	+11.1
	3	Hertfordshire	26.7%	Surrey	+10.6
Lowest/smallest	1	North Wales	8.0%	Merseyside	-5.2
	2	Dyfed-Powys	10.1%	Leicestershire	-5.2
	3	Derbyshire	10.5%	Wiltshire	-3.3

Green Party

- The Greens did not win any of the available PCC seats.
- Green candidates stood in 8 PCC seats.
- The Greens won 3.4% of the vote in England & Wales, an increase of 2.1 percentage points.
- The Greens performed best in Avon and Somerset (21.7% of votes) and worst in West Mercia (10.3% of votes).
- The Greens outperformed the Liberal Democrats in 5 PCC seats: Avon & Somerset, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021 -2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	0	0	257,558	3.4%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)		
Highest/largest	1	Avon & Somerset	21.7%	Norfolk	+5.7
	2	Suffolk	17.1%	Avon & Somerset	+5.3
	3	Norfolk	15.8%	Suffolk	+3.4
Lowest/smallest	1	West Mercia	10.3%		
	2	Hertfordshire	10.5%		
	3	Merseyside	12.7%		

Plaid Cymru

- Plaid Cymru won 1 PCC seat, 3% of all available.
- There were 4 Plaid Cymru candidates standing.
- Plaid Cymru won 1.2% of the vote in England & Wales, a decrease of 0.8 percentage points.
- Plaid Cymru performed best in Dyfed-Powys (40.9% of votes) and worst in Gwent (14.4% of votes).

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021 -2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	1	0	92,063	1.2%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)		
Highest/largest	1	Dyfed-Powys	40.9%	Dyfed-Powys	+7.3
	2	North Wales	26.4%	Gwent	-1.8
	3	South Wales	16.9%	North Wales	-1.9
Lowest/smallest	1	Gwent	14.4%	South Wales	-2.1
	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Independents and other parties

- Independents and other parties did not win any of the available PCC seats.
- There were 7 independents candidates and 8 other parties candidates.
- Independents and other parties won 5.3 % of the vote in England & Wales, a decrease of 2.4 percentage points.
- Independents and other parties performed best in Wiltshire (23.3%) and worst in Leicestershire (4%).

Summary: 2024 and changes 2021 -2024

	Elections won 2024	Change	Votes	
			Number	%
All areas	0	0	188,901	2.5%

Vote shares and changes

	Highest/lowest share of votes		Largest/smallest increases in share of vote from 2021 (% pts)		
Highest/largest	1	Wiltshire	23.3%	Derbyshire	+11.6
	2	Dorset	21.2%	Lincolnshire	+10.8
	3	Surrey	16.0%	Bedfordshire	+5.6
Lowest/smallest	1	Leicestershire	4.0%	Gloucestershire	-7.0
	2	Thames Valley	7.0%	Thames Valley	-5.2
	3	Bedfordshire	8.3%	Wiltshire	-4.5

Results by PCC, May 2024

	Name of winner	Party	% of total vote	Turnout	Incumbent/ Not incumbent	Gender	2021 result
Avon & Somerset	Mark Shelford	Lab	32.3%	22.8%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Bedfordshire	John Tizard	Lab	40.5%	19.6%	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Cambridgeshire	Darryl Preston	Con	38.1%	25.2%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Cheshire	Dan Price	Lab	48.1%	21.4%	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Cleveland	Matt Storey	Lab	52.6%	n/a	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Cumbria	David Allen	Lab	47.4%	n/a	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Derbyshire	Nicolle Ndiweni	Lab	43.6%	26.6%	Not Incumbent	Female	Con
Devon & Cornwall	Alison Hernandez	Con	43.3%	22.2%	Incumbent	Female	Con
Dorset	David Sidwick	Con	38.2%	25.5%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Durham	Joy Allen	Lab	56.0%	25.4%	Incumbent	Female	Lab
Dyfed-Powys	Dafydd Llywelyn	PC	40.9%	19.0%	Incumbent	Male	PC
Essex	Roger Hirst	Con	37.1%	24.6%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Gloucestershire	Chris Nelson	Con	33.1%	29.1%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Gwent	Jane Mudd	Lab	41.7%	15.5%	Not Incumbent	Female	Lab
Hampshire	Donna Jones	Con	42.3%	28.0%	Incumbent	Female	Con
Hertfordshire	Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Con	36.7%	29.0%	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Humberside	Jonathan Evison	Con	40.0%	18.2%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Kent	Matthew Scott	Con	44.1%	20.0%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Lancashire	Clive Grunshaw	Lab	47.1%	25.4%	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
Leicestershire	Rupert Matthews	Con	35.3%	21.5%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Lincolnshire	Marc Jones	Con	36.6%	18.9%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Merseyside	Emily Spurrell	Lab	61.7%	23.5%	Incumbent	Female	Lab
Norfolk	Sarah Taylor	Lab	35.2%	21.0%	Not Incumbent	Female	Con
North Wales	Andy Dunbobbin	Lab	36.0%	17.0%	Incumbent	Male	Lab
Northamptonshire	Danielle Stone	Lab	39.3%	19.4%	Not Incumbent	Female	Con
Northumbria	Susan Dingworth	Lab	51.0%	32.3%	Not Incumbent	Female	Lab
Nottinghamshire	Gary Godden	Lab	52.1%	27.5%	Not Incumbent	Male	Con
South Wales	Emma Wools	Lab	45.2%	16.4%	Not Incumbent	Female	Lab
Staffordshire	Ben Adams	Con	45.6%	19.0%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Suffolk	Tim Passmore	Con	40.2%	22.7%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Surrey	Lisa Townsend	Con	36.4%	29.6%	Incumbent	Female	Con
Sussex	Katy Bourne	Con	39.7%	23.8%	Incumbent	Female	Con
Thames Valley	Matthew Barber	Con	32.1%	24.4%	Incumbent	Male	Con
Warwickshire	Philip Seccombe	Con	39.4%	25.6%	Incumbent	Male	Con
West Mercia	John-Paul Champion	Con	34.3%	21.5%	Incumbent	Male	Con
West Midlands	Simon Foster	Lab	57.5%	28.2%	Incumbent	Male	Lab
Wiltshire	Philip Wilkinson	Con	31.0%	22.5%	Incumbent	Male	Con

4 Candidates and turnout information

4.1 Candidates

A total of 136 candidates stood in the 37 PCC elections which successfully elected a candidate on 2 May 2024. Of these, 37 candidates were Conservative, 37 Labour, 35 Liberal Democrat, 4 Plaid Cymru, 8 Green, 7 Independents, and 8 others.

Of the same 37 PCCs that were elected in 2021, 31 stood for re-election (26 Conservative, 4 Labour, and 1 Plaid Cymru).

The number of candidates standing in each of these 37 elections ranged between five and two. The mode (most common) number of candidates standing was four.

Candidates by gender

The Democracy Club and the Fawcett Society estimated that across the 2021 local elections, Police and Crime Commissioner elections were the least representative of women. Women made up an estimated 22% of PCC candidates. This was broadly in line with the proportion of successful candidates in 2021 that were women (21%).

Across the PCC elections in 2024, an estimated 26% of PCC candidates and 32% of elected PCCs were women.

In 13 of 37 PCC elections (almost a third) no female candidates stood at all.

4.2 Turnout

Turnout figures were collated from each PCC individually, where this information was not publicly available. Two PCCs did not respond to requests for data and have been excluded.

Turnout averaged 23.2% across the (35 of 37) elections that took place (measured as valid votes as a proportion of the electorate) lower than the turnout for the 2021 elections (33.2%). Turnout was on average higher in the English PCCs compared to the Welsh PCCs.

For the previous two sets of PCC elections, the four Welsh PCCs had the highest turnouts. The three police areas with the highest turnout in 2024 were

Northumbria (32.3%), Surrey (29.6%) and Gloucestershire (29.1%). The three police areas with the lowest turnout were North Wales (17.0%), South Wales (16.4%) and Gwent (15.5%).

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Appendix

Detailed results by PCC, May 2024

	2021 result	2024 result	Turnout	% of votes						
				Con	Lab	PC	Lib	Green	Ind	Other
Avon & Somerset	Con	Lab	22.8%	31%	32%	-	15%	22%	-	-
Bedfordshire	Con	Lab	19.6%	35%	40%	-	16%	-	-	8%
Cambridgeshire	Con	Con	25.2%	38%	36%	-	26%	-	-	-
Cheshire	Con	Lab	21.4%	37%	48%	-	15%	-	-	-
Cleveland	Con	Lab	n/a	47%	53%	-	-	-	-	-
Cumbria	Con	Lab	n/a	30%	47%	-	22%	-	-	-
Derbyshire	Con	Lab	26.6%	31%	44%	-	11%	-	-	15%
Devon & Cornwall	Con	Con	22.2%	43%	35%	-	21%	-	-	-
Dorset	Con	Con	25.5%	38%	18%	-	23%	-	21%	-
Durham	Lab	Lab	25.4%	32%	56%	-	12%	-	-	-
Dyfed-Powys	PC	PC	19.0%	25%	24%	41%	10%	-	-	-
Essex	Con	Con	24.6%	37%	34%	-	16%	-	-	13%
Gloucestershire	Con	Con	29.1%	33%	24%	-	32%	-	11%	-
Gwent	Lab	Lab	15.5%	32%	42%	14%	12%	-	-	-
Hampshire	Con	Con	28.0%	42%	26%	-	22%	-	-	10%
Hertfordshire	Con	Con	29.0%	37%	26%	-	27%	10%	-	-
Humberside	Con	Con	18.2%	40%	36%	-	24%	-	-	-
Kent	Con	Con	20.0%	44%	34%	-	22%	-	-	-
Lancashire	Con	Lab	25.4%	35%	47%	-	18%	-	-	-
Leicestershire	Con	Con	21.5%	35%	35%	-	12%	13%	4%	-
Lincolnshire	Con	Con	18.9%	37%	30%	-	12%	-	-	14%
Merseyside	Lab	Lab	23.5%	14%	62%	-	11%	13%	-	-
Norfolk	Con	Lab	21.0%	34%	35%	-	15%	16%	-	-
North Wales	Lab	Lab	17.0%	30%	36%	26%	8%	-	-	-
Northamptonshire	Con	Lab	19.4%	36%	39%	-	25%	-	-	-
Northumbria	Lab	Lab	32.3%	23%	51%	-	17%	-	9%	-
Nottinghamshire	Con	Lab	27.5%	34%	52%	-	14%	-	-	-
South Wales	Lab	Lab	16.4%	27%	45%	17%	11%	-	-	-
Staffordshire	Con	Con	19.0%	46%	43%	-	11%	-	-	-
Suffolk	Con	Con	22.7%	40%	32%	-	11%	17%	-	-
Surrey	Con	Con	29.6%	36%	16%	-	31%	-	16%	-
Sussex	Con	Con	23.8%	40%	32%	-	14%	14%	-	-
Thames Valley	Con	Con	24.4%	32%	32%	-	19%	-	7%	10%
Warwickshire	Con	Con	25.6%	39%	39%	-	21%	-	-	-
West Mercia	Con	Con	21.5%	34%	29%	-	16%	10%	-	10%
West Midlands	Lab	Lab	28.2%	42%	58%	-	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	Con	Con	22.5%	31%	29%	-	16%	-	23%	-

Note: "-" represents where a candidate from that party did not stand.

Source: House of Commons Library

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