



Local elections 2011

Standard Note: 5665

Last updated: 13 August 2010

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Section: Social & General Statistics Section

Elections are due on Thursday 5 May 2011 in 279 English local authorities. Elections will also be held on the same day to the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and Northern Ireland Assembly. Scottish Council elections due in 2011 have been deferred until 2012 (and next in 2017 before returning to a 4-year cycle). In Northern Ireland, elections to the existing 26 local councils are also due to be held on 5 May 2011. These had previously been postponed from 2009, pending the reorganisation of Northern Ireland local government. This would have reduced the number of authorities to 11, but in June 2010 the NI Office announced the restructuring would not now go ahead.

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1 Where are elections taking place on 5 May 2011?

Local elections in England are due to take place on 5 May 2011 in:

- 36 Metropolitan Boroughs in England – all by thirds
- 49 Unitary authorities in England – 19 by thirds and 30 all-up
- 194 Second-tier districts in England– 70 by thirds and 124 all-up
- 26 district councils in Northern Ireland – all-up

Elections to the National Assembly for Wales, Scottish Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly will also take place on 5 May 2011.

The Government intends for these elections to be held alongside a referendum on voting reform, in order to minimise the number of occasions on which people are asked to vote. However in Northern Ireland there have been concerns that this might confuse voters and it has been speculated that the local elections there might instead be held in March.¹

2 How many voters will go to the polls in May?

Authorities in England with elections scheduled for 2011 have around 31 million electors. This is 79% of total local government electors in England. Across the UK as a whole, 38.4 million voters, 83% of local government electors, are scheduled to have elections in their area on 5 May 2011, for their local council and/or devolved legislature.

3 Local Authorities with elections in 2011

3.1 England

36 Metropolitan Boroughs (all by thirds)

Barnsley	Gateshead	Rochdale	Stockport
Birmingham	Kirklees	Rotherham	Sunderland
Bolton	Knowsley	Salford	Tameside
Bradford	Leeds	Sandwell	Trafford
Bury	Liverpool	Sefton	Wakefield
Calderdale	Manchester	Sheffield	Walsall
Coventry	Newcastle upon Tyne	Solihull	Wigan
Doncaster	North Tyneside	South Tyneside	Wirral
Dudley	Oldham	St Helens	Wolverhampton

30 Unitary Authorities all-up

(M) - simultaneous Mayoral election

Bath & N.E. Somerset	Cheshire West and Cheshire	North Lincolnshire	Stoke-on-Trent
Bedford (M)	Darlington	North Somerset	Telford & Wrekin
Blackpool	East Riding of Yorkshire	Nottingham	Torbay
Bournemouth	Herefordshire	Poole	West Berkshire
Bracknell Forest	Leicester	Redcar & Cleveland	Windsor & Maidenhead
Brighton & Hove	Luton	Rutland	York
Central Bedfordshire	Medway	South Gloucestershire	
Cheshire East	Middlesbrough (M)	Stockton-on-Tees	

¹ BBC News 5 July 2010 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10494223>

19 Unitary Authorities by thirds

Blackburn with Darwen	Kingston upon Hull	Portsmouth	Swindon
Bristol	Milton Keynes	Reading	Thurrock
Derby	North East Lincolnshire	Slough	Warrington
Halton	Peterborough	Southampton	Wokingham
Hartlepool	Plymouth	Southend-on-Sea	

124 Second-tier districts all-up

Links are to Electoral Change Orders coming into effect with these elections

*(M) - Simultaneous Mayoral election. * - slight boundary changes.*

Allerdale	East Devon	Mendip	South Northamptonshire
Arun	East Dorset	Mid Devon	South Oxfordshire
Ashfield	East Hampshire	Mid Suffolk	South Ribble
Ashford	East Hertfordshire	Mid Sussex	South Somerset
Aylesbury Vale	East Lindsey	New Forest	South Staffordshire
Babergh	East Northamptonshire	Newark & Sherwood	Spelthorne
Barrow-in-Furness	East Staffordshire	North Devon	St Edmundsbury
Blaby	Eden	North Dorset	Stafford
Bolsover	Epsom & Ewell	North East Derbyshire	Staffordshire Moorlands
Boston	Erewash	North Kesteven	Suffolk Coastal
Braintree	Fenland	North Norfolk	Surrey Heath
Breckland	Forest Heath	North Warwickshire	Taunton Deane
Broadland	Forest of Dean	North West Leicestershire	Teignbridge
Bromsgrove	Fylde	Northampton	Tending
Broxtowe	Gedling	Oadby & Wigston	Test Valley
Canterbury	Gravesham	Ribble Valley	Tewkesbury
Charnwood	Guildford	Richmondshire	Thanet
Chelmsford	Hambleton	Rother	Tonbridge & Malling
Chesterfield	Harborough	Rushcliffe	Torridge
Chichester	High Peak	Ryedale	Uttlesford*
Chiltern	Hinckley & Bosworth	Scarborough	Vale of White Horse
Christchurch	Horsham	Sedgemoor	Warwick
Copeland	Kettering*	Selby	Waverley
Corby	King's Lynn & W. Norfolk	Sevenoaks	Wealden
Cotswold	Lancaster	Shepway	Wellingborough *
Dacorum	Lewes	South Bucks	West Devon
Dartford	Lichfield	South Derbyshire	West Dorset
Derbyshire Dales	Maldon	South Hams	West Somerset
Dover	Malvern Hills	South Holland	Wychavon
Eastbourne	Mansfield (M)	South Kesteven	Wycombe
East Cambridgeshire	Melton	South Norfolk	Wyre

70 Second-tier districts by thirds

(M) - simultaneous Mayoral election * - slight boundary changes.

Amber Valley	Elmbridge	Norwich	Tamworth
Basildon	Epping Forest	Pendle	Tandridge
Basingstoke & Deane	Exeter	Preston	Three Rivers
Bassetlaw	Gloucester	Purbeck	Tunbridge Wells
Brentwood	Great Yarmouth	Redditch	Watford
Broxbourne	Harlow	Reigate & Banstead	Waveney
Burnley	Harrogate	Rochford	Welwyn Hatfield
Cambridge	Hart	Rossendale	West Lancashire
Cannock Chase	Havant	Rugby	West Lindsey
Carlisle	Hertsmere	Runnymede	West Oxfordshire
Castle Point	Huntingdonshire *	Rushmoor	Weymouth & Portland
Cherwell	Hyndburn	South Cambs	Winchester
Chorley	Ipswich	South Lakeland	Woking
Colchester	Lincoln	St Albans	Worcester
Craven	Maidstone*	Stevenage	Worthing
Crawley	Mole Valley	Stratford-on-Avon*	Wyre Forest
Daventry	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Stroud	
Eastleigh	North Hertfordshire	Swale	

Keith Edkins 2010. [Keith Edkins Local Government Site](#) (corrected)

3.2 Northern Ireland

26 District Councils - all-up

Antrim	Carrickfergus	Dungannon	Newry
Ards	Castlereagh	Fermanagh	Newtownabbey
Armagh	Coleraine	Lame	North
Ballymena	Cookstown	Limavady	Omagh
Ballymoney	Craigavon	Lisburn	Strabane
Banbridge	Derry	Magherafelt	
Belfast	Down	Moyle	

3.3 Scotland and Wales

Elections to the 22 unitary authorities in **Wales** are held every four years, and are next scheduled for 2012.

In **Scotland** local elections are now to be held on different dates from those for the Scottish Parliament. This is to avoid the voter confusion that was experienced in 2007 and give Scottish local government elections more prominence. Elections to councils in Scotland were due to have taken place in 2011, however, the current and next terms of local government have been extended by one year. As a result the next local government elections will take place in 2012 and 2017. Thereafter, local elections will revert to four year terms and take place at the mid-point in the Scottish Parliamentary term.