

Situations and procedures

Elections May 2012: Non-party campaigners

This document is specifically for elections in May 2012. It gives spending limits and reporting deadlines for non-party campaigners.

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Terms and expressions we use

We use '**must**' when we refer to a specific legal or regulatory requirement. We use '**should**' for items we consider to be minimum good practice, but which are not legal requirements.

You do not have to follow this guidance, but if you do, you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law.

Our approach to enforcement

If you do not comply with legal or regulatory requirements you or your organisation may be subject to civil or criminal sanctions. You can find more information about the Commission's approach to enforcement at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/party-finance/enforcement.

Elections in May 2012: Non-party campaigners

Who this document is for:

Non-party campaigners who want to know specific details of elections happening in May 2012.

The document covers:

- Elections happening in May 2012
- The regulated period
- Spending limits

Related documents:

- [Introduction for non-party campaigners](#)
- [Overview of non-party campaigns](#)
- [Overview of non-party campaign material](#)
- [Situation and procedures: Managing non-party campaign spending](#)
- [Situations and procedures: Hustings events](#)

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Summary

Non-party campaigners may have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections.

The rules that apply can vary from year to year.

This document explains which rules apply for elections in May 2012 and the relevant spending limits.

Introduction

Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. In electoral law, we also call these individuals or organisations ‘third parties’.

You may want to campaign on particular issues, or for or against particular parties or candidates.

The two types of non-party campaigns

There are two types of non-party campaigns:

- General campaigns – where you campaign for or against political parties, policies, political issues or types of candidates.
- Local campaigns – where you campaign for or against an individual candidate in a constituency or ward. This includes spending relating to a party fielding a list for the London-wide members of the Greater London Assembly.

You can find more information about the different types of campaign in our [Overview of non-party campaigns](#).

Our year-specific guidance

The spending limits vary between elections. Every year, we publish specific guidance for non-party campaigners on elections happening in that year.

This document sets out the particular regulated periods and spending limits for elections happening in May 2012.

You will need to read this guidance alongside our other guidance documents for non-party campaigners. That guidance explains the types of campaigning covered.

For more information see:

- [Introduction for non-party campaigners](#)
- [Overview of non-party campaigns](#)

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General campaigns at elections in May 2012

Which elections are regulated?

This year, there are no spending limits for general campaign spending at elections to:

- local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales
- the Greater London Authority

Spending on campaigning for or against a party that is fielding a list at the Greater London Authority election counts as local campaigning. You can read more about this in the next section.

The rules for the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales on 15 November 2012 may include limits on general campaign spending. We will publish a separate document for these elections when the rules have been finalised.

For more information on what we mean by 'general campaigns' and 'local campaigns', see this document:

- [Overview of non-party campaigns](#)

Local campaigns at elections in May 2012

Which elections are regulated?

This year, there are limits on local spending on campaigning for or against candidates at elections to:

- local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales
- the Greater London Authority – including spending on campaigning for or against a party that is fielding a list

The rules for the elections for Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales on 15 November 2012 may include limits on local campaign spending. We will publish a separate document for these elections when the rules have been finalised.

For more information on what we mean by 'general campaigns' and 'local campaigns', see this document:

- [Overview of non-party campaigns](#)

The regulated period

The 'regulated period' is the time during which spending limits and rules apply.

The regulated period applies from the date on which the person you are campaigning for or against becomes a candidate.

You can find more information about when people become candidates on our [guidance page for candidates and agents](#).

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Spending limits

Local government elections in England, Scotland and Wales	£50 plus 0.5p for each elector on the electoral register for the ward
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The Greater London Authority:

London mayor	£50 plus 0.5p for each elector on the electoral register for the Greater London Authority area
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London-wide party list or individual candidate	£50 plus 0.5p for each elector on the electoral register for the Greater London Authority area
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Constituency candidates	£50 plus 0.5p per elector on the electoral register in the relevant constituency
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How we can help

You can find more information in the guidance documents we have suggested in this document, or you can view our full range of guidance and up-to-date resources on our website.

If it's easier, you can also contact us on one of the phone numbers or email addresses below. We are here to help, so please get in touch.

Call us on:

- **England:** 020 7271 0616
pef@electoralcommission.org.uk
- **Scotland:** 0131 225 0200
infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk
- **Wales:** 029 2034 6800
infowales@electoralcommission.org.uk
- **Northern Ireland:** 028 9089 4020
infonorthernireland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Visit us at www.electoralcommission.org.uk

We welcome feedback on our guidance – just email us at:
pef@electoralcommission.org.uk

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Translations and other formats

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