



The  
Electoral  
Commission

Greater London Authority  
(GLA) elections

# Guidance for candidates and agents

Part 2a of 6 – Standing as a  
candidate for London Mayor

July 2021

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# Essential information

This section of the document contains guidance on standing as a candidate at the Mayor of London election.

Supplementary information, which may only be of relevance to some candidates, is provided at the back of this document. You can access this supplementary guidance by clicking on the links within this document or by clicking on the chapter heading on the contents page.

In this document we use 'you' to refer to candidates standing at the election of the Mayor of London. Where our guidance only applies to one type of candidate (for example, a party candidate) this will be specifically stated.

We use 'must' to refer to a specific legal requirement. We use 'should' for items we consider to be minimum good practice, but which are not legal or regulatory requirements. For further information on the terminology used in this guidance, see our [Overview document](#).

We have included relevant deadlines throughout this document, but you can also find a separate [election timetable](#) setting out all the key dates on the Commission's

We are here to help, so please contact London Elects if you have any questions about standing as a candidate. For any questions on election spending and donations, contact the Electoral Commission.

See our [Overview document](#) for contact details.

Data protection legislation applies to the processing of all personal data.

Please contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) for further information about how the General Data Protection Regulation affects you.



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the UK government legislated to reduce the number of subscribers that are required by each candidate for certain elections. This guidance reflects this legislation and the updated requirements for the nominations process. It is expected that these provisions will remain in place for relevant elections where the notice of election is published on or before 28 February 2022. We will update the guidance again when the provisions are no longer in force.

# Completing your nomination papers

1.1 To become nominated as a candidate at the Mayor of London election, you need to submit a completed set of nomination papers to the place fixed by the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) with a £10,000 deposit by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). This deadline is set out in law and cannot be changed for any reason.

1.2 The start date from which you will be able to submit nomination papers, as well as the times and place for delivery, will be set out in the official notice of election published by the GLRO.

1.3 There are three nomination papers that you must submit for your nomination to be valid:

- the nomination form
- home address form
- your consent to nomination

1.4 To stand on behalf of a registered political party, the party must be registered on the Commission's register of political parties at <http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk> and be listed as allowed to field candidates in England. You will also need to submit the following:

- A certificate authorising you to use the party name or a registered description on the ballot paper (known as the certificate of authorisation). For more details on the certificate of authorisation, see paragraph **1.21**.
- A written request to use one of the party's emblems (if you would like one to appear on the ballot paper). For more information on the emblem request form, see paragraph **1.25**.

1.5 You can obtain all of the relevant nomination papers from the GLRO. See our [Overview document](#) for contact details.

1.6 If you, your agent or someone you trust are unable to complete the nomination form, the GLRO can help by preparing the form for your signature.

The last day for publishing the notice of election is 30 working days before the poll).

All Mayoral candidates have an opportunity to make an 'election address' telling voters about their policies. This will be included in the Mayoral booklet produced by the GLRO. Guidance on the election address is provided in [Part 4 – the campaign](#).

1.7 Note that any information you provide on your nomination papers must be true to the best of your knowledge. It is an offence to provide a false statement on your nomination papers. Providing a false statement could invalidate your election, and is also punishable by an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

## Informal checks

1.8 The GLRO will offer informal checks of your completed nomination papers before you submit them, and we very strongly recommend that you take advantage of this. An informal check may help to identify any errors in your nomination papers, allowing you to rectify these before formal submission by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll).

1.9 London Elects will offer informal checks. You will be able to book an appointment by contacting London Elects. Contact details can be found in our [Overview document](#).

## The nomination form

1.10 The nomination form must be completed in English. The form must contain:

- **Your full name.** This means your surname and other names in full. Using initials only could lead to your nomination paper being rejected. Also, do not use prefixes such as Mr, Mrs, Dr or Cllr as part of your name. The same applies to suffixes. However, if you have a title, you can use this as your full name. For example, if your actual name is Joseph Smith but your hereditary title is Joseph Avon, you can use the name Joseph Avon as your full name.



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the UK government legislated to reduce the number of subscribers that are required by each candidate for certain elections. This guidance reflects this legislation and the updated requirements for the nominations process. It is expected that these provisions will remain in place for relevant elections where the notice of election is published on or before 28 February 2022. We will update the guidance again when the provisions are no longer in force.

The RO can hold your nomination paper invalid if the particulars of your nomination are not as required by law.

The RO can also reject your nomination if they conclude that it is clearly a sham, for example, if an obviously fictitious name is provided.

Data protection legislation applies to the processing of all personal data.

Please contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) for further information about how the General Data Protection Regulation affects you.

Your name, address and description should be written on the nomination form **before** you ask subscribers to sign the form.

- **Signatures of 66 registered electors (known as subscribers)** you need two subscribers from each London borough and two from the City of London. Your subscribers must be on the local government electoral register published on the electoral register that is in force on the last day for publication of the notice of election). It is worth collecting extra subscribers in case any of your submitted are invalid.

To find out how to obtain the electoral register, see: [Part 4: The Campaign](#)

The following are optional:

- **A commonly used name:** If you commonly use a name that is different from any forename(s) or surname that you have and you wish this to appear on the ballot paper, you need to state this on the nomination form. See paragraph Error! Reference source not found. for further details.
- **A description:** You can ask for one of the following descriptions to appear on the ballot paper.

**Independent candidates:** If you want the word 'Independent' to appear on the ballot paper underneath your name, you need to state this on the nomination form. No other descriptions are allowed for candidates who are not standing on behalf of a registered political party. Alternatively, you may choose not to have a description at all by leaving this part of the form blank.

For information on how to register a political party, see [the Commission's website](#)

**Party candidates:** You can ask for either the party's name as registered with the Commission or one of the party's registered descriptions to appear on the ballot paper underneath your name.

If you want to use a party name or description, you must submit alongside your other nomination papers a certificate that shows that you are authorised to use the party's name or description (known as a certificate of authorisation). The certificate must be issued by the registered party's Nominating Officer (or someone authorised to act on their behalf) and be received by the GLRO by the nominations deadline, 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). Further information on the certificate is provided in paragraph 1.21.

Registered party names and registered descriptions can be found on the Commission's online register of political parties:

<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk>

If you are standing on behalf of two or more parties, you may use a joint description as registered with the Commission. In that case, you will need authorisation from

the Nominating Officer for each of the registered parties (or people authorised to act on their behalf).

You should take particular care when completing the descriptions field on the nomination form. The party name or chosen description used on the form must exactly match the party name / description on the Commission's [online register of political parties](#). If it does not, the nomination will be rejected.

You may choose not to have a description at all by leaving the description field of the form blank.

## Home address form

1.11 This is a new requirement. The home address form must state:

- your full name (see paragraph **1.10**)
- your home address in full
- your qualifying address, or, where you have declared on your consent to nomination that you meet more than one qualification, your qualifying addresses
- which of the qualifications your qualifying address or addresses relate to
- the full name and the home address in full of the witness to your consent to nomination form

1.12 Your home address:

- must be completed in full
- must not contain abbreviations
- must be your current home address
- must not be a business address (unless you run a business from your home)

1.13 You may choose for your home address not to be published on the statement of persons nominated or the ballot paper. If you do not do so then your home address will be published in full on both.

1.14 In this case the home address form must contain, as well as your full name and home address:

- a statement, signed by you, which states that you require your home address not to be made public

- the name of the relevant area in which your home address is situated (if your home address is in the UK)
- if you live outside the UK, the name of the country in which your home address is situated

## Meaning of qualifying address and relevant area

### 1.15 Qualifying address means:

- where you have selected option (a) on the consent to nomination, the address in full where you are registered as a local government elector for Greater London
- where you have selected option (b) on the consent to nomination, a description and the address of that land or premises in Greater London which you have occupied as owner or tenant
- where you have selected option (c) on the consent to nomination, the address of your principal or only place of work in Greater London
- where you have selected option (d) on the consent to nomination, the address or addresses in Greater London where you have resided

### 1.16 Relevant area means:

- **For home addresses in England:**
  - if the address is within a district for which there is a district council, that district;
  - if the address is within a county in which there are no districts, that county;
  - if the address is within a London borough, that London borough;
  - if the address is within the City of London (including the Inner and Middle Temples), the City of London; and
  - if the address is within the Isles of Scilly, the Isles of Scilly
- **For home addresses in Wales:**
  - if the address is within a county, that county;
  - if the address is within a county borough, that county borough
- **For home addresses in Scotland:**
  - the local government area in which the address is situated
- **For home addresses in Northern Ireland:**

- the local government district in which the address is situated

## Consent to nomination

1.17 You must also formally consent to your nomination in writing. The content of the consent to nomination form is fixed by law. On the consent to nomination form you will be asked to state that you are qualified and not disqualified from standing. You must also state your date of birth.

1.18 You must meet at least one of the qualifications to stand for election, as explained in [Part 1: Can you stand for election?](#) On the consent to nomination form you should state as many of the qualifications as apply.

1.19 You are not allowed to sign the consent form earlier than one calendar month before the deadline for submitting your nomination papers. Your signature must be witnessed and the witness must attest the form. The witness's full name and address in full must be provided on the home address form. There are no restrictions on who can be a witness to the consent to nomination.

## The certificate of authorisation – party candidates only

1.20 Political parties authorise candidates to stand for them by issuing a certificate of authorisation. This must state that the named candidate can stand on their behalf and allow them to use one of the following:

- the exact party name as registered with the Commission
- one of the party's registered descriptions
- your choice of either the registered party name or one of the registered descriptions

1.21 Particular care should be taken by the Nominating Officer (or someone authorised to act on their behalf) when completing the certificate of authorisation. If the certificate explicitly authorises a particular party name/description and this does not match the party name/description on the nomination paper, the whole nomination will be invalid.

1.22 The certificate of authorisation must be signed by the registered Nominating Officer of the political party or by someone

Registered party names and descriptions can be found on the Commission's online register of political parties:  
<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

authorised by the Nominating Officer to act on their behalf. It must be received by the GLRO by the nominations deadline, 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll).

## Request to use an emblem on the ballot paper – party candidates only

1.23 If you have been authorised by a political party to use the party name or a registered description on the ballot paper, you can also request that one of the party's official emblems is printed on the ballot paper next to your name.

1.24 You must make the request for an emblem in writing and deliver it to the GLRO. The request must be received by the GLRO by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). The GLRO will supply you with a form you can use to make this request.

1.25 The request should state both the name of the party and the description of the emblem to be used, as listed on the [Commission's online register of political parties](http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/). Registered emblems cannot be varied in any way.

1.26 Candidates standing on behalf of two or more registered parties and using a joint description can use an emblem that has been registered by one of the relevant parties. The request must be made in writing and delivered to the GLRO by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll. The request should state the name of the political party that has registered the emblem that you wish to use and the description of the emblem to be used, as listed on the [Commission's online register of political parties](http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/).

## Submitting your nomination papers

1.27 All nomination papers, including the home address form and the consent to nomination and, where relevant, the certificate of authorisation and emblem request form, must be delivered to the GLRO at the place specified on the notice of election by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll.

Emblems can be viewed or downloaded from the Commission's online register of political parties:

<http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

1.28 It is your responsibility to ensure that all of your nomination papers are delivered in the correct manner and by the required deadlines.

## Who can deliver the nomination papers?

1.29 There are no restrictions on who may deliver your nomination papers, but we recommend that you, your agent or someone you trust does this, so you can be sure they are delivered to the GLRO in time. The GLRO may request that the person delivering the nomination papers has written authorisation from you.

## How must nomination papers be submitted?

1.30 The nomination form, the home address form and consent to nomination must be submitted in hardcopy by hand and cannot be submitted by post, fax, e-mail or other electronic means.

1.31 The certificate of authorisation and the emblem request form may be submitted in hardcopy by post, but may not be submitted by fax, e-mail or other electronic means.

1.32 The **original version** of each completed paper must be submitted. A certificate of authorisation which has been sent as an attachment to an e-mail to be printed out, for example, would make it a 'copy document' and not the original document.

1.33 Although you are not required to, you are advised to submit all your nominations papers at the same time and at an appointment, booked in advance, with London Elects. See our [Overview document](#) for contact details.

All Mayoral candidates have an opportunity to make an 'election address' telling voters about their policies. This will be included in the Mayoral booklet produced by the GLRO. Guidance on the election address is provided in [Part 4 – the campaign](#).

## When must nomination papers be submitted?

1.34 You are very strongly advised to have your papers informally checked before submitting them. This will give you an opportunity to correct any errors identified. London Elects will offer informal checks. You will be able to book an appointment for an informal check by contacting London Elects. Contact details can be found in our [Overview document](#).

1.35 The GLRO will confirm the exact details of when and where nomination papers can be delivered on the official notice of election. The notice of election will be published no later than thirty working days before the poll). The notice of election will be

published on London Elects' website at [www.londonelects.org.uk](http://www.londonelects.org.uk) and in each Assembly constituency.

1.36 Nomination papers can only be delivered from the date stated on the notice of election, on any working day during the hours stated, until 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). The 4 pm deadline is strict so no exceptions will be made for late submissions. This deadline is set out in law and cannot be changed for any reason.

1.37 You should contact the GLRO as soon as possible to find out what arrangements are in place for submitting nomination papers. You should submit your nomination papers as early as possible to give you sufficient time to submit new nomination papers if your first set contains any errors.

1.38 After you have submitted your nomination papers you will be sent a notice by the GLRO to let you know whether or not your nomination is valid.

1.39 If, after you have submitted your nomination papers you change your mind and no longer want to stand for election, you can withdraw, provided you do so by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). For more details on withdrawing, see paragraphs **1.46** to **1.50**.

## The deposit

1.40 For your nomination to be valid, the sum of £10,000 must be deposited with the GLRO by the deadline for the delivery of nominations by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll. The deposit can be made using:

- cash (British pounds only)<sup>1</sup>
- a UK banker's draft

1.41 The GLRO will also accept a deposit made by electronic funds transfer, which is preferred for security reasons, and will advise you of the bank account in which the funds should be deposited. The GLRO does not intend to accept payment of deposits by cheque, debit or credit card

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<sup>1</sup> The GLRO has requested £20 denominations or higher.

1.42 Where payment is made by electronic transfer, candidates or their agents are responsible for ensuring cleared funds are received by the GLRO by the deadline for the delivery of nominations, 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll. This deadline is set out in law and cannot be changed for any reason. You are strongly advised to have made the deposit by the time that you submit your nomination papers.

1.43 Unless the person making the deposit is your election agent and you have notified the GLRO of their appointment, the person making the deposit must at the time they make it give their name and address to the GLRO.

1.44 After the election, the deposit will be returned if you poll more than 5% of the total number of valid first preference votes cast. Those candidates who have polled less than, or equal to, 5% of the total number of valid first preference votes cast will lose their deposit.

## Withdrawing

1.45 You may withdraw as a candidate by signing and submitting a withdrawal notice, which must be witnessed by one other person. Your witness must give their name and address and also sign the notice. There are no restrictions on who may submit the notice, but it must be delivered by hand.

1.46 A notice of withdrawal can be obtained from the GLRO.

1.47 The withdrawal notice must be submitted to the GLRO by the deadline for withdrawals, by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll. After the withdrawal deadline it is not possible to withdraw from the election, and your name will appear on the ballot paper. If the election is uncontested, you will be declared elected.

1.48 If you are outside the United Kingdom, your election agent can sign the withdrawal notice, and it must be accompanied by a written declaration stating that you are absent from the United Kingdom. However, if you are nominated by more than one nomination paper, the declaration must be accompanied by a written statement signed by you authorising your agent to give this notice while you are absent from the United Kingdom.

1.49 If you withdraw as a candidate, your deposit will be returned.

# What happens after the close of nominations?

1.50 The GLRO will publish a statement of persons nominated for the Mayor of London election by not later than 4pm on the twenty-second working day before the poll. The statement will be published on London Elects' website at [www.londonelects.org.uk](http://www.londonelects.org.uk) and will include:

- the full or commonly used names, as the case may be, of all candidates validly nominated
- the names of candidates who no longer stand nominated, if any (i.e. invalid and withdrawn candidates), with the reason why they are no longer standing
- the address of each candidate, or if they have requested not to make their home address public, the name of the relevant area in which their home address is situated (or the country if their home address is situated outside the UK)
- each candidate's description (if any)

## Inspecting other candidates' nomination forms and consent to nomination forms

1.51 From 24 hours after the close of nominations until the day before the poll, nomination forms and consents to nomination that have been delivered are open to inspection during normal office hours, and any member of the public can take a copy of them.

### Inspecting the home address form

During normal office hours from 24 hours after the close of nominations until the day before the poll, only certain people are entitled to inspect home address forms. These people are:

- any (other) person standing nominated as a candidate in the same mayoral election as you
- the election agent of any other person standing nominated as a candidate in the same mayoral election as you (or, if

the candidate is acting as their own agent, any person nominated by them)

- any two persons (but no more) who have subscribed a nomination paper for any other person standing nominated as a candidate in the same mayoral election as you

1.1 If you have been nominated by more than one nomination paper, the subscribers who are entitled to inspect are those that appear on the nomination paper chosen by you. If you do not choose a nomination paper, this will be the first paper delivered.

1.2 No person is permitted to take an extract from them or make a copy of them.

## Appointing your election agent and other agents

1.52 The election agent is the person responsible for the proper management of your election campaign and, in particular, for its financial management. You must have an election agent. If you do not appoint an agent, you will become your own agent by default.

1.53 Once appointed, payments for election expenses can only be made by or through the election agent.

1.54 You can also appoint other agents to observe the following electoral processes, which both you and your election agent are also entitled to observe:

- the opening of postal votes
- the poll
- the count

### Who can be an election agent?

1.55 There are no particular qualifications needed to be an election agent and you can be your own agent if you wish.

1.56 However, the following people are not allowed to be election agents:

- the GLRO, a Constituency Returning Officer (CRO) or a member of their staff

For more information about candidate spending, see: [Part 3: Spending and donations](#)

It is helpful also to provide a contact telephone number and email address for your election agent so that they can be easily contacted by the GLRO or a Constituency Returning Officer.

- a partner or clerk of the GLRO, a CRO or a member of their staff<sup>i</sup>
- anyone not entitled to vote at the election as a result of the report of an election court or a conviction for a corrupt or illegal practice under the Representation of the People Act 1983<sup>ii</sup>

1.57 If you are standing on behalf of a party, they may also have specific rules about who you can appoint as an election agent.

## Appointing an election agent

1.58 Because of the responsibilities attached to the role of an election agent you should consider carefully who you are going to appoint and make sure that they understand their obligations. You can be your own agent if you wish.

1.59 You, or someone on your behalf, must declare in writing the name and address of your election agent to the GLRO by 4pm on the twenty-fourth working day before the poll). The declaration should be signed by you (or the person making the declaration on your behalf) and by the agent to show their acceptance of the appointment.

1.60 The GLRO will provide a declaration form you can use. If you do not appoint someone as your agent by the deadline, you will automatically become your own agent.

1.61 Your agent's office address must be:

- within Greater London, or
- within a UK parliamentary constituency that is within or adjoins Greater London

1.62 The agent's office address will often be their home address, but it could be the local party office or an office set up for the election. If the person who will be your agent does not want their home address published they should arrange to have an office address.

1.63 The office address declared to the GLRO must be an address to which any legal notices can be delivered and therefore must be a physical address – PO boxes or similar mailboxes cannot be used.

1.64 If you act as your own election agent, unless you provide an office address, your home address as provided on the home address form will be published on the notice of election agents.

1.65 This is the case even where you have chosen to withhold your home address from the statement of persons nominated and ballot paper.

## Revoking an election agent's appointment

1.66 You can revoke the appointment of your election agent at any time, including after polling day, and a new appointment can be made in the same manner as outlined above. If you revoke your election agent's appointment and do not appoint anyone else, you will be deemed to be your own election agent.

1.67 If you are acting as your own agent you can revoke your own appointment and appoint someone else as your agent.

1.68 Once an agent has accepted their appointment, they cannot resign and must fulfil the duties required of them unless you revoke their appointment.

## Sub-agents

1.69 Your election agent may appoint sub-agents to act on their behalf in any part of the Greater London Authority area, as long as those parts do not overlap. The agent can determine the parts into which they wish to sub-divide the area.

1.70 A sub-agent may do anything that the election agent is entitled to do within the area to which they are appointed.

1.71 The election agent should ensure that any sub-agent is aware of the election and spending rules, as anything done by a sub-agent will be treated as if it had been done by the election agent. For further information on election spending, see [Part 3: Spending and donations](#).

1.72 Each sub-agent must have an office to which any legal notices can be delivered and therefore must be a physical address – PO boxes or similar mailboxes cannot be used. The office of the sub-agent must be in the area within which they are appointed to act.

1.73 The election agent must notify the GLRO in writing of the name and address of each sub-agent and the area within the Greater London Authority area within which they have been appointed to act by the second working day before the poll). The Constituency Returning Officer or the GLRO will provide a form you can use.

1.74 The election agent can revoke the appointment of a sub-agent at any time and appoint someone else in their place. If another sub-agent is appointed, the election agent must declare in writing the name, address, office address and area of appointment to the relevant Returning Officer.

## Appointing postal voting, polling and counting agents

1.75 You or your election agent may also appoint agents to attend postal vote openings, polling stations and the count.

1.76 Anyone, apart from those listed in paragraph **1.57**, can be appointed as a postal vote, polling or counting agent. The same person may be appointed as a polling, postal voting or counting agent for more than one candidate. You and your election agent can also automatically act as one of these agents without the need of an official appointment.

1.77 The number of agents who may be appointed to any particular polling station is limited to four, or such greater number as the Constituency Returning Officer decides to allow. If more than that number are appointed, the Constituency Returning Officer will draw lots to determine those people who may attend. Only one polling agent for each candidate can be present in a polling station at any time, but a polling agent can be appointed to attend multiple polling stations. Your right and your election agent's right to attend will remain unaffected by this.

1.78 The Constituency Returning Officer will tell you the maximum number of postal voting agents you can appoint. All candidates will be allowed to appoint exactly the same number.

1.79 The request to appoint polling agents and postal voting agents must be made in writing to the Constituency Returning Officer. It must contain the names and addresses of the people being appointed. The Constituency Returning Officer will provide the relevant forms for this.

1.80 The GLRO will manage the process for appointing counting agents for the Mayoral election. The request to appoint counting agents must be made in writing to the GLRO. It must contain the names and addresses of the people being appointed. The GLRO will provide the relevant forms for this and explain the process.

1.81 The deadline for appointing these agents will depend on the process they are to attend. Polling and counting agents must be

appointed by the fifth working day before the poll). However, appointment forms for postal voting agents only need to be submitted to the Constituency Returning Officer by the time fixed for the opening of postal votes they want to attend. The Constituency Returning Officer will give you at least 48 hours' notice before the scheduled start of each opening session.

1.82 If an agent dies or becomes incapable of acting, you may appoint another agent in their place by submitting the relevant appointment form to the relevant Returning Officer. Any new appointment in these circumstances must be made without delay.

1.83 More information on what agents can and cannot do and what they can expect to see at postal vote opening sessions, polling stations and the count, can be found in [Part 5: Your right to attend key electoral events](#).

## Death of a candidate

1.84 If a candidate dies during the election period, see paragraph **1.99** for further information on how this will affect the election.

# Supplementary information

## Commonly used name(s)

1.85 You can request to use a commonly used forename, surname or both. For example, you may be known by your abbreviated name 'Andy', rather than your full first name 'Andrew'. In that case, you can write 'Andy' into the commonly used forename box on the nomination paper if you would rather that name appear on the ballot paper.

1.86 However, you cannot use your first name as a commonly used name so that only your first name and surname appear on a ballot paper, thus excluding your middle name. The legislation makes it clear that a commonly used name is one which is different from **any other** forename or surname. This means that a forename in its original format cannot be used as a commonly used name. If you wish to use a commonly used forename and/or surname then these must be different from your full name as it appears on the nomination form. For example, if your full name was 'Andrew John Smith', you could not use Andrew Smith as your commonly used name, although you would be able to use 'Andy Smith' (if 'Andy' was the name by which you are commonly known).

1.87 You may also use initials as part of your commonly used name if you are commonly known by them.

1.88 The GLRO must carry forward the commonly used name provided on the nomination form to the statement of persons nominated unless the GLRO thinks the commonly used name is likely to mislead or confuse electors, or are obscene or offensive. If the name(s) are not permissible, the GLRO will write to you stating the reason for rejection. In those cases, your actual name will be used instead.

1.89 If either the commonly used forename or surname box on the nomination paper is left blank, then your actual forename or

surname, depending on which commonly used name box has been left blank, will be used.

1.90 It is an offence to give a false statement on your nomination papers. Therefore, if you choose to provide a commonly used name you must ensure that it is a forename or surname which you commonly use.

## Signatures of subscribers



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the UK government legislated to reduce the number of subscribers that are required by each candidate for certain elections. This guidance reflects this legislation and the updated requirements for the nominations process. It is expected that these provisions will remain in place for relevant elections where the notice of election is published on or before 28 February 2022. We will update the guidance again when the provisions are no longer in force.

1.91 Each nomination form needs to be signed (subscribed) by 66 registered electors – two from each London Borough and two from the City of London. Your subscribers must be registered on the register the register that is in force on the last day for publication of the notice of election. Each subscriber must sign under the heading of the local authority in which they are registered. The subscriber must also be 18 or over on polling day.

1.92 The elector number of each subscriber must be entered on the nomination form as it appears on the electoral register, including the distinctive numbers or letters of the polling district. The distinctive numbers/letters of the polling district can usually be found at the front of the register. The Electoral Registration Officer for each London borough and the City of London will be able to advise you how their register is laid out.

To find out how to obtain the electoral register, see: [Part 4: The Campaign](#)

Your name and any description should be written on the nomination form **before** you ask subscribers to sign the form.

1.93 As a Mayoral candidate, you will be entitled to a free copy of the electoral registers for the Greater London area. You should use the registers to ensure that your nomination form is properly subscribed.

1.94 An elector may **not** subscribe more than one nomination form for the same Mayor of London election. You should therefore always enquire, before asking a subscriber to sign your form, if they have already signed someone else's. If your nomination form is subscribed by someone who has signed another candidate's form and that form is submitted first, your nomination will be held invalid<sup>iii</sup>.

1.95 When the nomination form is formally submitted, if it contains the signatures of more than the required number of electors assenting to the nomination, only the first two signatures from each London borough or the City of London will be accepted. If any of these subscribers is invalid, the GLRO must hold the nomination form invalid, regardless of whether the form contains more than the required two signatures from each London borough and the City.

1.96 You are advised to have your nomination papers informally checked before submitting them. This will give you an opportunity to correct any errors identified. London Elects will offer informal checks. You will be able to book an appointment for an informal check by contacting London Elects. Contact details can be found in our [Overview document](#).

1.97 Nomination forms should not be altered once they are subscribed. All of your details should be completed before you invite anyone to subscribe your nomination. Once the GLRO has formally accepted a nomination form, signatures cannot be withdrawn.

1.98 Once you officially become a candidate you are entitled to receive a free copy of the full electoral register. As explained in [Part 4: The Campaign](#) – which also details how you can request a copy of the electoral register, and how it can be used – the earliest date that you can officially become a candidate is thirty working days before polling day. . If you require access to the full electoral register before this time to prepare your nomination, it can be inspected under supervision at the relevant local authority. However, only hand written notes may be taken.

There may be some electors on the register who have registered anonymously because of risks to their safety.

Anonymous electors may not subscribe nomination forms.

Anonymous electors are shown on the register with just their poll number and the letter 'N' (rather than with their name and address).

Data protection legislation applies to the processing of all personal data.

Please contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) for further information about how the General Data Protection Regulation affects you.

## Death of a candidate

1.99 The procedure to be followed in the event of the death of a candidate in a Mayor of London election depends on whether the candidate who dies is an independent or a registered party candidate. If a registered party candidate dies then the poll is cancelled. If an independent candidate dies, then the poll still proceeds – unless there are only two persons who are standing as candidates and the death would make the election uncontested. In that case, the poll will be cancelled.

1.100 Should a fellow candidate die during the campaign, the GLRO will provide you with further guidance.

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