

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections in England and Wales: Non-party Campaigners

Who this document is for:

Non-party campaigners who want to know more about the rules on non-party campaigning in the run-up to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections happening on 15 November 2012.

The rules are also relevant to candidates at PCC elections who issue material supporting another candidate, for instance as a second preference.

The document covers:

- PCC elections happening on 15 November 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

There are circumstances set out in electoral law in which 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 the PCC elections on 15 November 2012 and the relevant spending limits.

Introduction

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

You may be a non-party campaigner if you want to campaign on particular issues, or for or against particular parties or candidates.

The PCC elections use the supplementary vote, which means that voters can mark a second preference on the ballot sheet in addition to their first preference. Candidates who spend money on promoting another candidate will be treated as non-party campaigners in respect of this spending. For instance, if a candidate issues a leaflet encouraging voters to give their second preference to another candidate, that spending will be non-party campaigning.

Where a candidate spends money on criticising another candidate that will count as candidate spending.

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 police area

You can find more information about the different types of campaign in our overview of non-party campaigns document.

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.

For further information, please see our guidance for candidates and agents:

- [Guidance on spending and donations](#)

For more information see:

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

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This document sets out the regulated period and spending limits for the PCC elections happening on 15 November 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.

General campaigns

There are no limits for general campaign spending at the PCC elections in England and Wales on 15 November 2012.

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Local campaigns for the PCC elections on 15 November 2012

There are limits on local spending on campaigning for or against candidates at the PCC elections.

Each police area has its own spending limit.

The regulated period

When we use the term 'regulated period' we mean the time during which the spending limits and rules apply.

The regulated period for the PCC elections applies from the date on which the person you are campaigning for or against becomes a candidate. The earliest date on which someone can become a candidate is **8 October 2012**.

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

Who regulates local non-party campaigns?

We do not regulate local non-party campaigning at the PCC elections. Any complaints about breaches of the rules should be made to the police.

Spending limits for non-party campaigners

There are limits on how much you can spend on the campaign that are set by law. The table below sets out the spending limits by police area.

Table 1: Spending limits for non-party campaigners

Police area	Spending limit	Police area	Spending limit
Avon and Somerset	£6,278	Gloucestershire	£2,422
Bedfordshire	£2,347	Greater Manchester	£10,046
Cambridgeshire	£3,055	Gwent	£2,199
Cheshire	£4,015	Hampshire	£7,345
Cleveland	£2,155	Hertfordshire	£4,260
Cumbria	£2,024	Humberside	£3,557
Derbyshire	£3,993	Kent	£6,433
Devon and Cornwall	£6,573	Lancashire	£5,682
Dorset	£3,003	Leicestershire	£3,952
Durham	£2,499	Lincolnshire	£2,805
Dyfed-Powys	£2,035	Merseyside	£5,139
Essex	£6,605	Norfolk	£3,392

For details of what types of spending are covered within this limit, see

- [guidance on spending and donations](#)

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Northamptonshire	£2,686	Surrey	£4,345
Northumbria	£5,507	Sussex	£6,197
North Wales	£2,674	Thames Valley	£8,551
North Yorkshire	£3,142	Warwickshire	£2,144
Nottinghamshire	£4,116	West Mercia	£4,750
South Wales	£4,904	West Midlands	£10,080
South Yorkshire	£5,030	West Yorkshire	£8,098
Staffordshire	£4,314	Wiltshire	£2,630
Suffolk	£2,828		

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.

Contact us on:

England: 020 7271 0616

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Wales: 029 2034 6800

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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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