

Key information for candidates

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections – 6 May 2021

[The Electoral Commission website](#) outlines eligibility to stand for election in each type of poll and publishes [comprehensive guidance and resources for candidates and agents](#) for all polls. This includes rules on spending, donations, and campaigning.

- All nomination queries must be directed to the Police Area Returning Officer at Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. SY2 6ND. 01743 252763
e-mail: elections@shropshire.gov.uk
- Advice on electoral deadlines and procedures is also available from the Local Returning Officer at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ and at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forthcomingelections

Key dates

Grey boxes show candidate-specific deadlines. White boxes show key voter deadlines candidates should also be aware of.

22 March	Publication of Notice of Election at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ and online at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forthcomingelections – candidate nominations open from the time stated on Notice until 4pm on 8 April.
	Poll cards dispatched to all electors registered to vote on 22 March
TBC	Election addresses to be submitted. The Police Area Returning Officer will provide detail for your area. General guidance is available on the Electoral Commission factsheet .
8 April	Candidate nominations close - 4pm deadline for delivery of nomination papers, consent to nominations and homes address forms.

	Deadline for withdrawals of nominations – 4pm.
	Deadline for notification of appointment of election agent – 4pm. Does not apply to parish elections.
	Objections may be made between 10am and midday to all delivered nominations, and between midday and 5pm to any nomination delivered after 4pm on Wednesday 7 April.
	Official Statement of Persons Nominated lists published at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/forthcomingelections any time from the close of nominations until 4pm on Friday 9 April.
19 April	Last date for voter registration – 11:59pm deadline.
20 April	Last date to apply for a postal vote - 5pm deadline.
	Total electorate for the local authority area available after this date. Please email elections@herefordshire.gov.uk to request the figures. Police Area electorate will be available from elections@shropshire.gov.uk
13 – 16 April	Postal vote issue, including service voters.
27 April	Last date to apply for a proxy vote (not emergency proxy) – 5pm deadline.
28 April	Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents.
	Deadline for notification of sub-agents.
29 April	First day to reissue any lost or spoilt postal ballot papers. Voters can inform us that their ballot has not arrived before this date.
6 May	Until 5pm, last day electors can apply for a replacement for spoilt or lost postal vote. Replacement postal ballot packs will only be issued in person to the elector themselves at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ.
6 May	Polling day – polls open 7am to 10pm
	Emergency proxy vote applications for medical or work-related emergencies will only be accepted in person at Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ until 5pm. More details on the circumstances in

	<p>which an emergency proxy may be requested can be found on the Electoral Commission website.</p>
	<p>Ballot box drop off from 10pm onwards at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hereford Leisure Centre • St Katherine's Hall, High Street, Ledbury, HR8 1DZ • Kington Town Football Club, Mill Street, Kington, HR5 3AL • Leominster Sports & Social Club, South Street, Leominster, HR6 8JQ • The Bromyard Centre, Cruxwell Street, Bromyard, HR7 4EB • Ross Swimming Pool, Red Meadow, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 7DB
7 May	<p>Ballot paper verification at Hereford Leisure Centre from 10am onwards. Requests to attend any aspect of a count should be made to Electoral Services, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ or elections@herefordshire.gov.uk by 28 April. All local by-elections and Neighbourhood Planning referendums will be counted after verification.</p>
10 May	<p>Vote counting will take place across the Police Authority area at the same time. Results will be collated and declared centrally by the Police Area Returning Officer.</p> <p>Estimated time/s of announcement is to be confirmed.</p>

Nominations

- Nomination papers, consent to nominations and home address forms must be delivered by hand to the Police Area Returning Officer between 10am and 4pm at **Shropshire Council, The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND** on any day between 23 March and the nomination deadline which is 4pm on Thursday 8 April.
- Covid-19 safety measures will be in place when nominations are delivered. These will be confirmed in advance and may mean the process takes longer than usual.

You should factor this into your timings, particularly in areas with multiple combinations of polls.

- The Police Area Returning Officer may offer informal checks of completed nomination papers before you officially submit them to identify anything that could cause your nomination to be rejected.
- If you change your mind and no longer want to stand for election after your valid nomination has been accepted, you can withdraw. You must do this by 4pm on Thursday 8 April.
- Any information on your nomination papers must be true to the best of your knowledge. Providing a false statement could invalidate your election and is punishable by an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

Nominations (by-elections)

- Nomination papers, consent to nominations and home address forms must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer between 10am and 4pm at **Assembly Hall, Town Hall, St Owen Street, Hereford, HR1 2PJ** on any day between 23 March and the nomination deadline which is 4pm on Thursday 8 April.
- Covid-19 safety measures will be in place when nominations are delivered. These will be confirmed in advance and may mean the process takes longer than usual. Where we can we will ask you to book appointments to deliver nomination papers.
- The Returning Officer may offer informal checks of completed nomination papers before you officially submit them to identify anything that could cause your nomination to be rejected. We will be circulating information regarding nominations and minutes following the candidates and agents briefing on 15 March.
- If you change your mind and no longer want to stand for election after your valid nomination has been accepted, you can withdraw. You must do this by 4pm on Thursday 8 April.
- Any information on your nomination papers must be true to the best of your knowledge. Providing a false statement could invalidate your election and is punishable by an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

Postal vote opening sessions

- You, your election agent and your sub agents are entitled to attend the opening of returned postal votes. You may also appoint agents to attend openings on your behalf.
- Multiple opening sessions may take place before polling day, as well as on polling day itself. The Local Returning Officer will give you at least 48 hours' notice of when and where these will take place and how many postal voting agents may attend each session.
- A final opening session will be held after the polls have closed for postal votes handed in to polling stations. This may be held at the count venue or another location. The Local Returning Officer will advise you the details in advance.
- The Local Returning Officer will confirm in advance any Covid-19 safety measures you will be expected to follow to keep you and others safe.
- Full details of the process and what you and your agents or sub agents can and cannot do during a postal vote opening are detailed in the [Electoral Commission guide](#).

Polling day

- You and your election agent are entitled to observe proceedings inside polling stations or appoint agents to attend polling stations on your behalf. The Local Returning Officer will advise you how many observers will be allowed in each polling station depending on the size and Covid-19 restrictions.
- The Local Returning Officer will confirm in advance any Covid-19 safety measures you will be expected to follow to keep you and others safe.
- Your election agent will be supplied with a list of polling stations.
- Your appointed agents can arrive at any time to observe proceedings. This includes watching the Presiding Officer show the empty ballot box before it is sealed ahead of 7am and being present at the close of poll. At this point, your agents may also attach their seal to the ballot box/es and any close of poll packets made up by the Presiding Officer.
- Anyone attending a polling station has a duty to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. Breaching the secrecy requirements can lead to an unlimited fine or six months in prison.

The count

- Candidates and their election agent are entitled to observe the count. You can also invite one other person to attend and may also appoint counting agents to attend on your behalf. The Local Returning Officer will tell you how many counting agents you can appoint and how to do it.
- Counting agents observe the counting process and make sure it is accurate and draw count staff attention to any doubtful ballot papers.
- Anyone attending the count has a duty to maintain the secrecy of the count.
- The Local Returning Officer will confirm in advance any Covid-19 safety measures you will be expected to follow to keep you and others safe.
- The Police Area Returning Officer will collate all local count results and make the final declaration of result.
- A full explanation of how votes are verified, counted and declared can be found in the Electoral Commission key [electoral event guidance for candidates and agents](#).

Results
<p>Vote counting for the Police and Crime Commissioner will take place on Monday 10 May. Any local by-elections will be counted on Friday 7 May at Hereford leisure Centre, Holmer Road, Hereford, HR4 9UD.</p> <p>Results will be announced on facebook, twitter and on www.herefordshire.gov.uk/electionresults .</p>