

7 May 2015 Election

January 2015

Prospective Candidate Briefing

Thursday 5 March 2015

7-9pm

Riverbank House, Bideford

The briefing will be open to all prospective candidates thinking of standing for election for the Parliamentary, District or Parish elections.

Details on the election timetable will be given together with a guide on the do's and don'ts of completing a nomination paper.

Nomination Papers and Nomination Registers will be available to take away on the evening

No requirement to register in advance.

Postal Votes (approx. 11,500)

If you are a candidate at the election you are entitled to come to the opening of postal votes, however no tally sheets will be permitted.

Issuing Dates

The majority of Postal Votes will be issued on

23 April, 24 April, 27 April – 1st class

Opening Dates

30 April – 10-5pm

5 May – 10-5pm

6 May – 10-5pm

7 May – 10-5pm

7 May – 10pm at Verification, Holsworthy Sports Hall

All opening sessions will take place in the Committee Room, Riverbank House Bideford, unless stated.

Changes in law

(District and Parish)

Nomination Papers must now be **hand delivered** by the candidate or their appointed agent. **Any nomination papers sent via Royal Mail will be invalid.**

The date to allow candidates to withdraw from standing as a candidate has changed. This date is now at the same time and date as the deadline for nomination papers – 4pm on 9 April.

Nomination Paper - Informal Checking

It is advised that you allow enough time for your nomination paper to be informally checked before formal submission.

Early submission will allow plenty of time for checking and amending if required.

The Verification and Counts

All ballot boxes from the Torridge and West Parliamentary Constituency will be returned to Holsworthy Sports Hall, Well Park, Holsworthy after the close of poll. All ballot boxes will be verified on Thursday 7 May until the early hours of Friday morning.

The Parliamentary Count will take place once all the Parliamentary ballots have been verified on 7/8 May and will be counted overnight.

District Count – this will begin at 2pm on Friday 8 May at Holsworthy Sports Hall, Well Park, Holsworthy

Parish Count – this will begin at 10am on Monday 11 May at Langtree Village Hall

The Verification and all counts will be ticket only events.

Tickets will be sent out prior to the verification/count.

Election Timetable – 7 May 2015

District and Parish Election		Parliamentary Election	
Nomination Papers available from	5 March	Dissolution of Parliament	30 March
Delivery of Nomination Papers	From 9 March	Receipt of Writ	31 March
Deadline for Nomination Papers	4pm on 9 April	Nomination Papers available from	2 April
Statement of Persons Nominated	10 April	Deadline for Nomination Papers + £500 deposit	4pm on 9 April
Last day to Register to Vote	20 April	Statement of Persons Nominated	5pm on 9 April
Last day to register for postal vote	5pm on 21 April	Last day to Register to Vote	20 April
Notice of Poll	28 April	Last day to register for postal vote	5pm on 21 April
Last day to register for Proxy Vote	5pm on 28 April	Last day to register for Proxy Vote	5pm on 28 April
Polling Day 7am – 10pm	7 May	Polling Day 7am – 10pm	7 May

Useful Contacts

Paula Hunter – Deputy (Acting) Returning Officer
 Sue Priest - Deputy (Acting) Returning Officer
 Jenny Wallace – (Acting) Returning Officer
 Election Office
 Riverbank House
 Bideford
 EX39 2QG

Tel : 01237 428702 /428757

Email : paula.hunter@torridge.gov.uk

Electoral Commission – South West

Tel : 0300 068 3387

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Candidates and Agents Guidance

The Electoral Commission have produced some useful guidance for Candidates wishing to stand for election.

The guidance is divided into 6 parts:

- Part 1 Can you stand for election
- Part 2a Standing as an independent candidate
- Part 2b Standing as a party candidate
- Part 3 Spending and donations
- Part 4 The Campaign
- Part 5 You're right to attend key electoral events
- Part 6 After the declaration of results

I would strongly recommend reading this guidance which can be obtained by visiting

www.electoralcommission.org.uk