



A directory of the elections taking place in May 2023

Local council elections will take place on Thursday May 4th 2023 for 229 English metropolitan borough councils, unitary authorities and second-tier district councils. Also on the same day there will be Mayoral elections in Bedford, Leicester, Mansfield and Middlesbrough.

This directory, an annual production of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC), provides a breakdown by region of the councils being contested in 2023, the number of councillors up for election, and the current political control in each council listed.

There are 130 councils with 'all-up' contests, with every councillor up for election, usually in multi-seat wards. Elections in the other authorities will be for one-third of the councillors in single-seat contests but there are some which normally elect by thirds which are holding 'all-up' elections this year following ward boundary changes or, as in the case of Liverpool city council, because they are moving from annual elections to four-yearly contests.

Of the 229 councils holding elections in May 2023, 64 are currently Labour-led, with Labour holding an overall majority or the largest party in a coalition administration.

There are still ongoing boundary reviews and re-organisation proposals to be factored but a current estimate is that May 2023 will see over 7,900 councillors elected, a bigger battleground in terms of seats to be contested than in either 2021 or 2022. At the end of the directory there is a brief outline of how you can become a TUSC candidate.

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TUSC National Election Agent
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The 2023 elections:

The English council contests

Below is a breakdown of the English councils which are being contested in May 2023, with the number of seats up for election in each council and the current political leadership of the council.

Eastern

Number of councils with elections: 44 Total number of seats up for election: 1,442

Babergh

Conservative – elections for all 43 councillors in 26 wards

Basildon

Conservative – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Bedford

No overall control – elections for all 36 councillors in 26 wards

Braintree

Conservative – elections for all 60 councillors in 31 wards

Breckland

Conservative – elections for all 54 councillors in 36 wards

Brentwood

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Broadland

Conservative – elections for all 47 councillors in 27 wards

Broxbourne

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Cambridge

Labour – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Castle Point

No overall control – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Central Bedfordshire

Conservative – elections for all 59 councillors in 31 wards

Chelmsford

Conservative – elections for all 57 councillors in 24 wards

Colchester

Liberal Democrat – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Dacorum

Conservative – elections for all 51 councillors in 25 wards

East Cambridgeshire

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 19 wards

East Hertfordshire

Conservative – elections for all 50 councillors in 30 wards

East Suffolk

Conservative – elections for all 55 councillors

Epping Forest

Conservative – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Fenland

Conservative – elections for all 40 councillors in 27 wards

Great Yarmouth

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 13 wards

Harlow

Conservative – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

Hertsmere

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 13 wards

Ipswich

Labour – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Conservative – elections for all 62 councillors in 42 wards

Luton

Labour – elections for all 48 councillors in 19 wards

Maldon

Conservative – elections for all 31 councillors in 17 wards

Mid Suffolk

Conservative – elections for all 40 councillors in 30 wards

Milton Keynes

Labour – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

North Hertfordshire

Conservative – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

North Norfolk

Conservative – elections for all 48 councillors in 34 wards

Norwich

Labour – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Peterborough

Conservative – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Rochford

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

St Albans

Liberal Democrat – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

South Norfolk

Conservative – elections for all 46 councillors in 36 wards

Southend

Labour – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

Stevenage

Labour – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Tendring

Conservative – elections for all 60 councillors in 32 wards

Three Rivers

Liberal Democrat – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Thurrock

Conservative – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Uttlesford

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 27 wards

Watford

Liberal-Democrat controlled – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

West Suffolk

Conservative – elections for all 64 councillors in 43 wards

Welwyn Hatfield

Conservative – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

East Midlands

Number of councils with elections: 33 Total number of seats up for election: 1,312

Amber Valley

Conservative – 15 seats (one-third) up for election

Ashfield

No overall control – elections for all 33 councillors in 15 wards

Bassetlaw

Labour – elections for all 48 councillors in 25 wards

Blaby

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 18 wards

Bolsover

Labour – elections for all 37 councillors in 20 wards

Boston

Conservative – elections for all 32 councillors in 18 wards

Broxtowe

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 21 wards

Charnwood

Conservative – elections for all 52 councillors in 28 wards

Chesterfield

Labour – elections for all 48 councillors in 20 wards

Derby

Conservative – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

Derbyshire Dales

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 25 wards

East Lindsey

Conservative – elections for all 60 councillors in 48 wards

Erewash

Conservative – elections for all 51 councillors in 22 wards

Gelding

Labour – elections for all 50 councillors in 22 wards

Harborough

Conservative – elections for all 37 councillors in 25 wards

High Peak

Conservative – elections for all 43 councillors in 28 wards

Hinckley & Bosworth

Conservative – elections for all 34 councillors in 16 wards

Leicester

Labour – elections for all 54 councillors in 22 wards

Lincoln

Labour – 11 seats (one-third) up for election

Mansfield

No overall control – elections for all 36 councillors in 36 wards

Melton

Conservative – elections for all 28 councillors in 16 wards

Newark & Sherwood

Conservative – elections for all 46 councillors in 25 wards

North East Derbyshire

Labour – elections for all 53 councillors in 25 wards

North Kesteven

Conservative – elections for all 43 councillors in 26 wards

North West Leicestershire

Conservative – elections for all 38 councillors in 20 wards

Nottingham

Labour – elections for all 55 councillors in 20 wards

Oadby & Wigston

Liberal Democrat – elections for all 26 councillors in 10 wards

Rushcliffe

Conservative – elections for all 50 councillors in 28 wards

Rutland

Conservative – elections for all 26 councillors in 16 wards

South Derbyshire

Conservative – elections for all 36 councillors in 15 wards

South Holland

Conservative – elections for all 37 councillors in 18 wards

South Kesteven

Conservative – elections for all 58 councillors in 34 wards

West Lindsey

Conservative – elections for all 36 councillors in 12 wards

Northern

Number of councils with elections: 10 Total number of seats up for election: 339

Darlington

Independent – elections for all 53 councillors in 24 wards

Gateshead

Labour – 22 seats (one-third) up for election

Hartlepool

Conservative – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

Middlesbrough

Labour – elections for all 48 councillors in 23 wards

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Labour – 26 seats (one-third) up for election

North Tyneside

Labour – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Redcar & Cleveland

Labour – elections for all 59 councillors in 22 wards

South Tyneside

Labour – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Stockton-on-Tees

Labour – elections for all 56 councillors in 26 wards

Sunderland

Labour – 25 seats (one-third) up for election

North West

Number of councils with elections: 30 Total number of seats up for election: 927

Blackburn-with-Darwen

Labour – 23 seats (one-third) up for election

Blackpool

Labour – elections for all 42 councillors in 21 wards

Bolton

Conservative – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Burnley

Labour – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Bury

Labour – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

Cheshire East

Conservative – elections for all 82 councillors in 52 wards

Cheshire West & Chester

Labour – elections for all 75 councillors in 46 wards

Chorley

Labour – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

Fylde

Conservative – elections for all 51 councillors in 21 wards

Halton

Labour – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Hyndburn

Labour – 11 seats (one-third) up for election

Knowsley

Labour – 22 seats (one-third) up for election

Lancaster

Labour – elections for all 60 councillors in 28 wards

Liverpool

Labour – elections for all 70 councillors in new wards

Manchester

Labour – 32 seats (one-third) up for election

Oldham

Labour – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Pendle

Conservative – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Preston

Labour – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Ribble Valley

Conservative – elections for all 40 councillors in 24 wards

Rossendale

Labour – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

Salford

Labour – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Sefton

Labour – 23 seats (one-third) up for election

South Ribble

Conservative – elections for all 55 councillors in 27 wards

Stockport

Labour – 21 seats (one-third) up for election

Tameside

Labour – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Trafford

Conservative – 21 seats (one-third) up for election

West Lancashire

Labour – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Wigan

Labour – 25 seats (one-third) up for election

Wirral

Labour – 22 seats (one-third) up for election

Wyre

Conservative – elections for all 55 councillors in 26 wards

South East

Number of councils with elections: 56 Total number of seats up for election: 1,891

Arun

Conservative – elections for all 56 councillors in 26 wards

Ashford

Conservative – elections for all 43 councillors in 35 wards

Basingstoke and Deane

Conservative – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Bracknell Forest

Conservative – elections for all 42 councillors in 18 wards

Brighton & Hove

Labour – elections for all 54 councillors in 21 wards

Canterbury

Conservative – elections for all 50 councillors in 24 wards

Cherwell

Conservative – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Chichester

Conservative – elections for all 48 councillors in 29 wards

Crawley

Labour – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

Dartford

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 17 wards

Dover

Conservative – elections for all 45 councillors in 21 wards

East Hampshire

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 39 wards

Eastbourne

Liberal Democrat – elections for all 27 councillors in 9 wards

Eastleigh

Liberal Democrat – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Elmbridge

Conservative – 21 seats (one-third) up for election

Epsom & Ewell

Independent – elections for all 38 councillors in 13 wards

Folkestone & Hythe

Conservative – elections for all 46 councillors in 22 wards

Gravesham

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 18 wards

Guildford

Conservative – elections for all 48 councillors in 20 wards

Hart

Liberal Democrat – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Havant

Conservative – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Horsham

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 25 wards

Lewes

No overall control – elections for all 41 councillors in 21 wards

Maidstone

No overall control – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Medway

Conservative – elections for all 55 councillors in 22 wards

Mid Sussex

Conservative – elections for all 54 councillors in 26 wards

Mole Valley

Liberal Democrat – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

New Forest

Conservative – elections for all 60 councillors in 34 wards

Portsmouth

Liberal Democrat – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Reading

Labour – 15 seats (one-third) up for election

Reigate and Banstead

Conservative – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Rother

Conservative – elections for all 38 councillors in 20 wards

Runnymede

Conservative – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Rushmoor

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Sevenoaks

Conservative – elections for all 54 councillors in 26 wards

Slough

Labour – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

South Oxfordshire

Conservative – elections for all 48 councillors in 29 wards

Southampton

Labour – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Spelthorne

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 13 wards

Surrey Heath

Conservative – elections for all 40 councillors in 16 wards

Swale

Conservative – elections for all 47 councillors in 25 wards

Tandridge

Conservative – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Test Valley

Conservative – elections for all 48 councillors in 25 wards

Thanet

No overall control – elections for all 56 councillors in 23 wards

Tonbridge & Malling

Conservative – elections for all 53 councillors in 26 wards

Tunbridge Wells

Conservative – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Vale of White Horse

Conservative – elections for all 51 councillors in 29 wards

Waverley

Conservative – elections for all 57 councillors in 29 wards

Wealden

Conservative – elections for all 55 councillors in 35 wards

West Berkshire

Conservative – elections for all 52 councillors in 30 wards

West Oxfordshire

No overall control – 16 seats (one-third) up for election

Windsor & Maidenhead

Conservative – elections for all 57 councillors in 23 wards

Winchester

Conservative – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Woking

Liberal Democrat – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Wokingham

No overall control – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Worthing

Labour – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

South West

Number of councils with elections: 18 Total number of seats up for election: 786

Bath and North East Somerset

Conservative – elections for all 65 councillors in 37 wards

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

Conservative – elections for all 76 councillors in 33 wards

Cotswold

Conservative – elections for all 44 councillors in 28 wards

East Devon

Conservative – elections for all 59 councillors in 32 wards

Exeter

Labour – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Forest of Dean

No overall control – elections for all 48 councillors in 27 wards

Mid Devon

Conservative – elections for all 42 councillors in 24 wards

North Devon

No overall control – elections for all 43 councillors in 27 wards

North Somerset

Conservative – elections for all 61 councillors in 36 wards

Plymouth

Labour – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

South Gloucestershire

Conservative – elections for all 70 councillors in 47 wards

South Hams

Conservative – elections for all 40 councillors in 27 wards

Swindon

Conservative – 19 seats (one-third) up for election

Teignbridge

Conservative – elections for all 46 councillors in 25 wards

Tewkesbury

Conservative – elections for all 38 councillors in 22 wards

Torbay

Conservative – elections for all 36 councillors in 15 wards

Torrige

No overall control – elections for all 36 councillors in 23 wards

West Devon

Conservative – elections for all 31 councillors in 22 wards

West Midlands

Number of councils with elections: 26 Total number of seats up for election: 849

Bromsgrove

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 23 wards

Cannock Chase

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Coventry

Labour – 18 seats (one-third) up for election

Dudley

Conservative – 24 seats (one-third) up for election

East Staffordshire

Conservative – elections for all 39 councillors in 21 wards

Herefordshire

Conservative – elections for all 58 councillors in 40 wards

Lichfield

Conservative – elections for all 56 councillors in 26 wards

Malvern Hills

Conservative – elections for all 38 councillors in 22 wards

North Warwickshire

Conservative – elections for all 35 councillors in 17 wards

Redditch

Conservative – 10 seats (one-third) up for election

Rugby

Conservative – 13 seats (one-third) up for election

Sandwell

Labour – 24 seats (one-third) up for election

Solihull

Conservative – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

South Staffordshire

Conservative – elections for all 49 councillors in 25 wards

Stafford

Conservative – elections for all 59 councillors in 26 wards

Staffordshire Moorlands

No overall control – elections for all 56 councillors in 27 wards

Stoke-on-Trent

No overall control – elections for all 44 councillors in 37 wards

Stratford-on-Avon

Conservative – elections for all 36 councillors in 36 wards

Tamworth

Conservative – 10 seats (one-third) up for election

Telford & the Wrekin

Labour – elections for all 54 councillors in 33 wards

Walsall

Conservative – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Warwick

Conservative – elections for all 46 councillors in 20 wards

Wolverhampton

Labour – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Worcester

No overall control – 12 seats (one-third) up for election

Wychavon

Conservative – elections for all 45 councillors in 32 wards

Wyre Forest

Conservative – 14 seats (one-third) up for election

Yorkshire

Number of councils with elections: 12 Total number of seats up for election: 366

Barnsley

Labour – 21 seats (one-third) up for election

Bradford

Labour – 30 seats (one-third) up for election

Calderdale

Labour – 17 seats (one-third) up for election

East Riding of Yorkshire

Conservative – elections for all 67 councillors in 26 wards

Hull

Liberal Democrat – 20 seats (one-third) up for election

Kirklees

Labour – 24 seats (one-third) up for election

Leeds

Labour – 33 seats (one-third) up for election

North East Lincolnshire

Conservative – 15 seats (one-third) up for election

North Lincolnshire

Conservative – elections for all 43 councillors in 12 wards

Sheffield

Labour – 28 seats (one-third) up for election

Wakefield

Labour – 21 seats (one-third) up for election

York

No overall control – elections for all 47 councillors in 22 wards



An application form, a guide to the rules... how you can become a TUSC candidate

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition was set-up to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to stand candidates under a common anti-austerity and socialist banner. The only provision is that candidates are expected to endorse the TUSC core policies platform for the relevant election.

The TUSC core policy platform for the most recent local elections, in May 2022, can be seen at <https://www.tusc.org.uk/17627/22-02-2022/tuscs-core-policy-platform-for-the-may-2022-local-elections>. The policy platforms for previous elections can be found at <http://tusc.org.uk/policy.php>.

By law candidates who wish to appear on the ballot paper using the name and logo of a registered party have to submit to the council election staff, along with their nomination forms, a *Certificate of Authorisation to use a Party Description*, signed by the registered Nominating Officer of the party. We have produced a form to process applications for a TUSC *Certificate of Authorisation* for local council elections, which is available on the TUSC website at <http://www.tusc.org.uk/txt/454.doc>. Submitting an application will be taken as indicating a prospective candidate's agreement with the TUSC election platform.

TUSC also produces summary guides for prospective candidates and election agents. The most recent, for the 2022 local council elections, is still available as a downloadable PDF at <https://www.tusc.org.uk/txt/455.pdf>.

The guides contain information on the official regulations governing elections, based on publications produced by the Electoral Commission, along with some tips and pointers drawn from the previous experience of TUSC election campaigners.

It also includes information on the procedures agreed by the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition national steering committee on how to become a TUSC candidate and prospective candidates and agents are encouraged to read it before submitting an application form.