

Elections 2025:

Independents and community parties

The best estimate – from the ElectionMaps website – is that 461 candidates will have a straight ‘Independent’ description in May’s polls, with a further 103 appearing for local independent parties with a town or district-based extra description, registered with the Electoral Commission.

Of course a big proportion of these are Tories by another name. Nearly one in twelve of the councillors that faced re-election in May were elected in 2021 as ‘Independents’, for example, and have sat as such in their county halls since while presiding over cuts and other austerity measures.

But the individuals listed here are those who have been recommended for support by local constituent organisations of TUSC and others, who could properly be described as anti-austerity and anti-war candidates – often former Labour Party members or, sometimes, councillors – standing as Independents or for registered local community parties.

The second set of candidates listed here for voters’ information are those from smaller left-wing parties: the Communist Party of Britain, politically linked to the *Morning Star* newspaper; the Workers Party, with seven candidates on May 1st; and the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the Transform Party, and Arthur Scargill’s Socialist Labour Party, who are standing in one seat each. ■

Independents

Local authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name
Cherwell DC *	Banbury Cross & Neithrop	Simon Garrett
Cherwell DC *	Grimsbury & Hightown	Cassi Bellingham
Derbyshire CC	Whaley Bridge	Cllr Ruth George
Lancashire CC	Preston Central East	Michael Lavalette
Lancashire CC	Preston City	Yousuf Motala
Lancashire CC	Preston South East	Almas Razakazi
Lancashire CC	Preston South West	Emma Mead
Leicestershire CC	Castle Donington & Kegworth	Cllr Ray Sutton
Lincolnshire CC	Grantham South	Cllr Charmaine Morgan
Lincolnshire CC	Colsterworth Rural	John Morgan
North Tyneside	Directly-elected Mayor	Cath Davis
Northumberland CC	Prudhoe North & Wylam	Holly Waddell
Oxfordshire CC	Easington	Phil Richards
Oxfordshire CC	Grimsbury & Castle	Cassi Bellingham
Oxfordshire CC	Hardwick	Simon Garrett
Oxfordshire CC	Ruscote	Julie Battison
Scarborough TC *	Weaponness & Ramshill	Cllr Rich Maw

* The Cherwell district council contests are by-elections held on the same day as the Oxfordshire County Council elections. The Scarborough candidate is for the inaugural town council election.

Broxtowe Alliance

This is a local community independents party formed at the start of 2025 by 20 councillors on Broxtowe District Council in Nottinghamshire. They are standing six candidates in May, listed below, including three sitting district councillors as indicated. There is also another local party in Broxtowe registered with the Electoral Commission, the Broxtowe Independent Group, but, formed as they were from former Liberal Democrat councillors and independents who stood as such even during the time of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership of the Labour Party, they are not included here as anti-austerity or anti-war candidates.

Local authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name
Nottinghamshire CC	Beeston Central	Cllr Teresa Cullen
Nottinghamshire CC	Eastwood	Cllr Milan Radulovic
Nottinghamshire CC	Nuthall & Kimberley	David Kirwan
Nottinghamshire CC	Stapleford & Broxtowe C	Maggie McGrath
Nottinghamshire CC	Toton, Chilwell & Attenborough	Cllr Shaun Dannheimer & Stephen Jeremiah

Majority

Majority is a party, registered with the Electoral Commission from December 2024, initiated out of the campaign for Jamie Driscoll's independent stand for the North East Mayoral seat in May 2024, in which he polled 126,652 votes (28.2%). In this year's elections it is supporting one candidate appearing as an independent in Northumberland County Council and one candidate (below) under its registered name.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Northumberland CC	Rothbury	Karen Weech

Oxford Community Socialists

A registered party which is standing one candidate, a former Oxford city councillor, in May.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Oxfordshire CC	Barton & Sandhills	Jabu Nala-Hartley

Social Justice Party

The Social Justice Party is a North Yorkshire-based party who, this year, is standing one candidate, for the inaugural election of Scarborough Town Council.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Scarborough TC	Northstead	Eric Barnes

Other left-wing parties

Communist Party of Britain

The Communist Party has four council candidates in four different local authorities.

Local Authority	Division	Candidate's name
Devon CC	Tiverton East	Caio Whitmore
Hertfordshire CC	St Albans Central	Mark Ewington
Leicestershire CC	Market Harborough West	Peter Whalen
Wiltshire	Kington	Alex Hall

Socialist Labour Party

The Socialist Labour Party has one council candidate in May's elections, unfortunately in the same county division as a TUSC candidate, having not responded to approaches locally or nationally to say what their plans were.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Gloucestershire CC	Coney Hill & Matson	Kazol Ahmed

Socialist Workers Party

The SWP has one candidate, in a Chesterfield Council by-election on May 1st, appearing as 'Independent' on a ballot paper which also has a candidate appearing as 'Chesterfield Independents'.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Chesterfield	Brampton East	Jane Hindle

Transform

Transform has one candidate appearing with its own name in the May elections.

Local authority	Ward	Candidate's name
Hertfordshire CC	Hemel Hempstead Town	Gary Ruff

Workers' Party of Britain

The Workers' Party has a candidate in the Runcorn & Helsby parliamentary by-election on May 1st, the Doncaster mayoral election, one candidate in four of the 21 local authorities with scheduled elections in May, and one candidate in a council by-election, also to be held on May 1st, in Rochdale.

Runcorn & Helsby parliamentary by-election

Peter Ford

Doncaster Mayor

Ahsan Jamil

Council results

Local authority	Division or ward	Candidate's name
Gloucestershire CC	Hempsted & Westgate	Steve Gower
Lancashire CC	Burnley Central East	Rayyan Fiass
Staffordshire CC	Two Cotes/Two Rivers	Adam Goodfellow
Warwickshire CC	Attleborough	John Homer
Rochdale	Balderstone & Kirkholt	Laura Pugh