

## West Midlands Accountability Assembly 2024

6pm-8.15pm | Thursday 25 April 2024 | University of Birmingham

### Our basis for candidate invitations Updated 09/04/2024

After nominations closed on 5<sup>th</sup> April, there are six candidates, as confirmed by the [returning officer](#), standing for election to be our region's next Mayor of the West Midlands on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

They are (in alphabetical order):

1. Andy Street for the Conservative Party
2. Elaine Williams for the Reform UK Party
3. Richard Parker for the Labour Party
4. Siobhan Harper-Nunes for the Green Party
5. Sunny Virk for the Liberal Democrats Party
6. Yakoob Akhmed, Independent candidate

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024, it was confirmed elections for the West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) will also go ahead on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

The candidate(s) standing for election confirmed by the [returning officer](#) are:

1. Simon Foster for the Labour Party
2. Tom Byrne for the Conservative Party

For impartial reasons, we have invited two of the candidates from each election to our Assembly: Andy Street and Richard Parker, as well as Simon Foster and Tom Byrne.

These candidates were chosen after looking at how parties have performed in recent elections. In general, a substantial majority of seats at every level of local and national government which are subject to election by voters within West Midlands constituencies have won in recent elections by Labour and Conservative party candidates.

Specifically at the last two regional elections the results were as follows:

Mayor of the West Midlands, 2021 (source: [BBC](#))

| Name            | Party              | Percentage of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference votes |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Andy Street     | Conservative Party | 48.7%  |
| Liam Byrne      | Labour Party       | 39.7%  |
| Steve Caudwell  | Green Party        | 5.8%   |
| Jenny Wilkinson | Liberal Democrat   | 3.6%   |
| Pete Durnell    | Reform UK          | 2.2%   |

Mayor of the West Midlands, 2017 (source: [WMCA](#))

| Name             | Party              | Percentage of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference votes |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Andy Street      | Conservative Party | 42%  |
| Sion Simon       | Labour Party       | 41%  |
| Beverley Neilson | Liberal Democrat   | 6%   |
| Pete Durnell     | UKIP Party         | 6%   |
| James Burn       | Green Party        | 5%   |
| Graham Stevenson | Communist Party    | 1%   |

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner elections, 2021 (source: [WMPCC](#))

| Name            | Party              | Percentage of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference votes |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Simon Foster    | Labour Party       | 45.51%   |
| Jay Singh-Sohal | Conservative Party | 39.35%   |
| Jon Hunt        | Liberal Democrat   | 6.35%  |
| Jools Hambleton | Independent        | 4.55%  |
| Mark Hoath      | Reform UK Party    | 2.96%  |
| Desmond Jaddoo  | We Matter Party    | 1.27%  |

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner elections, 2016 (source: [WMPCC](#))

| Name           | Party              | Percentage of 1 <sup>st</sup> preference votes |
|----------------|--------------------|--|
| David Jamieson | Labour Party       | 49.88%   |
| Les Jones      | Conservative Party | 25.81%   |
| Pete Durnell   | UKIP Party         | 16.98%   |
| Andy Flynn     | Independent        | 7.31%  |

Our basis for candidate invitations has been consistent with our previous regional Assemblies held in 2017 and in [2021](#).

Our schedule at the Assembly includes performances by groups as well as contributions from a large number of leaders in our member institutions - most speaking for the first time, so we have taken account of the practical necessity to limit candidate numbers for a 2 hour 15 mins event.

Our priorities on [Housing](#), [Work](#) & [Safety](#) have been developed by our membership over the course of the past 18 months through listening events, workshops and local action. We will publish written responses to our priorities received by all candidates on our website as well as email them out to everyone on our mailing list before the elections.

The aim of our Assembly is to seek commitments of the offices of the next regional Mayor of the West Midlands and the next Police & Crime Commissioner, we have therefore concluded the candidates' likely success in the elections, judged on objective considerations, is a legitimate and relevant basis for the invitations.