

**CHOOSE
MY PCC**

Candidates for the West Mercia Police Force Area

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for
your police and crime commissioner.

Find out who your local candidates are
and how to vote

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About Police and Crime Commissioners

On 6th May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Elections will be taking place in England and Wales. In London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, there will be elections at the same time for Mayors who exercise PCC functions.

PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service.

39 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales, of which 4 are also responsible for overseeing the fire and rescue authority for their area and are called Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) – these PFCCs are found in Essex, Staffordshire, North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire). There will also be 3 Mayors with PCC functions elected in London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

PCCs are elected by you and aim to cut crime and hold the force to account on behalf of the public. PCCs bring a public voice to policing, and they do this by:

- engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set the policing priorities for the area and consulting on their Police and Crime plans;
- ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- appointing the Chief Constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives and if necessary, dismissing them.

Work with others

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions also work with your council and other organisations to promote and enable joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.

The PCC, PFCC or Mayor who exercises PCC functions does not 'run' the police force or fire service. Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers are operationally independent, and they are responsible for the day to day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions are single, directly elected individuals ensuring the public are protected, providing greater opportunities for collaboration and more effective scrutiny of public services.

They ensure that there is an effective policing contribution to national partnership arrangements to protect the public from other national and cross-boundary threats.

Represent the entire community

PCCs, PFCCs and Combined Authority Mayors who exercise PCC functions are required to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office.

The oath is designed so that they can publicly set out their commitment to: serve all of the people in their police force area; act with integrity and diligence; give a voice to the public; act with transparency so that they may be effectively held to account; and not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

Find your candidate

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in the West Mercia police force area. You can also order a copy of this booklet in the following formats: large print, braille and audio.

To place your order visit **www.choosemypcc.org.uk** or call **0808 196 2170**.

About your vote

You need to be registered to be able to vote.

If you are not registered visit **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** or contact your local council.

If you are registered, and eligible to vote you can either vote in person at a polling station, by post, or by proxy (allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf).

In this election you can vote for a first and second preference of who you want to win.

For more information about your vote and other elections taking place on 6th May visit **www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter**

John-Paul Campion

The Conservative Party Candidate



Election statement:

Building on my track record over the past five years, I have set out my vision for a **Safer West Mercia** at www.campion4westmercia.com but the key highlights are:

- **Keeping the Communities of West Mercia Safe by fighting crime**
 - Recruiting record numbers of Police Officers, focused on fighting crime
 - Protecting the vulnerable, tackling the harm caused by drugs and alcohol
 - Fighting organised crime
 - Tackling violence in our community including against women as well as targeting the perpetrators of Domestic Abuse and exploitation of children
 - Reducing rural and business crime
 - Reducing deaths and harm on our roads
- **Reforming how your money is spent**
 - Keeping Council Tax increases lowest in the region
 - Driving more effective collaboration with the two Fire services through joined up Governance
 - Reducing the environmental impact of policing
 - Investing in prevention to tackle the causes of crime

- Publish weekly key police performance statistics
- **Making sure we feel safe as well as being safe**
 - Ensuring the community is at the heart of policing
 - Implementing a Local Policing Community Charter ensuring police are visible, accessible and effective
- **Putting Victims First**
 - Ensuring the victims of crime are at the heart of the justice system
 - Training more officers in victim care
 - Promoting use of restorative justice
 - Invest in supporting victims of crime to cope, recover and thrive

West Mercia Police is made up of hard-working officers and staff; **I believe the communities of West Mercia deserve a hard-working Commissioner who is focused on fighting crime and ensuring they are always at the heart of policing.**

With **your support** on Thursday 6th May, we can continue to build a **Safer West Mercia.**

Yours sincerely,
John Champion

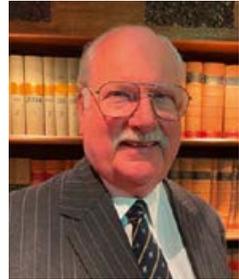
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Peter Jewell

Reform UK



Election statement:

West Mercia Police is one of the biggest areas and has one of the smallest budgets. At £250 million, your Police and Crime Commissioner has to have the experience of handling that size of budget, so I would ask you to look carefully at the CV's of all candidates. Whilst I am standing as a Reform Party candidate, as I believe in their views, I have made it clear to the Leader that I am firmly of the belief that this is a non-political role and he agrees.

Why do I qualify? My Management Consulting Company, before it was sold, had offices in 6 countries and operated in 15 other countries. Our clients were major PLC's and fortune 500 companies. I am presently a director and the owner of a number of businesses including a legal practice. I know how to run a budget!

This role needs experience. The role is not being a policeman, it is overseeing the management and finances and being the face to the public for whom we serve. I was a Magistrate for 18 years and a part time Tribunal Judge for 20 years. I was on the national board of the Magistrates and chairman of the Valuation Tribunal members for England. I have vast experience of the legal system.

Five years ago, we were promised no increase in the precept. Yet there has been increases and the budget is in deficit. We cannot go on rewarding failure.

My wife Yuleen is fully behind me without whom I could not do what I have done for better or for worse.

Let me help you to have an efficient cost-effective force to serve all West Mercia and keep us safe.

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Margaret Rowley

Liberal Democrats



Election statement:

Margaret Rowley – creating a police force that meets the needs of local people.

By listening to local people, and championing their views, Margaret will make West Mercia Police more responsive to the priorities of local communities. She will ensure that targets relating to local needs are set for the Chief Constable.

The latest report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary rated West Mercia Police as requiring improvement in all three areas they assessed. Not only had performance declined compared to the previous two years, only two other force areas had a worse performance. The Inspector concluded that she was particularly concerned about the Force's performance in keeping people safe, in reducing crime, and working with partners.

Margaret says "These reports are concerning. My first priority as PCC will be to investigate the reasons for these poor results and require the Chief Constable to put in place immediate improvements in crime prevention and reduction. There is clearly a need for a change in direction."

Experience and Knowledge

- Margaret has over 25 years as an elected local councillor, listening to local people and working with partners to achieve their priorities.
- She has lived in Worcestershire for 30 years and until recently was employed as a senior manager in the NHS.
- Margaret has built up a wealth of local knowledge and experience of service management in the public sector.

Margaret's Top Three Priorities are to make West Mercia Police

- **More trusted** by listening to local people and making policing much more responsive to the priorities of local communities;
- **More effective** by prioritising crime prevention and tackling issues that put people at risk of offending;
- **More efficient** by better use of technology and partnership working.

Prepared by Election Agent

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Kuldip Sahota

Labour Party Candidate



Election statement:

Kuldip Sahota is an experienced politician. He has served on the West Mercia Police Authority and was chair of the Telford and Wrekin Policing Board before becoming the leader of Telford and Wrekin Council.

He has been involved in community services in Telford before becoming a Councillor. He helped to secure funding of £210,000 from the European Urban Grant for Telford Cultural and Leisure Centre and then helped to raise £100,000 from the local community to complete the project.

In 2009 he was invited to be on the Board of Governors of the University of Wolverhampton. He served his full nine year term as an Independent Governor and was Chair of the Audit Committee.

As leader of Telford and Wrekin Council between 2011–2016, Kuldip's achievements include:

- Helped in preventing the closure of the Donnington M.O.D. site in Telford, thus saving hundreds of jobs as well as creating hundreds more.
- Every secondary school in Telford and Wrekin was rebuilt or refurbished.

- Introduced an innovative policy to build houses on the council owned brownfield sites.
- Introducing a policy to build a solar farm on council owned land to bring in extra revenue.
- Sanctioning the building of a leisure and retail complex in Telford town centre, known as the Southwater, thus creating hundreds of jobs.

Kuldips' pledges:

- More police focusing on safer streets and tackling violence.
- Ensure police are on the beat rather than behind desks.
- Fight the causes of crime by ensuring provision of preventative services.
- Tougher sentences for rape and domestic violence.
- A new law to ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system.

Kuldip has always served the public with integrity and rectitude and promises to do the same as your PCC.

Prepared by Election Agent Mr Sukhdeep Thiara,
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Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for West Mercia

This booklet contains more information about those candidates (where provided) and other information useful to voters. The information provided by a candidate is their responsibility, and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council.

As Police Area Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result in West Mercia.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in West Mercia on 6th May 2021; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- CAMPION, John – The Conservative Party Candidate
- JEWELL, Peter Anthony Edmund – Reform UK
- ROWLEY, Margaret – Liberal Democrats
- SAHOTA, Kuldip – Labour Party Candidate

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