



I VOTE  
HACKNEY

# Election of the Mayor of Hackney

You need to take valid photo ID  
when voting at a polling station

Thursday 7 May 2026

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



## Election of the Mayor of Hackney

On **Thursday 7 May 2026**, electors in Hackney will have the opportunity to vote for the person they want to be Mayor of Hackney until 2030.

The elected Mayor leads the Council and its full range of services. It is different to a ceremonial Mayor; in Hackney this role is carried out by the Speaker of Hackney.

This booklet must be sent to you by law<sup>1</sup>. It is produced by Dawn Carter-McDonald, the Returning Officer, and contains an election address – or statement – from all of those candidates for Mayor who chose to be included. The content is the responsibility of the candidates themselves, provided they comply with legal requirements, and the views expressed are theirs'. Their names and details appear in random order, which is determined by drawing lots.

This booklet also includes information on how to vote.

<sup>1</sup> The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

You must show a valid photo ID in order to vote in person at a polling station.

You can find out what ID is acceptable towards the back of this booklet.

If you don't have a valid ID, you can apply for a special government-issued Voter Authority Certificate (VAC).

You need to apply by **5pm** on **Tuesday 28 April 2026**.

This can be done by searching 'Voter Authority Certificate' online.

If you need help, call **020 8356 3232**

## Key dates

### Monday 20 April 2026

- Deadline for registering to vote (12 midnight)

### Tuesday 21 April 2026

- Deadline for postal vote applications (5pm)

### Tuesday 28 April 2026

- Deadline for Voter Authority Certificates applications (5pm)

### Tuesday 28 April 2026

- Last date for proxy vote requests – this is where you appoint someone to vote for you (5pm)


### Thursday 7 May 2026

- Polling Day (7am–10pm)


### Friday 8 May 2026

- Votes are counted and the new Mayor of Hackney is declared

## The candidates for Mayor of Hackney


	Surname	First Name	Description
	Almasi	Vahid	Reform UK
	Woodley	Caroline	Labour and Co-operative Party
	Garbett	Zoë	Green Party
	Steinhardt	Eva	Liberal Democrats
	Gregg	Tareke	The Conservative Party Candidate

## Sample ballot paper


**Election of the Mayor of Hackney** 

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting a cross  in the box next to your choice


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**ALMASI, Vahid**  
(address in London Borough of Hackney)  
**Reform UK** 


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**GARBETT, Zoë**  
(address in London Borough of Hackney)  
**Green Party** 


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**GREGG, Tareke**  
(address in London Borough of Hackney)  
**The Conservative Party Candidate** 

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**STEINHARDT, Eva**  
(address in London Borough of Hackney)  
**Liberal Democrats** 

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**WOODLEY, Caroline**  
(address in London Borough of Hackney)  
**Labour and Co-operative Party** 

The Mayoral ballot paper will be pink.

The ballot paper illustrated on this page is a guide only.



## **Candidate Election Addresses follow**

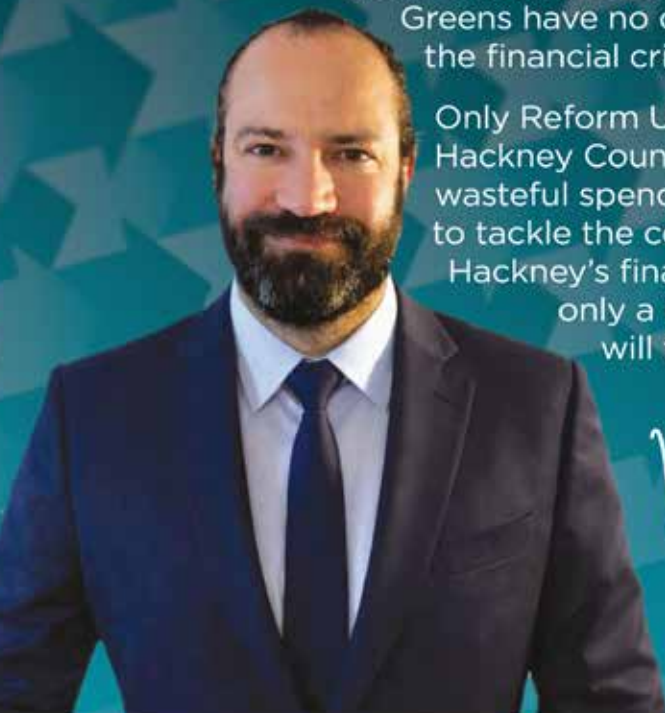
**These were provided by the candidates  
and the views expressed are theirs alone.**

# ONLY REFORMUK CAN SOLVE HACKNEY'S FINANCIAL CHAOS

As your Mayor, my top priority will be to ensure the council's finances are stable and your money is being spent wisely.

The council's current debt is over £300 million and a staggering £200,000 is spent on debt interest payments alone, every single week. You deserve better than this financial chaos and poor management. Labour must be held responsible for their failings and the Greens have no credible plan to solve the financial crisis at the council.

Only Reform UK has a plan for Hackney Council by eliminating wasteful spending and helping to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. Hackney's finances are broken and only a Reform UK Mayor will fix it.



*Vahid Almasi*

**VAHID  
ALMASI**

REFORM UK CANDIDATE  
FOR MAYOR OF HACKNEY



**HACKNEY NEEDS VAHID ALMASI.  
VOTE REFORMUK ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

Promoted by Emma Hulse, at c/o Tower Hamlets Reform UK, 5 Brayford Square, London E1 0SG, on behalf of Vahid Almasi, residing within the London Borough of Hackney.

# ONLY REFORMUK WILL FIX BROKEN LONDON

- 1 PUT LONDONERS FIRST  
FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**
- 2 OPPOSE HOUSING ILLEGAL  
IMMIGRANTS IN HOTELS**
- 3 SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLING  
HIGH STREETS**
- 4 END ULEZ AND THE  
WAR ON DRIVERS**
- 5 CRACK DOWN  
ON ANTI-SOCIAL  
BEHAVIOUR**



**LAILA CUNNINGHAM**  
Reform UK's London Spokesperson

*London has been run by the same two parties for years, passing power between themselves while things get worse.*

*Only Reform UK will break that cycle. We have no interest in protecting a status quo that is failing Londoners. It's time for something new. It's time to put Londoners first. Vote for a London that works for you.*

**VOTE REFORMUK ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

# CAROLINE WOODLEY

**“ In Hackney,  
we lead the way.**

We're proud of our values.  
We support our neighbours.  
We reject those who seek to divide us.

That's why I love Hackney.

We've always been trailblazers - from the early days of creating the NHS to investing in education and building council homes, Hackney has shown how it's done.

And we're leading the way again today - a new generation of council homes, cheaper, cleaner community energy, and a council tax cut for those who need it most.

Hackney needs a Mayor who can deliver. When I took over, our borough was held back by years of Conservative austerity, so I demanded a fairer deal for Hackney. And under this Labour Government, that is exactly what we've got - a £97m funding boost for real change.

In uncertain times, we need experienced, progressive leadership that delivers.

Vote Labour and the people of Hackney will continue to lead the way.

*CR Woodley*

Caroline Woodley  
Labour candidate for Mayor of Hackney



Vote  Labour

# HACKNEY LABOUR LEADING THE WAY

## OUR RECORD

### STANDING UP FOR RENTERS

- Introduced landlord licensing

### BUILDING GREAT COUNCIL HOUSING

- Thousands of high-quality council homes

### SUPPORTING THOSE WHO NEED US MOST

- Cutting council tax for low-income families

### CLEAN STREETS & BEAUTIFUL PARKS

- Most Green Flag parks in London

### RUNNING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS

- Best primary school results in the country

### INVESTING IN CLEAN, CHEAP ENERGY

- First-of-its-kind residential solar scheme

## OUR PLAN

£550 million to fix council housing and make estates fit for the future

Replace the council homes lost to right to buy

Bring cheaper, cleaner energy to our neighbourhoods


Cut mobile thefts in half by 2030, making Hackney safer


A new generation of rent controlled homes, supporting key workers

### READ OUR MANIFESTO



### CONTACT DETAILS

 [info@hackney-labour.org.uk](mailto:info@hackney-labour.org.uk)

 [hackneylabour.org.uk/caroline](http://hackneylabour.org.uk/caroline)

# HOPE for Hackney

## Fix what's broken

**No more excuses. No more delays. No more incompetence.** As Mayor of Hackney I will bring transparency, accountability and competence back to Hackney Council.

- Properly run the council housing repairs service, aiming to inspect all repair requests within a week.
- Conduct a review of every council estate in the borough to log all the problems not addressed by the Labour-led council, then fix them.
- Improve access to early, independent advice for families navigating school exclusions and decisions, including for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
- Make our streets safer by creating a Road Safety Premium for the largest non-commercial vehicles driving through Hackney - investing revenue raised back into local mobility.
- Adopt a holistic approach to safety and crime-reduction, prioritising funding for prevention and early intervention services.

## Get the basics right

**No more ignoring the community, making decisions behind closed doors or prioritising big corporations over Hackney owned-and-run businesses.** As Mayor of Hackney, I will put community voices back at the heart of our local government.

- Begin a full ethical divestment process from companies complicit in genocide.
- Convene a summit of independent businesses and provide targeted rate relief.
- Phase out the use of bailiffs to collect council tax debt.
- Bring disused council spaces and long-term empty shopfronts into community use.
- Launch a night market by 2030.
- Tackle fly-tipping with a free community skip that travels around the borough.

**ZOË GARBETT**  
Green Party

## Make Hackney a place you can afford to stay

**Hackney residents are being priced out of the borough: from rent hikes to nursery fees and grocery bills. As Mayor of Hackney I will do everything I can to intervene so that residents can afford to stay in the borough we all love.**

- Push for Hackney Council pension funds to be used to purchase or buy-back homes, increasing council housing supply.
- Work with neighbouring boroughs to establish a 'Housing for London' building company to build new council homes and create local jobs.
- Phase in a 100% council tax relief for Hackney's lowest-income residents.
- Establish resident-led food co-operatives on every major Hackney estate by 2030, bringing down the cost of food through bulk-buying.
- Review alternative nursery fee structures proposed by families.
- Empower local community energy projects, helping lower energy bills.

## I will always stand for:

- ✓ People-powered democracy
- ✓ Anti-austerity
- ✓ Climate justice
- ✓ Ethical use of council funds
- ✓ Workers rights
- ✓ Anti-fascism

**"I'm driven to action by the worsening inequality I see every day. As Mayor of Hackney, I will do all that I can to make a difference"**

**VOTE  
ZOË**

Hackney is a great place to live, but its residents are being let down by the Labour-led Council.

I believe that Hackney deserves a Council that is rooted in the community, that understands and lives its struggle, that fights for the better borough we all want.

I have a plan to get the basics right and fix what's broken. We're focused on housing repairs, improving youth services, and investing in community spaces.

If you elect me as your first Green Mayor, I will fight tirelessly to make Hackney a place that everyone can afford to stay.

**GARBETT, ZOË**



**Zack Polanski**  
GREEN PARTY LEADER

**"I know Zoë, as our Mayor, will work day in and day out to improve the lives of everyone in Hackney."**

  
**Green Party**

# Eva Steinhardt

Your Liberal Democrat candidate for Mayor of Hackney



*"As your Mayor, my number one priority will be to make Hackney a more affordable place to live and work."*

*Eva*

Hackney deserves leadership that listens and acts - Not being taken for granted, not divided.

Our approach is simple. Build on what works and fix what is broken.

Every vote for the Lib Dems is a vote to make Hackney a more affordable place to live and protect what makes it strong.

With your votes we can make Hackney a place where everyone can all live well.

**Liberal  
Democrats**

[hackneylibdems.org.uk](http://hackneylibdems.org.uk)

Hackney is a great place, but everyone knows it can be better. Costs are too high, waiting lists are too long, and crime is rising. This must change — and the Liberal Democrats will act to fix it.

**1.**

## **Make Hackney Affordable**

Get more homes on the market to cut rent and cap high leasehold charges.

**2.**

## **Better Care For All**

Improve care services so everyone gets fair support locally.

**3.**

## **Safer Streets**

Fight Labour cuts and protect local police for safer communities. Take action on bike theft.

**4.**

## **Protect our parks**

Defend our parks from building and support nature and wellbeing.

**5.**

## **Fix Streets using Fines**

Use parking and traffic fine money to repair local roads and pavements.

## **About Eva:**

Came to London as a post-grad student in 2017, lived & worked here ever since.

A powerful advocate for justice, has worked for the Law Society and grassroots campaign organisation, Change.org.

An active member of her community, Eva is passionate about social justice issues and improving lives for everyone in Hackney.

Lives with her partner on a houseboat in Hackney.

## **A Liberal Democrat Mayor is the cure for division**

Every vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote for unity over division.

While others try to divide us along lines of race, religion, or wealth, we believe the only way to solve problems is by bringing people together, not setting people against each other.

**Every vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to focus on getting things done.**

Prepared by Peter Munro, election agent, 30a Penshurst Road, London E9 7DT, on behalf of Eva Steinhardt, Liberal Democrats, address in London Borough of Hackney.

**Liberal  
Democrats**

## Voter information


Every registered elector receives a poll card which explains when, where and how to vote. For details of your polling station, you can also visit

 [hackney.gov.uk/elections](https://hackney.gov.uk/elections)

## Who can vote?

To vote in this election, your name must be included on the Register of Electors for Hackney. All registered British, Commonwealth, Irish and qualifying European Union citizens (including EU citizens with retained rights) are entitled to vote. British overseas electors are not entitled to vote. All voters must be 18 years of age on or before Thursday 7 May 2026.

## Postal voters

If you have registered for a postal vote, a pack will be posted to the address you requested arriving from Tuesday 21 April 2026. Postal vote applications made after Thursday 11 March 2026 will be posted on Monday 27 April 2026 and Tuesday 28 April 2026. If you have not received it by Thursday 30 April 2026, please email  [electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk) or call **020 8356 3232**.

Please ensure your completed ballot is received by the Returning Officer before 10pm on Thursday 7 May 2026. If you forget to post it, you can take it to a polling station on the day of the election, but you are required to fill out a form when doing so.

## Proxy voters

You can appoint someone else to cast your vote on your behalf if you wish. Proxy voter applications must be received by the Council by 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

## Emergency proxy voters

If you are unexpectedly taken ill or are suddenly called away for work purposes after 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026 and cannot go to vote in person you can appoint an emergency proxy to vote for you. You will have to give a reason why you cannot vote in person and your application must be supported by a doctor or your employer. To apply for a proxy vote visit

 [hackney.gov.uk/ways-to-vote](https://hackney.gov.uk/ways-to-vote) or call **020 8356 3232**.

## How is the Mayor elected?

The count will take place on Friday 8 May 2026.


The Mayor is elected using the first past the post system. You will have **ONE** vote for the candidate of your choice.

## Frequently asked questions

### When will the polling stations be open?

Polling stations will be open from 7am–10pm on Thursday 7 May 2026. The location of your polling station is printed on your poll card or can be found online.

### I have lost my poll card, can I get another one?

If you are on the register, you don't need a poll card to vote, so another one won't be sent to you. You can attend the polling station and staff there will help you. The poll card is just to inform you that there is an election and explain where your polling station is. For help on your polling station, please visit  [hackney.gov.uk](https://hackney.gov.uk) or call our elections helpline on **020 8356 3232**.

### Why has every voter in my household been sent a booklet? That must cost a lot of money.

The law says that every registered voter must be sent their own copy, so they get a chance to see who the candidates are.



## You must bring photographic identification to vote

You will not be able to vote unless you show photographic identification to the polling station staff.



### Accepted forms of photographic identification

You must present one of the following forms of photographic identification in order to vote in person at a polling station:

- A passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- A driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- Biometric Immigration Documents, including eVisas
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- A Blue Badge
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- An Older Person's bus pass
- A Disabled Person's bus pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass
- A Scottish National Entitlement Card issued in Scotland
- A 60 and over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card issued in Wales
- A Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A War Disablement SmartPass or War Disabled SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- A Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- An Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- A Voter Authority Certificate or a temporary Voter Authority Certificate
- HM Armed Forces Veterans Card



If you do not possess any of the above forms of photographic identification, you can apply to your local Electoral Registration Officer for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026.

Apply online: [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk)

If your photographic identification document has expired it will still be accepted so long as the photograph is still a good likeness of you, unless it is a temporary Voter Authority Certificate which is not valid for use on the date of poll.

You may be required to provide further proof of identity if there is any discrepancy between your name as shown on your form of photographic identification and the name of the elector that you claim to be.



### Accessibility statement

If you require this document in a different format, please email [electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk)

We will consider your request and get back to you in the next five working days.



# Make sure you have the right photo ID to vote.



UK, Channel Islands or EEA driving licence



UK, Commonwealth or EEA passport



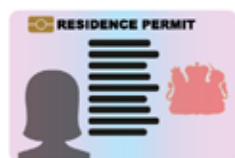
Blue Badge scheme card



National identity card issued by an EEA state



Free photo travel pass like Oyster 60+ or a Freedom Pass



Biometric Immigration Document or Digital eVisa



PASS card issued by the National Proof of Age Standards Scheme bearing the PASS hologram



The Veterans Card

**You will need one of these approved forms of photo ID.**



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[hackney.gov.uk](http://hackney.gov.uk) [electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@hackney.gov.uk)

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