

Top tips for applying to be a Labour candidate in the General Election

As you may know, Labour's NEC has decided that there will be no open selections for candidates for this election, denying members the right to decide their candidates, as would normally be the case for non-Labour held seats and seats where a sitting Labour MP decides to step down. However, it is still essential to have as many candidates as possible making bold arguments for Jeremy Corbyn's common sense policies to transform British society.

If you are an active campaigner and want to represent your community, please consider standing in seats which are marginal, and where a strong ground campaign and inspiring message could win the seat for Labour, as well as in Tory safe seats to give Tory candidates a run for their money and to inform voters of Labour's policies.

By standing in this election, you will gain crucial experience and form relationships which will benefit the Labour Party in the long-run and build the foundations for the Party's renewal. This email contains advice for your application.

How to apply:

[Full details of how to apply are available on the Labour Party Website here.](#) Please consider applying for more than one constituency to increase your chances of getting selected. You will need to complete a separate application for each constituency.

The deadline for applications is midday this Sunday, 23rd April.

To be eligible to be a candidate, individual members must have 12 consecutive months' membership of the Labour Party on 18 April (i.e. joined on or before 18 April 2016), and not be in arrears (i.e. owe money to the Party) or under any NEC-imposed restrictions such as suspension.

List of questions on the application form:

- 150 word biography which will go in the local newspaper/press released to announce candidate
- Why you should be the candidate for the seat in question?
- What do we need to do to win this election?
- Your labour party experience
- Other life experience including work and study
- What makes you a great campaigner?
- Give some examples of your communication skills..
- Particular skills you possess that will help you as a representative...
- Interpersonal, teamwork and liaison skills...
- Apart from skills and experiences above please give any examples of other knowledge and or skills which will assist you as a candidate

Things to think about before answering these questions - these may be obvious but should help get you in the right frame of mind when answering the above questions.

1. You need to stand out!

Everyone who applies will have knocked on hundreds of doors and helped Labour candidates get elected. You must show that you have done this, giving examples preferably in the constituency where you are applying, but don't rely on this only. **Standing out means...** having real connections to the community, being a campaigner and having ideas about how to make the lives of your constituents better.

This means showing that you have ideas about how policy can be implemented to improve people's lives. **How would your local Labour Party work? What would make a difference to people locally, what are the big issues that are affecting people locally?**

2. Are you a community based campaigner? - If yes show it!

What campaigns have you been involved in at a local level? What differences did these make? This shows an understanding of the people you will represent and the issues they face. You want to show as many ties to the seat you are applying for as possible.

3. Share your story:

What will make local people want to vote for you is your **real world experience and background story**. This is especially important in your 150 word biography. Think about experiences such as jobs or having a family that have given you skills or knowledge that would be helpful to you as a representative and leader. **Real life experience is key!**

4. What are your credentials?

What are your Labour Party credentials? Have you been a councillor candidate, CLP officer, or sat on the National Policy Forum? What essential experience has this given you? **Are you a Trade Unionist?** What's your relationship and experience with the trade union movement?

5. Share your vision:

What is your vision for the Labour Party? You don't need to point out your political allegiances to particular MPs or wings within the Party, but don't be afraid to talk about your vision for a socialist Labour agenda to transform our country.

TOP TIPS

- Don't worry if you don't feel qualified for all these areas! No one applying will have experience of everything.
- Be yourself and express **YOUR STORY**. Why do you care about the Labour Party?
- Be honest

Candidate CV - Declaration

This section looks intimidating, but don't worry. Just be honest. If you have questions/queries about what information you need to put down here then please ring your regional Labour Party office and talk it through with them.

Candidates CV - References

Contact a respected Labour Party representative who you have worked with, who will speak highly of you. This could be an MP, councillor or regional board rep who you have campaigned for or with.