

**CHOOSE  
MY PCC**

# **CANDIDATES FOR THE WEST MERCIA POLICE FORCE AREA**

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On 5th 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

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**On 5th May, you will be able to vote for your police and crime commissioner (PCC). The job of the PCC is to oversee the police and ensure that they are prioritising what matters to you. Elections will be taking place in England and Wales, excluding London and Greater Manchester.**

Police and crime commissioners are elected by you to ensure the policing needs of your community are met as effectively as possible and to oversee how crime is tackled in your area.

40 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales (excluding London and Greater Manchester). The PCC in your area holds your police force to account for delivering the kind of policing you want to see. Their aim will be to cut crime and to ensure your police force is effective. PCCs bring a public voice to policing and they do this by:

- engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set police and crime plans;
- ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- appointing, and where necessary dismissing, the chief constable.

### Work with others

PCCs also work with your council and other organisations to promote and enable joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.

The PCC does not 'run' the police force. Chief constables 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 ensure an effective policing contribution alongside other partners to national arrangements to protect the public from other cross-boundary threats.

### Represent the entire community

PCCs are required to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office. The oath is designed so that PCCs can set out publicly their commitment to tackling their role with integrity. It reflects the commitment police officers make to serve every member of the public impartially and makes clear that they are there to serve the people, not a political party or any one section of their electorate.

### Find your candidate

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in 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](http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk)** or call **0800 1070708**.

### 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](http://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 5th May visit **[www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)**

## John-Paul Campion

The Conservative Party Candidate



### Election statement:

I believe the communities of West Mercia deserve a hard working Commissioner who will be a true community champion.

My background is in business, Local Government, Prison Service and with the former police authority.

I have a track record of standing up for my local community and delivering on my promises.

I have set out my vision for a **safer West Mercia** at [www.campion4westmerciam.com](http://www.campion4westmerciam.com) but the key highlights are:

- **A Secure West Mercia**; keeping us safe against threats locally and nationally. Ensuring the Police are there in times of emergency including having enough armed police. I will work hard so that criminals are brought to justice quickly and that we are on the side of victims.
- **A Reformed West Mercia**; I will champion innovation to make sure your money is spent efficiently before I ever ask you to pay any more. I will modernise the back office to divert more money to protect front line policing. I will be transparent in how decisions are made to restore the trust of our community.
- **A Reassured West Mercia**; I will work hard to ensure people feel safe as for too long antisocial behaviour has blighted our towns and rural communities feel forgotten.

I will also invest in crime prevention to tackle the root causes of crime.

West Mercia Police is made up of hard working officers and staff but they need a strong Commissioner to stand shoulder to shoulder with them. I will work tirelessly to be that Strong Commissioner, representing the diverse views of our many communities and ensuring that they are represented at the heart of policing.

With **your support** on Thursday 5th May, we can start to build a **Safer West Mercia**.

Yours sincerely,  
John Campion

Prepared by Election Agent MJ Hart, 35 Mill Street,  
Kidderminster DY11 6XB

### Contact details

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## Peter Jewell

UKIP



### **Election statement:**

I see the role of Commissioner as a non party-political one, representing the interests of all, without bias, which has been my practice during long public service in the Magistracy. I see it also as one of great responsibility, in ensuring that West Mercia, with its £200 million budget and 2,000+ employees, is administered as effectively and efficiently as possible, in the interests of protecting and policing the community.

I have many years experience in business, both on my own account, and as a consultant, turning around major companies, world-wide, into efficient 'fit for purpose' operations and I believe my wide experience in leadership roles in business, the judiciary, and sport, would be put to good use in the service of West Mercia.

After spending some time with management, I am satisfied that, fiscally, West Mercia is well run. Operationally, there has been demoralising comment in the local press regarding the Peel report, but I am satisfied that the areas of concern highlighted are already being addressed.

I am concerned that despite large sums spent on national security, we cannot hope to guarantee safety from external threats unless we have control of our country's borders. Locally, I have concerns that rural areas are under-policed, whilst child and domestic crime, as well as theft and burglary, are increasing, with detection rates for the latter falling. Cyber

crime, and online security too, are becoming increasingly important issues as society changes.

Finally, there appears to be an assumption that the Commissioner is unable to challenge the government on funding but I would have no such inhibitions, political or otherwise, where a case could be made for additional funding.

I confirm this form has been prepared by me.

David Greenwood, Rose Cottage, Saleway. WR9 7JY  
Election Agent for Peter Jewell.

### **Contact details**

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## John Watson Raine

Green Party



### **Election statement:**

John has lived within West Mercia for the past 37 years. He is a professor at Birmingham University specialising in policing and criminal justice. Throughout his career he has worked with senior police and criminal justice officials, leading research projects for the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Victim Support and other national agencies, as well as for local police, courts and probation organisations. He knows the issues and challenges for PCCs well.

For 20 years he has also served as a local councillor – at parish, district and county levels – and so is used to addressing individual and community problems and holding public servants to account for the work they are paid to do on our behalf.

His candidacy for the Office of PCC reflects his deep commitment to local democratic control of public services and he favours devolving as much responsibility as possible to local commanders of policing areas.

John's key goal in relation to policing and crime is to make people safer, and feel safer. To that end, he wants to increase speed enforcement on our roads, and the visibility of police on our streets, so strengthening their interaction with local communities. He also wishes to see more people having the confidence to report the crimes they suffer, particularly domestic violence, sexual abuse and other under-reported violations.

John supports more investment in activities for young people, so addressing issues that often lead to anti-social behaviour and crime. He also wants to see more restorative justice schemes, with offenders making reparations to victims and engaging in activities that address problems underlying their misbehaviour (e.g. alcohol and drug treatment programmes, and one-to-one mentoring schemes that support offenders in finding suitable jobs, accommodation and in living healthier, less chaotic lives).

Prepared by Election Agent, Julian Roskams, 147 Worcester Road, Malvern, WR14 1ET.

### **Contact details**

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## Margaret Rowley

Liberal Democrats



### Election statement:

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

My top 3 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.

West Mercia has been rated as one of the five worst performing police forces in the country. A recent report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary found that the force “requires improvement at keeping people safe and reducing crime.”

Violent crime, sexual offences and robbery have all risen sharply in the last year.

Local people are being let down by under-investment and a lack of strong leadership.

We deserve better. To get that, we need a new approach.

As your next Police and Crime Commissioner I would demand **immediate improvements** to cut crime and prevent re-offending.

I will ensure the police work more closely with local communities, meeting local needs and tackling local priorities.

My 20 years experience as an elected councillor mean I have the skills of listening to members of the community, championing your views and where possible achieving your priorities.

I have lived in Worcestershire for 25 years and until recently was employed as a senior manager in the NHS. I have built up a wealth of local knowledge and experience of service management in the public sector.

**It is time for us to have a Commissioner who will listen to local residents and act to keep them safe.**

**With your support on May 5th, that’s exactly what I will do.**

Prepared by Election Agent Lucy Hurds, 54 St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PU

### Contact details

[www.wmlibdems.org/margaret\\_rowley\\_for\\_west\\_mercia\\_pcc](http://www.wmlibdems.org/margaret_rowley_for_west_mercia_pcc)

[www.facebook.com/margaretrowleyforwestmercia](https://www.facebook.com/margaretrowleyforwestmercia)

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## Barrie Sheldon

Independent



### Election statement:

Policing must remain both **INDEPENDENT** and impartial. Politics must not be allowed to interfere as it brings a narrow agenda that could damage the front line of policing that we all rely on and need to have trust in.

Since November 2012 I have worked for the people of West Mercia as your Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and have a **track record that is proven** and open to scrutiny. Those I have worked with and the thousands I have met publicly know that I am committed to strengthen our police services, to get the best deal for victims of crime, use early intervention and education to reduce offending, and ensure that people and communities take priority.

I have played a strategic role in protecting front line policing and bolstered police numbers in West Mercia, while nationally numbers have dropped. I am proud that confidence in our West Mercia police force is above the national average and is rising. Victim services, key policing partnerships and local policing have all been strengthened and I, as part of a leadership team have been driving forward significant change to transform our policing services.

Our West Mercia police force is currently in an excellent financial position due to prudent and careful management and plans are already in place to meet new financial challenges that will require both **stability and continuity**.

I have demonstrated the ability to lead, have credibility in the role, and can be trusted as a safe pair of hands to provide the **continuity** required to reform policing and enhance the delivery of policing services.

On May 5th I provide an option for you to vote for a truly **INDEPENDENT** candidate who has no allegiance to any political party.

Prepared by Election Agent; Allan Wilson, 'Bramley' School Road, Edgmond, Newport. TF10 8LB

### Contact details

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## Daniel Walton

Labour Party



### **Election statement:**

As your Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia I will:

#### **Demand the government gives the police the funds they need**

The Tories claim they have protected the Police Service. This is just not true. West Mercia is one of the poorest funded Police areas in the country. The government is cutting the budget by £600,000 taking officers off the beat.

I will **not** be complicit with the Tory councils across West Mercia in cutting police services.

#### **Put victims first**

Victims must be confident that when they report a crime it will be investigated. Over the last five years police numbers across West Mercia have dropped by 18% and half the PCSOs have gone.

Prioritise domestic violence, anti-social behaviour, and hate crime

Reports of domestic violence across West Mercia have increased by a staggering 66%. Fewer Police and PCSOs on the beat will see an increase in anti-social behaviour and hate crimes.

### **Encourage the police to work with other agencies**

The Police must have the resources to work with other agencies which protect people. Social workers, schools, faith communities and voluntary organisations all have their part to play. Working together takes time but these crucial relationships must be at the centre of the Police's work in West Mercia.

### **Educate the public about online crime and abuse**

Criminals will seek out every opportunity to find victims and vulnerable people for online scams or online abuse. The police have an important role in educating people to stay safe online.

### **Vote for a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner in West Mercia and I promise I will work to deliver these priorities for you.**

Prepared by John Gallagher, Election Agent for Daniel Walton, 20 Chase Road, Malvern, WR14 4JY.

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## Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for West Mercia

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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 5th May 2016; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- Campion, John-Paul (The Conservative Party Candidate)
- Jewell, Peter Anthony Edmund (UKIP)
- Raine, John Watson (Green Party)
- Rowley, Margaret (Liberal Democrats)
- Sheldon, Barrie (Independent)
- Walton, Daniel (Labour Party)

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