

make a difference on 4 June 2009... use your vote







"At last there is the opportunity for individuals and community groups throughout the region who want to make a stand at the ballot box and in their community. We can all organise, campaign and get out the vote in our own areas, and make that difference."

Malcolm Clark - Director, Make Votes Count

Sample Ballot Paper

Election for the European Parliament
North West

Vote once (X) in one blank box

1	BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY 1. Nick Griffin 2. Martin Wingfield 3. Steven Greenwood 4. Edward Richard James O'Donovan 5. Jani Puri 6. Michael Elliot 7. Derek Adams 8. Gary Anonson		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	CONSERVATIVE PARTY 1. Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins MEP 2. Sajid Khan MEP 3. Jacqueline Foster 4. Alan Williams 5. Gregory Morgan		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	GREEN PARTY 1. Peter Cranle 2. Clr. Mair Whitelegg 3. Ruth Sargent 4. Samir Chatterjee 5. Jill Rary 6. Judith Hill 7. Margaret Westbrook 8. Geoff Smith		<input type="checkbox"/>
4	LABOUR PARTY 1. Aileen McCarthy 2. Brian Stegman 3. Theresa Griffin 4. Stephen Carter 5. Jane Christie 6. Riaz Ahmad 7. Claire Johnson 8. Brian Steg		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS 1. Chris Davies 2. Helen Foster-Gilme 3. Sue McGuire 4. Gordon Abel 5. Neil Corbett 6. Mark Clayton 7. Stephen Cooke 8. Peter Hirst		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	UKIP 1. Gwig Beaman 2. Nigel Brown 3. Gillian Cannon 4. Terry Dunscombe 5. Philip Griffiths 6. Henry Jones 7. Fred McClelland 8. Michael McManus 9. Paul Nuttall		<input type="checkbox"/>
7	SAM CARE Independent		<input type="checkbox"/>

This is a specimen ballot paper for the European Parliamentary Elections 2009

finding out more:

The Electoral Commission website www.aboutmyvote.co.uk has non-partisan info about all aspects of the elections.

To register to vote, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or contact your local council. The registration deadline is 19 May.

And nearer to the election, go to the Vote Match Europe website www.votematch.co.uk to help you compare the policies of different parties and see which best matches your policy positions and values.

If you want briefing materials or a visit from a speaker who can help your group understand more clearly how the voting system works and how best they can use their vote on 4 June, then get in contact with us.

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www.eurovotescount.org.uk



Your Vote Counts

in the
European
Elections

make a difference
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The European Parliamentary elections are different than a local or General election. Because of the proportional voting system used for electing MEPs:

your vote counts

- every vote is important.
- you have a much higher likelihood of affecting the result, no matter where you live.
- the candidates are the same across the region, so there are no differences across wards – even if your ward traditionally favours one particular party, your vote can still make a difference across the region.

vote your values

- you can vote for the party you really believe in; for the agenda you want advanced in/by Europe.
- you have a higher chance of ending up being represented (in your region) by a party you voted for.

vote to reduce the chances of extremists being elected

- the higher the turnout, the harder it likely becomes for extremist parties to win seats.
- if people don't go out and vote, the greater the risk of an extremist party, with a small but committed base of support gaining representation. Whose voice do you want in the European Parliament: their voice or yours?

voting = easy

The ballot paper is very straightforward. You have one vote, which is used to elect a list of MEPs who will represent the whole region. Simply vote for the party you prefer – put an X in the column next to that party's name. That's it, job done!

how MEPs are elected

Each region has a certain number of MEPs dependent on its population size. Parties put up a list of candidates and then win seats roughly in proportion to their share of the vote. It works like this: the party with the most votes in a region wins the first seat (which goes to the name on the top of their list). The remaining seats in the region are then allocated between the parties based on a simple formula which ensures that the number of votes needed to elect an MEP is broadly the same across the parties.

why campaigning across your region matters:

MEPs are elected by a form of proportional representation based on region-wide vote totals. This means it is worth competing in every ward, every borough and every county – yes, those where there is lots of political activity already, but also in areas which aren't normally targeted at election time and amongst people who don't usually feel part of the national political conversation. No matter whom you support or what issues you want to promote, you can organise, campaign and get out the vote in our own areas, and make a difference to the result.

