

make a difference on 4 June 2009... use your vote to tackle extremism







"At last there is the opportunity for individuals and community groups throughout the region who want to make a stand against extremism 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 Groombridge 4. Edward Richard James O'Guliver 5. Jean Furdy 6. Michael Elliot 7. Derek Adams 8. Gary Anonson		<input type="checkbox"/>
2	CONSERVATIVE PARTY 1. Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins MEP 2. Sajid Karim MEP 3. Jacqueline Foster 4. Alan Williams 5. Gregory Morgan		<input type="checkbox"/>
3	GREEN PARTY 1. Peter Crane 2. Clr. Mia 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 Simpson 3. Theresa Griffin 4. Stephen Carter 5. Jane Christie 6. Riaz Ahmad 7. Claire Johnson 8. Brian Sheg		<input type="checkbox"/>
5	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS 1. Chris Davies 2. Helen Foster-Gilme 3. Sue McGuire 4. Gordon Abel 5. Neil Corlett 6. Mark Clayton 7. Stephen Coombe 8. Peter Hirst		<input type="checkbox"/>
6	UKIP 1. Gwig Beaman 2. Nigel Brown 3. Gilman Gannon 4. Terry Dunscombe 5. Philip Griffiths 6. Henry James 7. Fred McCleod 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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tackle extremism

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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.
- to maximise the effect of your vote, it is better to either vote for one of the main parties (to stop an extremist party taking one of their seats), or vote for a smaller party which has a chance of getting more votes than the extremist party (and so come above them in the order when seats are allocated).

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. Thus voters throughout each region can oppose the push by extremist parties for an MEP. This means competing in every ward, every borough and every county – those where there has been lots of recent anti-fascist activity, but also areas which aren't normally targeted at election time, and places with diverse populations or communities with long anti-racist traditions. We can all organise, campaign and get out the vote in our own areas, and make that difference come 4 June.

