

**CHOOSE
MY PCC**

Candidates for the Hertfordshire Police Force Area

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
elections are taking place on 2nd May in
England and Wales.

Find out who your local candidates are
and how to vote.



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About Police and Crime Commissioners

On 2nd May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and to hold the police to account.

Police and Crime Commissioners are elected to hold your police force to account for delivering the kind of policing you want to see. PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service. 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 the chief constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives, and if necessary, dismissing them.

The PCC does not “run” the police force. Chief constables continue to be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the PCC.

In some Police Force Areas, PCCs are also responsible for Fire and Rescue Services, and are known as Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCCs). Furthermore, in some areas, neither a PCC nor PFCC is elected – instead there will be an election for a Mayor who will hold the PCC, PFCC or equivalent powers.

37 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales, of which 4 will be PFCCs – PFCCs are found in Cumbria, Essex, Staffordshire, and Northamptonshire.

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. As directly elected individuals, they provide opportunities for greater collaboration and effective scrutiny of public services. In doing so, PCCs also have regard to national cross border threats, and ensure there is an effective policing response.

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 they can publicly set out their commitment to: serve all of the people in their Police Force Area; act with integrity and diligence; give a voice to the public; act with transparency so that they may be effectively held to account; and not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

Find your candidate

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in the Hertfordshire 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.choosemyppcc.org.uk** or call **0300 1311323**.

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** 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).

PCCs are elected using the first past the post voting system, where the candidate with the most votes, wins. Voters will vote by choosing a single candidate on the ballot paper. This is the same system as UK Parliamentary elections.

For more information about your vote visit:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections>.

Jonathan Ash-Edwards

Conservative Candidate –
More Police, Safer Streets



Election statement:

Tough on crime for a safer Hertfordshire

The role of Police and Crime Commissioner is a big job. It matters who represents you. Jonathan Ash-Edwards has the experience needed to keep Hertfordshire safe.

Committed to public service, he's served as a Council Leader, led an education trust and chaired an effective community safety partnership.

Living locally with his family, he'll be tough on crime for a safer Hertfordshire.

Conservative PCCs focus on your priorities:

- **More Police** – Hertfordshire now has more police officers than ever before, with over 300 more officers compared to 2019 levels.
- **Safer Streets** – Hertfordshire is the 5th safest county in England & Wales and has an award-winning victim care and support service.
- **Lower Tax** – local residents pay one of the lowest police precepts in the country.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner, Jonathan will:

- **Prevent crime** – disrupt criminality and invest in ‘hotspot’ policing to tackle persistent offending.
- **Tackle high impact crimes** – focus on fraud and cybercrime, domestic abuse, county lines drugs gangs and violence against women and girls.
- **Provide responsive policing** – a robust response to anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime. A police response to home burglary, and not just a crime number.
- **Support victims** – fund high quality victim support and focus on improving detection rates to ensure more victims see justice being done.
- **Keep Herts safe** – ensure our county continues to be a great place to live and work, with safe town centres and rural crime tackled.
- **Listen to you** – work to ensure your voice is heard in local policing and the police are empowered to deliver on your priorities.

For a conservative on law and order, vote for Jonathan Ash-Edwards on Thursday 2nd May.

Prepared by Alexander Curtis on behalf of Jonathan Ash-Edwards, both of 57-59 High Street, Hoddesdon, EN11 8TQ.

Contact details

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Matt Fisher

Green Party



Election statement:

I aspire to make a significant, enduring impact on the world, leveraging my natural ability to unite people and foster community spirit. My commitment to environmental sustainability and strong leadership skills underpins my goal to create lasting change.

During my formative years, I demonstrated exceptional team skills, recognized through awards including the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet and the Best Sea Cadet in Great Britain. I achieved the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and scholarships in both flying and maritime skills.

My experiences range from teaching in South Africa to serving as a Special Constable. As a Royal Navy Officer Air Crew, I honed my leadership abilities, particularly while working with Special Forces. This military background instilled in me the motto "The Team Works," which I embody in all endeavours.

In my career as a portrait and event photographer, I've connected with diverse individuals, successfully collaborating with national and international brands. This enabled me to refine my persuasive skills, evident in my volunteer work with Project Harar, producing films to support facial reconstructive surgery in Ethiopia.

I have a strong moral compass, a sense of duty, and an innovative mindset. These qualities make me eager to collaborate with various community groups to develop strategies for safer, more vibrant communities.

Currently serving as a Green district councillor in St Albans, I excel in resolving conflicts and challenges with empathy and respect. My abilities to engage, inspire, and inform have been proven in numerous capacities. I am excited about this role, seeing it as a perfect alignment with my skills and passions.

This address has been prepared by the election agent, Candy Whittome, whose contact address is St Albans Green Party, 21 Marlborough Gate, St Albans, AL1 3TX.

Contact details

Tom Plater

Labour and Co-operative Party



Election statement:

I'm Tom Plater and I'm standing to be your Labour & Co-operative PCC Candidate for Hertfordshire.

There are real issues across Hertfordshire. Violence & sexual offences are consistently high, antisocial behaviour makes up almost a quarter of all crimes in our county, and last year there was a 35% increase in shoplifting.

This cannot continue. It's time to make Hertfordshire safe. In May you'll have a choice between business as usual with the Tories, or a Labour & Co-operative candidate with a real plan to tackle crime in our neighbourhoods, by smashing drug crime, combating violence against Women & Girls and reducing anti-social behaviour.

We will do this by taking real action. If elected I will put more bobbies on the beat, who know our local communities inside out, with their policing led by the intelligence they gather. I will work with domestic abuse charities to put their workers into 999 call centres to work alongside our brilliant call centre handlers. I will review and improve vetting practises across Hertfordshire Constabulary.

I will also work hand in hand with our county, district & borough councils and their safety teams, and strengthen not only the relationships between our Constabulary and the councils, but that between the PCC and our elected representatives by attending council meetings, and joining councillors at their ward surgeries.

I know we cannot police in a bubble, it must be done in partnership with our education providers, NHS trusts & healthcare organisations, and our fantastic charity sector who do amazing work with local people affected by crime across our county.

To make our county safer it's time for a change, and that change is Labour.

This election address has been prepared by the agent, Jill Gipps, 28 Alma Road, St Albans, AL1 3BW.

Contact details

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Sean Prendergast

Liberal Democrats



Election statement:

I am an experienced investigator for the Housing Ombudsman Service and also a District Councillor in North Herts District Council where I am the portfolio holder for Housing and Environmental Health.

Early in my career I worked as a Police Community Support Officer where I gained a strong grounding in operational policing. I now serve as a local charity trustee for survivors against domestic abuse where I take a leading role in developing ideas and strategies to support vulnerable victims. Through my appointments in housing, I have developed extensive experience working with local partners to ensure that policing priorities are met.

As Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, I will work to strengthen community cohesion by supporting active police engagement in hard-to-reach areas. I will develop and grow neighbourhood policing with an emphasis on finding long-term solutions to ongoing crime and anti-social behaviour and will foster strong multi-agency partnerships to develop a coordinated approach to protect victims and prevent crime.

My key priorities are to:

- Increase visible community and neighbourhood policing
- Stop violence against women and girls
- Solve burglary and vehicle crime
- Tackle and prevent antisocial behaviour

If elected I will be a visible and available Police Commissioner, who will hold local community forums, listen to your concerns AND take action. I understand that every crime matters and that a fresh approach to policing is needed in Hertfordshire.

Prepared by Freya Waterhouse, 23 Raynham Street,
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Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for Hertfordshire

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 Hertfordshire.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in Hertfordshire on 2nd May 2024; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- ASH-EDWARDS, Jonathan – Conservative Candidate – More Police, Safer Streets
- FISHER, Matt – Green Party
- PLATER, Tom – Labour and Co-operative Party
- PRENDERGAST, Sean – Liberal Democrats

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