



www.doncaster.gov.uk



City of
Doncaster
Council

Mayoral Elections 2025 Media Pack



Contents

Introduction	Page 3
Key Election staff	Page 4
Council media team	Page 4
Attendee information	Page 5
Mayoral candidates and other information	Page 6
Floor layout	Page 7
Mayoral Election 2025 questions and answers	Page 8-9
Mayoral Election results sheet	Page 10

Introduction

Welcome to the Doncaster Mayoral Election Count 2025 at Doncaster Racecourse.

The Count is starting at 10pm and it is expected that the result will be declared by 3-4am, although it is difficult to predict exactly when.

We have prepared the following information to assist you throughout the evening which we hope you find useful.

Please follow Doncaster Council on X @MyDoncaster
and 'like' us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mydoncaster

Make sure you use our elections hashtag to group tweets about today's count:




#donnyelections



The council's media team will be on site, please let us know if we can help in any way.

The Communications Team.

Key Election staff during the evening

Returning Officer Damian Allen	Deputy Returning Officer Scott Fawcus	Deputy Returning Officer Trina Barber
		

Council media team

Steph El Idrissi 	Gemma Parkinson 
Lois Litardo 	Nick Fromont 

Attendee information

Location

The Count is taking place at Doncaster Racecourse, Leger Way, Doncaster DN2 6BB

<http://www.doncaster-racecourse.co.uk/about-us/howtofindus>

Parking

A dedicated car park is available for media representatives at car park A across the road from the venue. See below:



Signing in

All media must use the main entrance to sign in and receive their media wrist band from the council media team. Identification (i.e. driving licence photocard) will need to be shown and security checks will take place. The wrist band must be visible at all times for security purposes.

Further guidelines

- Please ask a member of the council's media team for help with any questions or issues you may have.
- Due to the restrictions in place there is **limited access** to the Count floor. If you would like access, you must speak to the council's media team who can look to arrange this.
- Don't do anything to interrupt count staff or interfere with their work.
- Don't film or photograph ballot papers close up – you have a legal duty to help maintain the secrecy of voting.
- Ensure you abide by any instructions the Returning Officer gives you. If you fail to do so you may be asked to leave the Count.

Who are the Mayoral candidates?

Visit [Local Government Elections - 1 May 2025 - City of Doncaster Council](#)

Mayoral Election timings (Thursday 1 May evening into Friday morning)

Venue open for media attendance (must sign in to receive media wrist band)	From 9.30pm
Count start time	10pm
Declaration time (estimate)	From 3-4am

Identifying council media team at the count

The council media team will be wearing **silver** coloured wristbands and will be showing their staff badges at all times.

Publication of results

The results will be published on: www.doncaster.gov.uk/elections
and X.com: @MyDoncaster

Media area

There will be a dedicated media area with seating and tables and access to electrical plug sockets. You will be required to wear your wristband to gain access at all times.

Wifi

Wifi will be available. The password details will be provided on the day.

Refreshments

Snacks, as well as hot and cold drinks, will be available to purchase via contactless payment (no cash).

Mayoral Election 2025 - questions and answers

What is a directly-elected Mayor?

A directly elected Mayor leads the council and its range of services. They are directly elected by local people instead of being appointed by members of a local authority.

What is the history of the Mayoral system in Doncaster?

2001 – An all-postal ballot was held on whether Doncaster should have an Executive Mayor in place of a Leader and Cabinet model. The new system was approved.

2002 – Martin Winter (Labour) elected first Mayor of Doncaster.

2005 – Martin Winter (Labour) re-elected. Mayor Winter later became an independent.

2009 – Peter Davies (English Democrats) elected the second Mayor of Doncaster.
In 2013 Mayor Davies became an independent.

2012 – A referendum on whether to retain the Mayoral system was held.
Local people voted to retain the system.

2013 – Ros Jones (Labour) elected the third Mayor of Doncaster.

2017 – Ros Jones (Labour) re-elected.

2021 – Ros Jones (Labour) re-elected.

How does the Mayoral voting system work?

You can only vote for one candidate. Following a recent change in election law, the voting system for the Mayoral election will be the first past the post system, the candidate with the most votes will win.

Is electronic counting used?

No. At local elections in England, votes are counted by hand by appointed counting staff.

What is the process for counting postal votes?

Election staff will open postal ballot packs in the days leading up to the polling day and on polling day itself to check the accompanying “personal identifiers” (the date of birth and signature of the voter). At these opening sessions, the ballot papers must remain face down and election staff will not count these votes at these sessions. Postal votes are counted at the same time as votes cast in polling stations.

What is the verification process?

Verification ensures an accurate result. All ballot boxes for all the electoral events within each electoral/voting area must be opened and the contents verified before the counting of the votes for any of those polls for that electoral/voting area is commenced. This means that the number of ballot papers in each box either matches the number of ballot papers issued as stated on the ballot paper account or, if it does not: the source of the variance has been identified and can be explained, and/or the box has been recounted at least twice, until the same number of ballot papers is counted on two consecutive occasions. We are required to verify both the Mayoral election and Local election votes before we can begin counting the Mayoral election votes.

What is the process for consultation with election agents on the statement of verification?

Once verification has been completed the figures will be relayed to the candidates and agents.

What is the process for re-counts? Who can ask for a re-count?

Re-counts are at the discretion of the Returning Officer.

Why do votes get rejected?

There are a number of reasons why a vote may be rejected. In the case of postal votes, the most common reason is that the signature and/or date of birth provided on the postal voting statement do not match the ones supplied when the application was made to vote by post. If the postal voting statement is not accepted, then that voter's ballot paper cannot be counted. Previous experience tells us that there can be a significant number of ballot papers that may not be validly marked for a number of reasons. These are generically referred to as 'doubtful' votes and it is necessary for the Returning Officer or their authorised deputies to adjudicate doubtful ballot papers. The expectation is that votes will be counted where possible. For example, the mere fact that the vote is not marked in the proper place or is marked other than by a cross will not automatically cause the ballot paper to be rejected as long as the intention is clear.

What does the Returning Officer do?

The Returning Officer is responsible for the administration of the Election and the counting of votes, including deciding the time at which counting will begin. They are responsible for nominations, issuing poll cards and postal ballot papers, the conduct of the poll and the counting of votes.

When will the winning candidate take up office?

Tuesday 5 May 2025

How long is the Mayor's term of office?

Four years.

Previous Election results

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/the-council-democracy/election-results-for-doncaster>

Mayoral Election Results Sheet

Total number of votes

Turnout

Name	Political Party (if any)	Number of Votes	Percentage of votes
BETTNEY David	Social Democratic Party		
BUCKLEY Julie	Green Party		
CALLADINE Frank Lloyd	British Democrats		
FLETCHER Nick	The Conservative Party Candidate		
HILES Andy	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition		
JAMIL Ahsan	Workers Party of Britain		
JONES Alexander	Reform UK		
JONES Ros	Labour Party		
MELENCIUC Mihai	Liberal Democrats		
VALLANCE Richie	Independent		
WALMSLEY Andrew Daniel	Yorkshire Party		
WRIGHT Doug			