

CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE

Running as a Candidate in Local Government and the Responsibilities of Being a Councillor

Introduction

Local authorities conduct elections on a regular basis – for example, all the London boroughs in May 2002. The Christian Peoples Alliance (CPA) is encouraging as many candidates as possible to run for public office. By contesting local council seats, a clear programme of Christian-inspired policies can be offered to voters. This leaflet outlines the steps to take if you wish to run as a candidate.



Newham By-Election Team

It is encouraging that so many people in London gave the CPA a vote in elections in 2000. And at our first local government contest in Newham in 2001, the CPA won an impressive 34 per cent of the vote, coming a

weeks, with committee meetings happening in between. The hours can be quite long, perhaps 5 per week, mainly in the evenings.



CPA activists at an Election Training Day

Councillors receive expenses for attending Council meetings which, depending on the borough, can amount to several thousand pounds per annum.

CPA Policies

The policies of the Christian Peoples Alliance can be viewed on our website, www.cpalliance.net. They proved popular in London, where they won the New Statesman's 'Fantasy Mayor' contest. Detailed policies for the May 2002 Local Government Manifesto can be adapted by each borough party.

The Next Step

If you wish to allow your name to go forward as a candidate, then please fill-in the accompanying form and send it to the CPA. Indicate whether you would like to be a candidate in a 'target ward', or whether you are simply happy for your name to go forward to be a 'paper' candidate.

CHRISTIAN peoples ALLIANCE

Renewing
the
Christian
Roots
of
Democracy

CPA Campaign Officer

CPA

PO Box 932

Sutton

Surrey

SM1 1HQ

PLEASE
AFFIX
STAMP

Christian Peoples Alliance, PO Box 932, Sutton, Surrey,
SM1 1HQ • Tel 020 8408 9304 • Fax 020 408 9305
Email info@cpalliance.net • www.cpalliance.net

close second behind Labour. However, at this early stage in the existence of the CPA, the aim is to establish the Christian Peoples Alliance on the ballot paper as a positive choice for voters. By encouraging people to vote CPA, our hope is that they will continue to support us at future elections, especially where proportional representation is being used.



John Anderson discusses strategy with Richard and Janet Chandler

Being a Candidate

Anyone over the age of 21 can be a candidate for their local council. They don't have to live in the district, or ward, they are standing in. The law simply asks that candidates must be on the electoral register as entitled to vote, or otherwise that they hold employment in the area. Commonwealth and EU citizens are eligible.

Your local area organiser for the CPA may ask you to consider standing, or you may wish to take the initiative yourself. The CPA requires first that you agree with our aims and that you are a member of the CPA. The primary thing to recognise is that the present electoral system will make it a challenge for the CPA to win seats first time round! But by agreeing for your name to go forward as a candidate, you are helping the CPA build for the future as we establish ourselves at electoral level.

The Local Electoral Process

Unlike parliamentary elections, no deposits are required to run for council elections. But it is necessary for a small number of supporters registered to vote in the ward you are standing-in sign your nomination papers. These in turn must be submitted within a deadline to the council's Electoral Officer.

You are allowed an Election Agent to look after this paperwork and to look after details of any election expenses you may incur. However, the CPA intends to provide trained Borough Agents to fill this role.

The CPA Strategy

Every party has areas of weak support or strong support, in any given council area. Obviously most effort goes into fighting 'target' wards and less effort everywhere else. The CPA will follow the same tactic by putting-up candidates in every local council district, while concentrating efforts in a few key areas. How well the CPA does will be a reflection of how much work in the community the CPA does before the election. Candidates who stand in wards where it is unlikely they will be elected, are termed 'paper candidates'. Their role is to help raise the profile of the CPA.

Being a Local Councillor

Local government councillors carry a range of responsibilities. If elected, the main aim of CPA councillors will be to work for their local communities by serving people. This means helping people with issues that concern them. But councillors also sit on committees that take decisions about such areas as housing, social services, schools, the environment and transport. Every council is different, but typically, a member may attend a 'Full Council' meeting once every 10

Joining the List of Local Council Candidates

I would like to consider standing for my local council district.

I am happy to be a 'paper candidate' in a non-target ward.

My Council is _____

Next election date (if known) _____

I would like training/more information on what is involved

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email : _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

CPA Campaign Officer, CPA,
PO Box 932, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1HQ.
Tel 020 8408 9304 • Fax 020 408 9305
Email info@cpalliance.net • www.cpalliance.net

