



# 2018 Local Election Poll Worker Survey

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## Page 1: Welcome

### **The 2018 Local Election Poll Worker Survey**

This survey is organised by researchers at the Universities of East Anglia & Newcastle. We are interested in learning from your experience of the local election of May 2018. In particular, we'd like to know more about who was involved in running elections on the day and your experiences related to working at the elections.

Your responses are very important for helping us to understand the elections process. The responses will contribute to academic reports. The survey is being circulated to all local authorities holding elections this May and no individuals or local authorities will be identifiable from these responses. Your answers are anonymous and will be treated confidentially.

**Please click 'next' to begin the survey.** We anticipate the questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. We hope you will find answering the questions interesting. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the researchers via their contact details below.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

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## Page 2: Your Past Experience

**First, some general questions about your experience of being a poll worker**

**1. In what role did you work at the polls in the May 2018 local election?**

- 1. Presiding Officer
- 2. Polling Clerk
- 3. Information Officer
- 4. Counting staff
- 5. Other (please specify)

**1.a.** If you selected Other, please specify:

**2. Including the May 2018 local elections, approximately how many elections have you worked at?**

**3. Thinking about your decision to be a poll worker, please indicate how important each of these reasons was in helping you decide to work on polling day.**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Not at all important	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very important
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1. I wanted to experience the democratic process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I wanted to learn more about politics and government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I was asked by someone in a local group I attend	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I like to be with people who share my ideals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I think it is my duty as a citizen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I am the kind of person who does my share	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I wanted to make some extra money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I received recognition from people I respect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I can be with friends and like-minded people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. It was different to the usual day at work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**4. How were you recruited to work at the local election in 2018? Were you recruited by:**

- 1. A local council official
- 2. Another poll worker
- 3. An advertisement in the local media
- 4. An official job posting by the council
- 5. At work or business
- 6. I wasn't recruited by anyone, I volunteered
- 7. I was recruited as I have worked at previous elections
- 8. Other (please specify)

**4.a.** If you selected Other, please specify:



## Page 3: Training

We are now interested in learning more about the training you received before you worked as a poll worker in May 2018

### 5. How many training sessions did you attend prior to the day of the election?

- 1. None – I wasn't offered any (Go to Q7)
- 2. None – I was offered but could/did not attend (Go to Q7)
- 3. One (Go to Q6)
- 4. Two (Go to Q6)
- 5. Three or More (Go to Q6)

### 6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of any in-person training session that you attended, or any material that you received?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Did not receive	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1. Talk/presentation from senior election official	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2. Video/DVD	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3. Role-playing of scenarios	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4. Question and answer of possible scenarios	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5. On the day training by the Presiding Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>				

6. Informal telephone conversation with election official	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7. Booklets to read through	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**7. Did you receive any manuals, booklets, videos/DVDs or online material to help you learn more about election procedures?**

1. None (go to Q9)  
 2. Manuals  
 3. Booklets  
 4. Video/DVD  
 5. Link to online material  
 6. Other (Please specify)

**7.a.** If you selected Other, please specify:

**8. If yes, how much of the material did you read or watch prior to election day?**

1. All of it  
 2. Most of it  
 3. Some of it  
 4. None of it

**9. Thinking back on your training, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. The training sessions were too long	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The training sessions were boring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The training sessions spent enough time covering election law and procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The training sessions were easy to understand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The training prepared me well for election day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. After the training, I was confident in my ability to do my job on election day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The instructions we received from the election officials for opening the polls were clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The instructions we received from the election officials for closing the polls were clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. The instructions for what types of voter identification I could accept were clear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. The instructions for when to allow voters to cast a provisional ballot were clear	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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**10.** Did you notice any differences between your training and how the polling station operated on election day?

- 1. Yes, a lot
- 2. Somewhat
- 3. A little
- 4. None

**11.** Overall, how would you rate the quality of your training experience?

- 1. Excellent
- 2. Good
- 3. Fair
- 4. Poor

## Page 4: Your Experience of Election Day

We would now like to know more about your experience on election day

**12.** Which local council were you working for on polling day? \* *Required*

**13.** How confident are you that ballot papers in the May 2018 local elections were issued correctly at your polling station?

- 1. Very confident
- 2. Somewhat confident
- 3. Not very confident
- 4. Not at all confident

**14.** Were you missing any of the following supplies at your polling station?

- 1. Everything was there
- 2. Electoral register
- 3. Ballot papers
- 4. Polling station signs
- 5. Other (please specify)

**14.a.** If you selected Other, please specify:

**15. Thinking back on your experience during the May 2018 local election, please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statements**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. There were problems setting up my polling station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. There were problems closing the polling station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The poll workers in my polling station worked well together	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The voting process went smoothly at my polling location	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The voting booths provide voters with enough privacy as they vote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Election laws are too complex to understand quickly and easily	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. There were problems with queues at the polling station during the day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. There were problems with queues at the polling station towards the end of polling day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**16. Did your polling station have all the workers it needed?**

- Yes
- No

**17. Roughly how many times, if any, did your polling station experience any of the following problems on polling day?**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	None	1	2-5	6-10	More than 10
1. People asking to vote, who were not on the electoral register	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2. Members of political parties intimidating the public	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3. Members of political parties being where they should not be	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4. People taking photos of ballot/polling stations	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5. People asking to vote, whose identity I was unsure about	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6. Suspected cases of electoral fraud	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7. Disabled voters having problems with access to the polling station	<input type="checkbox"/>				

8. Disabled voters having problems completing ballot papers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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18. If you experienced any other problems on polling day which are not listed above, please describe them here.

19. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about ballot secrecy?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1. Maintaining the secrecy of the vote is of crucial importance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. We had no problems maintaining the secrecy of the vote at our polling station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The need for the secrecy of the vote is not well understood by voters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. It is not clear to me why maintaining the secrecy of the vote is so important	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. With the current state of technology (e.g. mobile phones with internet & cameras) the secrecy of the vote is no longer so important	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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20. Overall, how satisfied are you with how polling day went?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

## Page 5: About Politics in General

We would now like to ask some questions about your thoughts on the political process more generally

### 21. How interested are you in the following issues?

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Not at all interested	Not very interested	Neither interested or uninterested	Fairly interested	Very interested
1. Politics generally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Local issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. National issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. International issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 22. Which of the following have you done in the last two – three years?

- 1. Voted in the last local elections
- 2. Voted in the last general election
- 3. Signed a petition/signed an e-petition
- 4. Done voluntary work
- 5. Boycotted certain products for ethical, political or environmental reasons
- 6. Expressed my opinions online
- 7. Taken part in a march or demonstration
- 8. Been to any political meeting
- 9. Donated or paid membership fees to a political party
- 10. Contacted your local councillor or MP
- 11. Been an officer of a club or organisation
- 12. Written a letter to a newspaper editor
- 13. Taken part in an active political campaign

- 14. Stood for public office
- 15. None of these

**23. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government to do what is right?**

- 1. Just about always
- 2. Most of the time
- 3. Only some of the time
- 4. Almost never

**24. Thinking generally, to what extent are you satisfied or dissatisfied with each of the following in Britain at the moment?**

Please don't select more than 1 answer(s) per row.

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
1. How British democracy works generally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. How the electoral process works on polling day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The level of information people have about the electoral process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Changes to how the electoral process works (e.g. individual registration; voter identification)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
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## Page 6: About You

We would like to gather some basic information about you to help us understand the elections process better. Again, all of your answers will be kept strictly confidential.

25. In what year were you born?

26. Are you?

- Male
- Female

27. What is the highest level of education you completed?

- 1. None
- 2. 'O' Levels or equivalent
- 3. 'A' Levels or equivalent
- 4. Higher education below degree level
- 5. Degree
- 6. Postgraduate degree
- 7. Other (please specify)

27.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

**28. How many civic or community organisations – like the National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Parent Teacher Associations, Religious organisations or other such groups - do you belong to?**

- 1. None
- 2. One or two
- 3. Three or four
- 4. Five or more

**29. How would you describe your current employment status?**

- Employee
- Self-employed
- Employer
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Looking after home
- in full time education

**30. If you are currently employed, did you have to take time off from your regular job to work at the polls on election day?**

- Yes
- No

**31. If you are currently employed, do you currently work for the local council that was running the election?**

- Yes
- No

**32. What is your normal occupation?**

- 1. Professional or technical work (e.g. doctor, accountant, schoolteacher, computer programmer)
- 2. Manager or administrator (e.g. company director, local authority officer, executive officer)
- 3. Clerical (e.g. clerk, secretary, telephone operator)
- 4. Sales (e.g. commercial traveller, shop assistant)
- 5. Foreman
- 6. Skilled manual work (e.g. plumber, electrician, fitter)
- 7. Semi-skilled or unskilled manual worker (e.g. machine operator, assembler, postman, waitress, labourer)
- 8. Other (Please specify)

**32.a.** If you selected Other, please specify:

**33. Would you describe yourself as?**

- 1. White British
- 2. Any other white background
- 3. White and Black Caribbean
- 4. White and Black African
- 5. White and Asian
- 6. Any other mixed background
- 7. Indian
- 8. Pakistani
- 9. Bangladeshi
- 10. Any other Asian background

- 11. Black Caribbean
- 12. Black African
- 13. Any other Black background
- 14. Chinese
- 15. Any other ethnic group
- 16. Prefer not to say

**34. Do you have a disability, long-term illness or health condition?**

- Yes (Go to Q35)
- No (Go to Q37)
- Prefer not to say (Go to Q37)

**35. If you answered yes to the last question, please indicate if any of the below apply to you**

- Blind or sight loss
- Hearing loss
- Mobility – e.g. difficulty walking short distances or climbing stairs
- Manual dexterity
- Learning disability, where person learns in a different way – e.g. dyslexia
- Mental illness – eg schizophrenia, depression
- Speech impairment
- Cognitive disability – eg brain injury, autism, attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder or Asperger's syndrome
- Other impairment – eg epilepsy, cardiovascular conditions, asthma, cancer, facial disfigurement, sickle cell anaemia, or progressive condition such as motor neurone disease
- Prefer not to say

**36.** If you ticked any of the above was suitable provision made for you to act a poll worker on the day?

**37.** What do you expect your 2018 income from all sources before taxes to be?

- 1. Under £5,000
- 2. £5,000 - £9,999
- 3. £10,000-£19,999
- 4. £20,000-£29,999
- 5. £30,000-£39,999
- 6. Over £40,000

**38.** Overall, how satisfied were you with your job as a poll worker?

- 1. Very satisfied
- 2. Somewhat satisfied
- 3. Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4. Very dissatisfied

**39.** How likely are you to work as a poll worker at the next election?

- 1. Very likely
- 2. Somewhat likely
- 3. Not too likely
- 4. Not at all likely

## Page 7: Further Information

**40.** The researchers who conducted this survey may want to contact some people to ask further questions. Would that be okay?

- Yes (Go to Q41)
- No (Go to Q42)

**41.** If you answered yes to the last question, please leave your name and the email address you can be contacted on here.

**42.** Do you have any additional comments about your experience as a poll worker? Please share them in the space provided below

**43.** Thank you very much for your time in completing the survey. If you would like to find out more about the results and findings, please add your email address below:

## Page 8: Thank you!

Thank you for your time!

Overall results will be made available via [www.electoralmanagement.com](http://www.electoralmanagement.com) in due course.

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