

Candidate Statements - London Regional Board 2018

Chair

Len Duvall

At a time when partisan politics risk deepening divisions in our Party, I will lead a regional board that brings people together.

My appetite to make Labour the strongest voice for Londoners is as fervent as ever.

With inside-out knowledge of the capital, our Party's structures, and every tier of London government, I will lead the Regional Board as London Labour members' loudest advocate. Fairness and integrity dictate that I will do this in a way that works with the democratic structures of our Party, and not against them.

Having been involved in the Labour Party at every level - from past GC chair and Trade Union delegate, LGC member, to elected office - I understand the need for a continuous dialogue with members. With the political landscape changing every day, I will lead the way in ensuring the Regional Board is listening to CLPs and affiliates. I want to work with them to meet the challenges we face, and campaigning alongside them to ensure we are winning across our capital to help ensure Jeremy Corbyn can get into government when the election is called.

As Chair, I'll continue to lead our engagement with Trade Union colleagues. My trade union experience - spanning from lay member and shop steward to Branch Secretary - has taught me the value of engaging with TULO campaigns and ensuring Labour is THE voice for workers in London. The Trade Unions play an important part in our Party.

Since joining the Labour Party 39 years ago, I've dedicated my professional and personal life to campaigning. I've championed better public services, shone a spotlight on institutional racism, and led action to tackle violence against women and girls, poverty and inequality. On the London Assembly I've led our work in mitigating the worst impacts of Brexit and in backing a People's Vote.

As your candidate, my priority will be communicating your interests and working collegiately with the Party in the pursuit of a Labour victory at the next General Election.

Division 1 - South West, Ealing and Hillingdon

Abdi Duale

I'm Abdi Duale and I'm running to represent our members in Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond on the London Labour Regional Board. Our members are integral in shaping the future of our party and country. I want a regional board that is representative of our diverse city and accountable to our members.

I worked for our party in the 2017 General Election in Ealing, where we turned our most marginal seat (Ealing Central and Acton) into one of the safest in London. The impact we can make when we are united behind a strong and radical manifesto, can change the lives of thousands of families across our country.

Our city is at a crossroads, from the horror of knife crime to the rising number of homeless people to the threat facing the one million European citizens living in London. We as the London Labour Party have a responsibility to fight on the issues facing Londoners.

I believe I have the best experience to represent our members.

For a London Labour Party that is pro-EU, anti-austerity and behind our Mayor Sadiq to build a London for the many. I hope I can count on your support.

Kerri Prince

Being an active member of the Labour Party is not a choice for me - it's a necessity. I was lucky to spend most of my young life under a Labour Government, and I cannot sit idle whilst the Conservatives hurt families and communities like the ones I grew up in.

During my 9 years as a Labour Party member, I have held positions including several CLP executive roles, and I currently serve as an elected Councillor within the London Borough of Hillingdon. I am also a member of Unite the Union.

Since joining, I have been committed to securing Labour representation locally, regionally, and nationally. In order to do this, we cannot simply rely on the ways of the past. We need to do more and explore new ways of reaching out to those who are disillusioned.

If elected to the London Labour regional board, I will put first the people that need us to win and serve in their interests. I am tired of party infighting and believe it is long overdue that we unite against the Conservatives to fight austerity and deliver Labour representation up and down this country.

Division 2 - West Central, Merton and Wandsworth

Martin Whelton

I have been a London Labour Party board member since 2016 representing the South London boroughs. I am now seeking election for new constituency covering the boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham.

A party member for 25 years, I have been a Labour councillor in Merton since 2002 and currently cabinet member for regeneration and housing. I was also a Labour London Assembly candidate in 2016 and a former parliamentary candidate. I am also a trade union official for the University and College Union.

I am standing again for the London Regional board as I believe that I can use my strong campaigning and organisational background along with my experience on the board to ensure the London Labour Party is prepared for any snap election that Theresa May and the Tories' may call. Our success at getting Sadiq elected as Labour mayor was due to the hard work that members from across London put in and we must build and utilise that success to ensure our position remains strong in London in the run-up to 2020, but also to get Labour into government again. I will also be a champion for members and will provide regular updates on my work to constituencies.

TBC

Division 3 - Lambeth, Southwark, Croydon and Sutton

Maeve McCormack

I have been a member of the Labour Party for nearly a decade and have held roles at branch, constituency and borough-wide levels. Before moving to Streatham I served as a councillor in the London Borough of Camden.

I am an active campaigner and as the Labour group campaigns officer in Camden coordinated our 2014 local election campaign, which at the time resulted in a record-breaking number of Labour councillors being elected in the borough.

I am committed to supporting Labour candidates and helping to encourage candidates from underrepresented backgrounds to have the opportunity to run for political office and represent their local communities. Prior to local elections in 2018 I was the external chair for local government selection panels in Croydon, Camden and Haringey.

I am currently the Secretary of my branch and Vice-Chair (Candidates) of the Local Campaign Forum here in Lambeth.

Joel Bodmer

I'm a lifelong Labour supporter, and have been a member since 2007. I'm full time trade union official, prior to this I worked in a number of care and support roles.

I'm currently the Chair of Streatham Labour party, having been active in a number of roles in my constituency and branch over the past decade.

My roles as Chair of Lambeth LCF (2014-2018) and as an election agent in the 2017 General Election taught me what it takes to win in London.

As a trade union organiser working within the public sector, I see on a daily basis the devastating effects of this Tory government, on our communities, public services and people's lives. My activism in the party is therefore motivated and driven by a desire to get a Labour government elected and build a more socially just society.

Division 4 - Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich

Ana Davies

I have been a member of the party since 2008. Born in Lewisham and educated in Bexley, working in our amazing City, it would be an honour to represent my section on the London Regional Board. I have served as Membership secretary in Old Bexley & Sidcup for 4 years and now as CLP Secretary, a natural move for me but I miss the engagement side of my former role!

Old Bexley & Sidcup is a Tory constituency, but I have been instrumental in galvanising coordinators to take on roles and canvass and campaign across the Borough. Old Bexley & Sidcup grassroots activity is leading the way in Bexley and the North of the Borough was well supported by our teams, largely due to my organisation and relationships built over an 8 year period and my championing an ambassador programme leading to a full slate of diverse officers working on local campaigns. I continue to support and mentor them and but also am inspired by their enthusiasm.

I coordinated the General Election '17 and '18 local campaigns in Old Bexley & Sidcup, have stood as a candidate in my ward twice and regularly hold my local Tory counterparts to account. I am member focussed and have delivered efficiency, transparency and order to this clp, along with my executive officers who have supported me and relied on me for more than the role that I have committed to.

Linda Perks

Linda Perks is a lifelong trade unionist having worked for Unison in London for many years delivering grassroots campaigns for their members. She has been on the Regional Board including as Vice Chair for over ten years ensuring the rule book is upheld and supporting CLPs and local councillors. She is also a local councillor in Greenwich.

Division 5 - Havering, Redbridge, City and East

Adam Allnut

I am a committed Labour activist and ardent campaigner for a final say on Brexit. East London has a proud history of being open to the world and we need to stand behind our European comrades to say LONDON IS OPEN.

My specialism is in Local Government Policy having produced a report on the impacts of austerity on our Councils that was launched at conference last year in collaboration with the Labour Group at the Local Government Association.

As a Labour movement, we have belief in the empowering nature of the state and with that we will innovate to protect service levels in face of disastrous Tory austerity. It is the learnings from this that I will seek to bring to the role and ensure that Councillors and other representatives are well networked to share best practice and collaborative working.

Previously I have worked for Tom Watson MP in Parliament taking on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals, done research into Amritsar and worked on his Deputy Leadership Campaign. I am currently on the Young Fabians National Executive as the Local Government Policy Liaison, the Treasurer of Poplar and Limehouse CLP and the Secretary of my Local Branch.

Saima Ashraf

There's never been a greater need for a Labour government to address growing inequality and secure a more prosperous future for the many not the few.

I want to use my knowledge and experience to give north east London a strong voice on the London Regional Board and help the party secure power.

I bring a wealth of knowledge of campaigning and promoting the Labour Party in the community. I will make sure members' voices are heard at the heart of the party in London.

I was elected to the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham in 2010 after playing a leading role in the fight against the BNP.

Since 2014, I have been Deputy Leader of the Council and lead on community leadership and engagement as part of the council's ambitious transformation programme which won Council of the Year in 2018. I am also responsible for a £6.4million community engagement

initiative to support up to 25,000 residents and local voluntary groups as well as leading the delivery of London's first Youth Zone which opens in 2019.

I have served on various boards including as chair of largest primary school in the country and an arms-length housing company. I have spoken on various platforms on leadership and was a key witness for the Fawcett Society's enquiry into women in local government as well as the House of Lords Select Committee for Citizenship & Civic Engagement.

Please give me your support on the London Regional Board and I will work hard to promote north east London.

Division 6 - North East, Haringey and Enfield

Katie Curtis

I've been a Labour Party member for 25 years and an activist within the London party since before moving back to the capital in 2013. I'm an active trade unionist and am a delegate to Hornsey & Wood Green CLP on behalf of Community Union. I have experience as Parliamentary, European & local election candidate & have previously been on the regional board for the Eastern Region.

We have have a big couple of years coming up in London, we need to start the campaigning to re-elect Sadiq Khan in 2020 alongside the team of Assembly Members to run city hall but also be ready for a general election when it comes. The road to getting the Tories out & Labour into government is by winning the marginal seats in London. It's imperative that our local parties are ready for a general election whenever it will come and the regional board needs to provide the direction and support for all our CLPs and candidates.

A vote for me is a vote for a life-long Labour campaigner who knows firsthand what a difference Labour in power makes and who will work tirelessly to stand up for all members in London.

Jack Phipps

[To be submitted]

Division 7 - Barnet, Camden, Harrow and Brent

Mike Katz

Mike has lived in north-west London his whole life and has been a London Labour activist for the past 20 years.

Most recently, he stood as PPC in Hendon in 2017, where the campaign he led slashed the Tory majority by 70%, making it the second most marginal seat in London. Prior to that, he stood as an Assembly List candidate in 2016, campaigning to elect Sadiq Khan and Andrew Dismore.

Mike has wide experience in our Movement. He has represented London CLPs on the National Policy Forum and currently is vice-chair of the Jewish Labour Movement, where he has led efforts to fight antisemitism inside and outside Labour.

From 2010-2014, he was a councillor in Kilburn, chairing Camden Labour Group for three years. He chaired his CLP from 2003-2010 and Camden's LCF from 2016-17.

A committed trade unionist. Mike is TULO for his CLP, sat on Unison London Region's Labour-Link committee from 2013-18 and was TSSA's political officer from 2001-05, running its campaign on public ownership of rail.

Mike is committed to building links between CLPs and the regional board and ensuring London members have a voice at the Board.

Izzy Lenga

I have grown up and lived in North London my whole life and since joining the party in 2015, I have campaigned for Labour candidates locally and across our country. In my home CLP of Chipping Barnet we have gone from being one of the safest Tory seats in the country to one of the most marginal. I see day in day out the desperate need my community has for a Labour Government. It is remarkable the strides London has taken since Sadiq Khan's election. Yet there are so many more challenges we face. Young people being priced out of the housing market, the privatisation of our local services and cuts to our schools and community centres.

The biggest challenge facing our generation, however, is Brexit. With over one million EU citizens living in our city, we must stand for an open, inclusive and pro Europe London. Whilst Brexit challenges us and our city, we must not turn our back on the other struggles at face as a result of the harsh Tory government. Having been a Vice President of the NUS and now work in the charity sector I've seen the shocking increase in homelessness, violence on our streets, and the hardship facing the two million families that are set to move onto the failing Universal Credit.

Our London Labour Party must be at the forefront of tackling these injustices and offering radical, life changing solutions, for the many. When we are united around a radical and transformative plan, we can change the lives of those we represent, and most importantly, those who need us the most.

I believe in an open, accountable and representative London regional board - one that is behind our mayor and is pioneering and delivering the vital changes

desperately needed by our communities.

It would be a true honour to represent our area of London. I hope I can count on your vote.