



YOUR LONDON. YOUR VOTE

The voting systems

Three different voting systems are used to elect the Mayor of London, Constituency London Assembly Members and London-wide Assembly Members.

How the Mayoral results are calculated

If there are only two candidates, the Mayor of London is elected using the First Past the Post system. The votes will be counted and the candidate with the most votes wins.

If there are three or more candidates running for Mayor, the Supplementary Vote system is used. In this system, voters can cast a first choice and second choice vote. A voter does not have to cast a second choice vote, but they must cast a first choice vote, or their vote will not be counted.

If a candidate receives more than half of all the first choice votes they are elected. If this does not happen, the top two candidates by first choice votes go through to a second round. All the other candidates are eliminated, but the second choice votes on their ballot papers are counted. If they are for either of the top two candidates, these second choices are added to their totals.

The candidate with the highest total of first and second choice votes wins. If there is a tie then the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) draws lots to choose the winner.

Did one of the candidates get over 50% of the 1st choice votes?	Yes	The candidate with over 50% of the votes is the winner
	No	The top two candidates remain and the second choice votes from the eliminated candidates are added The candidate with the most 1st and 2nd choice votes is the winner

How the London Assembly results are calculated

There are 25 London Assembly Members:

- 14 Constituency London Assembly Members who represent different areas of London
- 11 London-wide Assembly Members, who represent London as a whole.

These two types of Assembly Member are elected using a combination of First Past the Post and Closed List Proportional Representation. These two voting systems in combination are known as the Additional Member System.

Constituency London Assembly Members

The 14 Constituency London Assembly Members are elected using the First Past the Post system. The ballot paper lists the names of individual candidates and voters vote once for their preferred candidate.

The candidate in each constituency with the most votes is elected. If there is a tie, the Constituency Returning Officer draws lots to choose the winner.

London-wide Assembly Members

In the London-wide Assembly Member contest, the ballot paper lists political parties and independent candidates. Political parties put forward a list of up to 25 candidates that will take up the seats they win in the contest.

At the end of the count, all the votes from across London for each party or independent candidate are added together regardless of which constituency they were cast in.

To allocate the seats, a mathematical formula – the Modified d’Hondt Formula – is used. The formula uses the votes cast in the London-wide Assembly Member contest and takes account of the number of Constituency London Assembly Member seats that each political party has won.

The London-wide Assembly Member seats can therefore not be allocated until all the votes have been counted and all the constituency results have been announced.

To be included in this calculation, each party or independent candidate must receive more than 5% of the total number of London-wide votes cast. Parties or candidates with 5% or less of the votes are eliminated.

With all the political parties and candidates that remain, 11 rounds of calculations take place to fill the 11 vacant Assembly Member seats. The calculation used is:

Total number of votes won

Seats already won (both Constituency and London-wide seats) + 1

This calculation is carried out for each party for each seat. The party with the highest result at each round is allocated the seat. The '+1' avoids dividing by 0 and ensures the calculations are standardised.

London-wide seats are allocated to the party candidates in the order they appear on their party nomination list. If a candidate is also standing in a Constituency London Assembly Member contest or the Mayoral contest and wins, they are removed from the party's Assembly list and the next candidate on the list gets the seat.

Below is a breakdown of the calculations from 2008 in the London-wide Assembly Member contest. Statistics and results from previous elections can be found on www.londonelects.org.uk/im-voter/results-and-past-elections

Seat	British National Party	Conservative Party	Green Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrat	Winner
Seat 1	$130,714/(0+1) = 130,714.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(0+1) = 203,465.00$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(0+1) = 275,272.00$	Liberal Democrat
Seat 2	$130,714/(0+1) = 130,714.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(0+1) = 203,465.00$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(1+1) = 137,636.00$	Green Party
Seat 3	$130,714/(0+1) = 130,714.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(1+1) = 101,732.50$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(1+1) = 137,636.00$	Liberal Democrat
Seat 4	$130,714/(0+1) = 130,714.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(1+1) = 101,732.50$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(2+1) = 91,757.33$	British National Party
Seat 5	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(1+1) = 101,732.50$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(2+1) = 91,757.33$	Green Party
Seat 6	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(6+1) = 95,063.29$	$275,272/(2+1) = 91,757.33$	Labour Party
Seat 7	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(8+1) = 92,837.22$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(7+1) = 83,180.38$	$275,272/(2+1) = 91,757.33$	Conservative Party
Seat 8	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(9+1) = 83,553.50$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(7+1) = 83,180.38$	$275,272/(2+1) = 91,757.33$	Liberal Democrat
Seat 9	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(9+1) = 83,553.50$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(7+1) = 83,180.38$	$275,272/(3+1) = 68,818.00$	Conservative Party
Seat 10	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(10+1) = 75,957.73$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(7+1) = 83,180.38$	$275,272/(3+1) = 68,818.00$	Labour Party
Seat 11	$130,714/(1+1) = 65,357.00$	$835,535/(10+1) = 75,957.73$	$203,465/(2+1) = 67,821.67$	$665,443/(8+1) = 73,938.11$	$275,272/(3+1) = 68,818.00$	Conservative Party
Total seats	1	3	2	2	3	