Local Government Association

Local transparency guidance – publishing election results data

A practitioner's guide to publishing information about election results in accordance with data specification that has arisen from a consultation with data publishers and consumers to encourage consistency across all Local Authorities

Date   21-Feb-2018

Version 1.03

Contents

Version history

Version/Date	Page/section	Comment
0.0 10-May-2016	all	First cut following consultation feedback Mar-May 2016 – Tim Adams LGA
0.1 4-Aug-2016	Elections data template	Revisions to schema parameter fields & guidance following initial meeting & review with core EMS suppliers, AEA, Electoral Commission, Cabinet Office, Democracy Club
1.0 1-Nov-2016	all	First published live release after amendments from second open consultation that took place between Aug & Oct 16
1.0 3-Nov-2016	VotesCast, Parish areas, emblem, political descs, timetable	Slight amendments to correct incorrect interpretations and recommended best practice on turnout calculations, voting percentage calculations, etc.
1.0 13-Feb-2017		Clarification on By-election codings
1.01 5-Apr-2017	Annex 1 – ElectedBodyURI ElectoralAreaURI PoliticalPartyURI	Confirmation that Political Party labels and resources are dependent on work to be undertaken by Electoral Commission in 2017.

Confirmation that we have not yet established an authoritative source for Elected Bodies (so the URI field has to be ignored)

Confirmation that we have not yet established an authoritative source for the labels and URIs of County Divisions Electoral Areas so these are currently ignored. [In discussion with ONS and OS]

File note – we are also enquiring of Democracy Club if there is provenance and sustainability in including a unique coding scheme for each election based upon the work currently underway here: https://democracyclub.org.uk/projects/election-ids/ |
| 1.02 7-Aug-2017 | Dates | All date fields to be translated to ISO8601 standard and be in the form yyyy-mm-dd to address guidance from Government Digital Service (GDS) |
| 1.03 21-Feb-2016 | Independent candidates | Type correction to the suggested codings for independent candidates in the PoliticalPartyURI and PoliticalPartyLabel fields. Previous versions had the content options reversed |

Introduction

Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, local authorities generally publish local and national election results on their web sites once those results have been provided to them by the relevant returning officer. There is no guidance or common practice to publish such data in any particular style, format or web location other than the statutory requirement placed on the returning officer to give public notice of the name(s) of the elected candidate(s) (and the fact that they were duly elected), the total number of votes given to each candidate in a contested election and details of the rejected ballot papers as shown in the statement of rejected ballot papers

Whilst this approach allows scrutiny and review by individuals finding the local published web pages, the work to locate such information automatically and then to collate data from every local authority to create a national overview is difficult, labour intensive, time consuming and often error prone. Substantial savings and ease of data discovery and reuse is possible if electoral administration departments can be encouraged to publish their data to a simple consistent form which can be read by humans and machines. Following a consultation undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA) between March and May 2016, a proposed data schema for elections results data was refined and is the subject of this document. The guidance contained within seeks to recommend a process and a data standard for the publication of election results by the Electoral Services Departments in all English local authorities. There is the potential for local authorities in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to also participate in this scheme, but currently consultation has been extended beyond England in this first iteration.

It is *not* suggested that local authorities should cease their current publication practices but merely to publish the results in a parallel second form in accordance with this schema specification. Publishing election results in this secondary, consistent way and in a form that is able to be discovered and processes by digital means assists those who need to quickly understand the political landscape after an election at regional and national level and encourages other third parties to develop apps and other analysis services to help to inform the public faster about the overarching outcome from elections.

The schema specification recommended in this data specification is capable of being interpreted by both humans and machine readable techniques. The proposed content is not seeking to increase the burdens on local authorities through the introduction of substantial additional published data items, it merely intends to repeat the publication of current data content in a secondary data form that conforms to the publication practices and data standards developed by the earlier consultation process.

The publication process and the data standard builds on existing best practices of supporting authorities to publish data in a consistent way as part of the Transparency Code for Local Government. Further information is available under open data formats in the general guidance on publishing data[1]. It also builds on the open standard as defined by the Cabinet Office Open Standards principles[2].

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[1] Local Government Transparency Code 2015 – Publishing Data (general guidance): http://www.local.gov.uk/practitioners-guides-to-publishing-data

[2] Cabinet Office Open Standards Principles - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-standards-principles/open-standards-principles#open-standard-definition

As part of the schema development process, the LGA intends to consult with the suppliers of proprietary Electoral Management Systems (EMS) to secure their inputs and support in new features to extract data in readymade form that meets the schema requirements. This is hoped to ease the process on the data publishers in the future.

Whilst there is interest in supporting most types of elections in due course, we propose initial trials to be controlled and within a contained scope. In the first instance, we recommend applying these practices for the general and local authority (district, borough and county) elections. There is potential for the role to be extended to include European, Police Commissioners and Town/Parish elections in time, though we suggest this is considered later in the development once early experience has been gained. We do include provision in the detailed specification below for other elections but will likely only trial the approach with district, borough and county elections in the early pilots. We consider that this approach is not appropriate for referenda because the specification is directed closely at candidates and their political affiliations. During and following the forthcoming consultation, we will assemble thinking to determine if there is a requirement and support to extend the specification to support the special additional properties that are required by referenda.

Stakeholders who are lending their support to this initiative

- Government Digital Service (GDS), Cabinet Office
- Association of Electoral Administrators
- Electoral Commission
- Department of Information Services, House of Commons
- Local Government Association
- Open Data Institute
- Plymouth University School of Government (Faculty of Business)
- Democracy Club
- Democratic Audit UK, London School of Economics
- Halarose Limited*
- Idox Group*
- xPress Software Solutions*
- Democracy Counts*

'* expressed an interest in offering support and expertise in progressing the standard

Publishing elections data

Initial trials should be constrained to local authorities in England unless early indications suggest strong support from the wider United Kingdom. Publication of elections results to a consistent style and specification requires consideration of two aspects:

- a **process** to support easy discovery of the data by consumers and further reuse
- the **specification and format** of the published data to ensure consistency at every source location thereby supporting easy aggregation and analysis by consumers.

Proposed process for data publication, easy discovery and re-use

We propose the implementation of best practice guidance for the data publication process that is drawn from other open data publishing practices in local government.

What data formats are to be used? We propose results data to be published openly under this initiative, which must be made freely available in a tabular comma separated variables (CSV) format. The data format should comply with a schema which defines the content of each data column (also known as a field). The schema is designed according to the following criteria.

- Provide the essential data fields that are required to interpret election results by human or by machine readable forms
- Make it simple for councils to publish open data and use tried practices which already makes good use of this approach
- Enable data users to interpret data and aggregate them from across councils in England
- Include linkages in the data to other sources of definition (such as the names of the constituency being contested, the name of political affiliations, the names of publishing entities) through the use or recommended sources of URIs – uniform resource identifiers – so that data can be more easily analysed, combined and compared across England.

It is proposed that local authorities publish these data against a standard open government licence (OGL)[3].

It is recommended that local authorities self-certify their dataset(s) with the Open Data Institute under the open data certificate[4]– at least at the most basic level as a minimum – to inform data consumers of the data's provenance, publisher, commitment to maintain updates, etc.

It is proposed that local authorities will publish their results data in any location of their own choosing – we would anticipate this probably being a section of the council's own web-site. Once published, these data should be registered as being available in a central public sector data hub so that data consumers

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[3] Open Government Licence http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/

[4] ODI Open Data certificate https://certificates.theodi.org/en/

know where to go to find the data.   The central data hubs being recommended are data.gov.uk[5] and the LGA open data pages[6].

The LGA intends to expand its current open data publishing tools to include an elections results data validator to pre-check conformance against the agreed schema prior to publication. Support for the new elections results scheme within the validator will appear on the open data validator tool [7] as developments and take-up of this initiative progresses.

Data publishers will also be able to find the right value for those fields that are defined as having a restricted set of terms or for an identifier (URI) from another published set to be included with special support tools provided by the LGA and others. The URI search tool on the LGA open data pages will be enhanced as momentum and take-up of this initiative gains traction; the URI search tool [8]currently provides URI searches for other aspect of local government published data.

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[5] Data.gov.uk central public sector data hub https://data.gov.uk/

[6] LGA open data tools, guidance and discovery resources http://opendata.esd.org.uk/

[7] LGA open data publishing validation tool http://validator.opendata.esd.org.uk/

[8] LGA open data URI search tool http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/

Contents of the election data file

The election results data Standard will guide authorities to publish consistent locally derived election results according to an agreed format and the use of controlled vocabularies.

We recommend that Election Services Departments in Councils use a common approach and format for publishing the content of elections data. This will help users to locate, harvest, share, compare and analyse data. We encourage that the content for publishing data matches the format set out in the template provided in the elections data template which we are proposing in the Annex of this document. This does not seek to add new burdens or extra data items to be collected or published but merely formalises consistency across the sector.

The data published in the template set out below follows the sequence of columns prescribed and any formats or presentation conventions set out below. Any additional fields that an authority wishes to publish should conform to the advice in the general *"publishing data"* guidance and should be added after the fields listed here. The template will also available (when further matured) as a standardised schema which can be downloaded from http://schemas.opendata.esd.org.uk/

We now present a summary of the key data fields that would be mandated in the proposed elections results publication schema. These are then described more formally in the Annex.

General information

Cardinality

If a requirement has a cardinality that starts with 1 (rather than 0), each row of data must have a value in at least one of the data specification fields. The field cardinality specifies the minimum and maximum number of values you may have in each row of your dataset.

Cardinality gives the number of values that may be present in a field (or requirement) for one row. Cardinality is one of the following.

> 0..1 – zero or one values.
>
> 0..∞ – any number of values.
>
> 1 – one and only one value.
>
> 1..∞.- at least one value.

If the field allows zero values, a null value is accepted. Null is represented by an empty field and NOT by the string "null" or "N/A".

Where a single row contains more than one value for a field, values should be separated by the pipe (|) character.

Types of data field

Field types in local government open data schema specifications such as this take the following forms. See the Annex 1 template below for specific details.

Boolean

True, Yes, False or No. These are not case sensitive.

Date

A date to the ISO 8601 standard in the format yyyy-mm-dd. If time is included, this will be ignored.

Encoded list

Encoded lists are fixed sets of labels from which you select one or more values to populate a field. Capitalisation (that is, use of upper and lower case letters) does not have to match, but any other variances from the encoded list specified will result in your data not being valid.

Number

A number, which may or may not have decimal places, except where stated otherwise. Note that zero is considered as a value that is distinguished from a null (or absent) value.

String

A single line of alphabetic and/or numeric characters.

Text

One or more lines of text. Multiple lines can be delimited by carriage return and line feed characters. If these characters are used, the entire field value must be enclosed in quotes.

URI

Uniform resource identifier. URIs are always followed by a string field giving the label of the applicable URI.

URIs are machine readable codes that precisely identify things, like local authorities, wards, or types of service. URIs commonly used in UK local government can be looked up from this page: http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk.

Specific election results data fields

Publication date

Publication date is the date the election result was **published** and made available to the public through this elections data file. It is NOT the date of the election. We recommend the ISO 8601 date format yyyy-mm-dd. If data are later changed or replicated, then the old data are replaced with the new and this publication date is revised to reflect this.

Organisation code and organisation label

The organisation name and organisation code identifies the local authority that has conducted the election and means that the file is self-describing when combined with other data.

Authority information should include the unique identifier for a local authority that owns the data as datasets from various organisations may be combined. The code should be represented in the form of a 'uniform resource identifier' (URI) used in open data standards – see the *File formats: open and linked data* section in the general publishing data guidance[9] for further information.

A URI used in Linked Data is the preferred option. The LGA provides a URI search tool at http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/ to assist new publishes to confirm appropriate URI links to be incorporated into the published data.

For local authorities the code should be

- the open data communities code for local authorities on
  http://opendatacommunities.org/data/local-authorities

For the area governed by a local authority or for an individual ward

- Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Government Statistics Services (GSS) Coding on
  http://statistics.data.gov.uk/and Naming for Statistical Geographies. (http://tinyurl.com/onsgeog)

For pre-operative wards that only come into existence on when the election has been held, the code should be:

- the Natural Neighbourhoods pre-operative ward code on
  http://id.esd.org.uk/neighbourhood/NewWard. This will redirect to the official ward when it comes into operation.

A lookup tool for URIs can be found on the LG Inform Plus website (http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/)

For example the URIs for Sedgemoor are:

- Sedgemoor District Council: http://opendatacommunities.org/id/district-council/sedgemoor
- Sedgemoor are: http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E07000188
- Knoll ward in Sedgemoor: http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E05008910

Where the URI for the local authority exists on opendatacommunities[10] we recommend use of that identifier, otherwise the statistical geographies identifier could be used which refers to an area**Local government service**

Local authorities have different structures and undergo frequent organisational change. For this reason, we recommend using an acknowledged service classification for describing the service of collecting and publishing election results. In this case the specific service and URI that would be referred to is:

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[9] Local Government Transparency Code 2015 – Publishing Data (general guidance): http://www.local.gov.uk/practitioners-guides-to-publishing-data

[10] Open Data Communities data resources hosted by Dept. for Communities and Local Government http://opendatacommunities.org/

- URI – http://id.esd.org.uk/service/721
- Label – Election Results

The URI will be a link to take the user to further information about the service including a description and other datasets as defined in the Local Government Service List (LGSL) The LGSL is published in the standards section of LG Inform Plus[11], provides a standard way of referring to each service when communicating within and between organisations. It uses unique numeric identifiers for each service, irrespective of the language and naming conventions that are used by different by different people and organisations to identify or describe services.

Election date

Election date is the date the election took place. We recommend the ISO 8601 date format yyyy-mm-dd.

Election type and name

The type of election will allow to identify and combine data of the same type and distinguish between different election types. Councils run and publish the results of a variety of different types of election although in the first instance we recommend trials for local authority elections – that is district, borough and county elections:

- Parish
- District and Borough
- County
- Mayoral*
- Parliamentary
- European Parliament*

- Parish By-election
- District and Borough By-election
- County By-election

- Parliamentary By-election

* Not supported in this version of the schema

We note there are other types of election not listed here and the project will look to extend capability for these once we have proved the potential of more simple, first past the post, contests.

Contested Constituency (Electoral Area)

The electoral area code and electoral area label identifies the electoral unit (constituency) for which the election has taken place. This should include a URI for the unit and a standardised name. URIs from official geographies, such as electoral wards, county electoral divisions, parliamentary constituencies and European Electoral Regions must come from http://statistics.data.gov.uk. For example the official URI for the parliamentary constituency of Bermondsey and Old Southwark in London is http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E14000553.

New "pre-operative" wards are not given official URIs until after the election when they become operative. A source of URIs is available on LG Inform Plus's Natural Neighbourhoods (http://neighbourhoods.esd.org.uk). For example the URI for the pre-operative ward of Clifton in Bristol is

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[11] Information standards Local Government Services List hosted by LGA on LG Inform Plus
http://standards.esd.org.uk/?uri=list%2FenglishAndWelshServices

http://id.esd.org.uk/neighbourhood/NewWard-NewWard-9. This URI will redirect to that of the ward when it becomes operative and Natural Neighbourhoods will provide a link to the official ward URI when it becomes available.

We are still researching the availability of a source of standardised names and URI identifiers for parish and town councils and also any wards within parishes and town councils if they exist. We are not aware of any URI source references for these and so (in such cases) the ElectoralAreaURI field should be left blank.

The LGA will extend the URI search tool at http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/ to include identification of each unique constituency location being contested – parish, ward, parliamentary constituency, European

Candidate name

The published data will reflect the naming conventions as required currently on the European Union nomination paper. This identifies the name of the candidate separated into surname and other forenames as two separate fields and allows for optional commonly used surname (if any) and commonly used forenames (if any) is separate fields. Surnames will be published in capital letters as required when published on the ballot paper.

Political party code and label

Where the candidate is associated with a political party this information should be displayed on the publication. Political parties in the United Kingdom are registered with the Electoral Commission[12] (http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/). A URI and official name for each registered political party can be found on that website. For example the Conservative Party's official entry is http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Registrations/PP52, which can be used as the URI. The page displays additional information about the party, including the primary name and official alternative name, one of which should be used when publishing election results alongside the URI.

Independent candidates *may* also be identified in these fields where the candidate has described him or herself as an "independent". If a candidate offers no reference to being an "independent" the field can remain blank.

Candidates can also supplement their political affiliation with their own description for their registered political party providing it is authorised by the official political party nominating officer. To maintain current practice, there will also be an optional additional data field – CandidatesDescription – that captures the relevant registered alternate political description of political affiliation as used by candidates. This should reflect the content of the description on the candidate's nomination paper and as it would appear on the notice of results. Candidates not associated with a party may choose to be labelled as independent or they can have no description at all and the specification allows for this with this optional field. Independent candidates should be recognised in the mandatory field above but may be left blank in this optional alternative description field. Use of "no affiliation" is also appropriate for

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If parish elections are being included, note that candidates do not need to be registered with the Electoral Commission to use a party name on a parish ballot paper, though some do.[12]

independent candidates at the discretion of the returning officer.

Votes won by candidate and outcome

This identifies the number of votes cast in favour of the particular candidate. The value should be an integer with zero if the candidate received no votes. There should not be a null entry – even if candidates have withdrawn[13].

Votes: 576

Elected

Publishers should report whether or not the candidate was elected. This should be done using the logical values:

- Elected or (where appropriate) Elected Unopposed or Not Elected.

Total votes cast and size of the electorate

The total number of votes cast for all candidates should be reported, plus the total size of the eligible electorate. This figure will include rejected ballots in accordance with the recommended practice encouraged by the Electoral Commission and association of Electoral Administrators.

Calculation of the turnout percentage is also encouraged as a 1 decimal place percentage figure determined by total verified votes cast divided by the size of the eligible electorate field.[14]

Rejected votes

This identifies the number of votes that have been rejected for one of the following reasons:

- absence of official mark;
- voting for more than one candidate;
- writing or mark by which the voter could be identified;
- unmarked or void for uncertainty
- rejected in part

Additional information

The rules can differ in some circumstances but basically if a candidate appears on the statement of persons nominated published after close of nomination then they cannot withdraw from any poll. They will appear on the ballot and votes can be cast for them. One exception is where a candidate dies and events following this depends on the election and whether it is a party candidate or an independent. In some cases a new candidate can be nominated in others the whole contest is stopped.[13]

Percentage turnout figures all partly depends which of the three main measures of turnout we would want to use: all votes cast over electorate, all votes included in the count (excluding rejected postal votes) over electorate or all valid votes cast (excluding rejected postal votes AND votes rejected at the count) over electorate. We could suggest all three but this adds to the complexity. It is conventional to use the middle one above when discussing turnout.[14]

The dataset should also include various pieces of additional information to assist the user. This should include:

- The name of the returning officer responsible for the oversight of the election
- A web address of the council department conducting the election e.g. http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/election-results/
- The council's own name for the department conducting the election e.g. "Election Services"
- An email address to contact the department conducting the election
- A contact telephone number leading to the department conducting the election
- Notes – free text for any additional comments data publishers may want to include.

Annex I: templates

Elections data template

Col #	Field name	What is required	Reason for inclusion	Additional information	Data Type	Cardin--ality
	PublicationDate	The date the information was published in this data form	For reference	The ISO 8601 date format (yyyy-mm-dd) should be used, though there is provision in the specification that the data should be formatted as per the custom of the country that the election is carried out in. Note this is the data publication date and NOT the date of the election. If any data items are revised afterwards, then this publication date is also revised to reflect the later date or revised publication.	Date	1
	OrganisationURI	A unique code to identify the organisation conducting the election	To allow the file to be self-describing	The organisation name and organisation code identifies the local authority that has conducted the election and means that the file is self-describing when combined with other data. Authority information should include a unique identifier for a local authority that owns the data as datasets from various organisations may be combined. Ideally, the code should be represented in the form of a 'uniform resource identifier' (URI).	URI	1

				A lookup tool for URIs can be found on the LG Inform Plus website (http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/) Initial implementations for this schema will take place in England. Where the URI for the local authority exists on opendatacommunities at http://opendatacommunities.org/. We recommend use of that identifier, otherwise the statistical geographies identifier could be used which refers to an area. We are aware of similar initiatives underway to cover other parts of the United kingdom and these will be included as they become available later.		
	OrganisationLabel	A unique long name to identify an organisation	To allow the file to be self-describing	See above	String	1
	ServiceTypeURI	Standard service classification	To easily identify the publishing service without the need for knowledge of local service naming	The Local Government Service List (LGSL), which is published in the standards section of LG Inform Plus, provides a standard way of referring to each service when communicating within and between organisations. It uses unique numeric identifiers for each service, irrespective of the language and naming conventions that are used by different by different people and organisations to identify or describe services. The list includes a URI and a label. In this case the specific service and URI that would be referred to is: • URI – http://id.esd.org.uk/service/721	URI	1

17

				• Label – Election Results .		
	ServiceTypeLabel	The organisational unit responsible for spending the money.	To easily identify the publishing service without the need for knowledge of local service naming	See above	String	1
	ElectionDate	The date the election took place	For reference	The ISO8601 date format (yyyy-mm-dd) should be used, though there is provision in the specification that the data should be formatted as per the custom of the country that the election is carried out in.	Date	1
	TypeofElection	The type of election taking place	For reference	Councils may want to use publish the results of various types of election using this schema. This field will include the type of election data being published and will include one item drawn from the following encoded list: - Parish - ParishByelection - DistrictandBorough - DistrictandBoroughByelection - County - CountyByelection - Parliamentary - ParliamentaryByelection	Encoded List	1

	ElectedBodyURI	A standardised code to identify the elected body	Identifies the democratic body to which the candidate is seeking election	 Consider using the URI set offered by Ordnance Survey here: http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/ontology/admingeo/ 	URI	0..1
	ElectedBodyLabel	A standardised name to identify the elected body	Identifies the democratic body to which the candidate is seeking election	e.g. Huntingdonshire District Council or Cambridgeshire County Council or St Ives Town Council	String	1
	ElectoralAreaURI	A standardised code to identify the electoral area to which the candidate is seeking election, e.g. district ward, county electoral division or	To identify the electoral unit (area) to which the candidate is seeking election	This should include a URI for the area and a standardised name. Where they exist, URIs from official geographies must come from http://statistics.data.gov.uk. For example the official URI for the parliamentary constituency of Bermondsey and Old Southwark in London is http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E14000553. New "pre-operative" wards are not given official URIs until after the election when they become operative. A source of URIs is available on LG Inform Plus's Natural Neighbourhoods (http://neighbourhoods.esd.org.uk). For example the URI for the pre-operative ward of Clifton in Bristol is http://id.esd.org.uk/neighbourhood/NewWard-NewWard-9. This URI	URI	0..1

| | | parliamentary constituency | | will redirect to that of the ward when it becomes operative and Natural Neighbourhoods will provide a link to the official ward URI when it becomes available.

A search feature for URIs is offered by the LGA at http://uris.opendata.esd.org.uk/

We have not yet found an official source of County Council Divisions, although Ordnance Survey (OS) is planning a resource here. We are also in discussion with ONS to determine if they are able to include County Divisions alongside the District Wards that they already support.

We are still researching the availability of a source of standardised names and URI identifiers for parish and town councils and also any wards within parishes and town councils if they exist. We are not aware of any URI source references for these and so (in such cases) the ElectoralAreaURI field should be left blank. | | |
| | ElectoralAreaLabel | A standardised label to identify the electoral unit to which the candidate is seeking election, e.g. district ward, county electoral division or | To identify the electoral unit to which the candidate is seeking election | See above

LGA asks "Do we need to separate labels to include the parent or not e.g. Abbey Ward, Test Valley Hampshire and Abbey Ward, Lincoln, Lincolnshire.   Or do we just have many instances of "Abbey Ward""

Electoral Commission replies "I'd say as long as you have the LA name and the ward name it should be fine. Obviously there are a lot of 'Village' wards in different LAs…" | String | 1 |

		parliamentary constituency				
	CandidateSurname	The surname (family name) of the candidate	To identify the candidate	The surname (last name) of the candidate. The format adopted for this field should reflect the same format that is adopted by the returning officer on the published elections results notice. E.g. Smith	String	1
	CandidateForenames	The forenames of the candidate	To identify the candidate	The forenames (given names) of the candidate separated by spaces E.g. Jack Henry	String	1
	CommonlyUsedSurname	Optional commonly used alternative surname of the candidate	To identify the candidate	Optional field: The commonly used surname of the candidate if one is provided E.g. Smithy	String	0..1
	CommonlyUsedForenames	Optional commonly used forenames of the candidate	To identify the candidate	Optional field: Any commonly used forenames of the candidate if any are provided E.g. Jacko	String	0..1
	PoliticalPartyURI	A standardise	To identify the political party	Electoral Commission has agreed to extend its online data resources and API about political parties to include access to party	URI	0..1

		d code to identify the political party, if any, of which the candidate is a member	of the candidate	names, alternate names and unique IDs to generate URIs. This is not in place yet but will be progressed during 2017. A URI and official name for each registered political party will be able to be found on the Electoral Commission website. For example the Conservative Party's official entry is http://search.electoralcommission.org.uk/English/Registrations/PP52, which can be used as the URI. Electoral Commission comments "Be clear if this is the registered party name or the name that appears on the ballot paper at this particular election. For example 'Conservative Party' or 'Conservative Party Candidate'? We consider it should be the registered party name Candidates who proffer no political affiliation including the term "independent" may be recorded with this field as blank and PoliticalPartyLabel field as "independent".		
	PoliticalPartyLabel	A standardised name to identify the political party, if any, of which the candidate is a member	To identify the political party of the candidate	See above	String	0..1

	CandidatesDescription	An optional name to record the description of political party as chosen by the candidate on his/her registration documents	To identify the candidates own chosen political party affiliation as provided on his/her registration documentation	This description of political affiliation offers an alternate political label. It is that chosen by the candidate on his/her registration documents. It can be used providing that it is authorised by the official political party nominating officer. It will draw on the official list of twelve official alternative labels published at the time by the Electoral Commission. The field is optional and can be left blank is appropriate at the discretion of the returning officer. Independent candidates can be left blank or set as "no affiliation", providing that they are shown as an independent candidate in the PoliticalPartyLabel above.	String	0..1
	VotesWon	The number of votes won by the candidate	To allow the support of the candidate to be compared to other candidates	This serves as the **numerator** for calculating the percentage of votes won by the candidate. As no candidates are allowed to withdraw (see footnote <mark>13 above)</mark> the value might be zero should no votes have been received. It should never be NULL. This schema does not support referenda and proportional representation voting practices	Number	1
	Elected	The outcome of the election for the candidate	To identify which of the candidates in the dataset were elected	This should be reported as a logical value i.e. ELECTED or NOT ELECTED. If the candidate is elected unopposed, then the string ELECTED UNOPPOSED should be used.	Encoded List	1
	VotesCast	The total number of	To allow calculation of	This serves as the **denominator** for calculating the percentage of votes won by the candidate and the **numerator** for calculating the	Number	1

		votes cast within the candidate's electoral unit	the percentage of votes for the candidate and the turnout	percentage turnout figure. **It should include votes rejected** at the count. Even in a multi-member ward election, one ballot paper will count as one vote for the purposes of turnout calculation. Thus VotesWon will count individual votes for separate candidates on a single ballot paper but the VotesCast field eill count ballot papers.		
	EligibleElectorate	The total number of registered voters within the electoral unit.	To allow the percentage turnout for the	This serves as the **denominator** for calculating the percentage turnout figure	Number	1
	BallotsRejectedOfficial Mark	The number of votes rejected		This is a total of the number of ballots rejected during the count for each the categories of: • absence of official mark It does not include rejected postal votes that never appear in these final figures but which are described in the offline electoral Form K.	Number	1
	BallotsRejectedMultiple Vote	The number of votes rejected		This is a total of the number of ballots rejected during the count for each the categories of: • voting for more than one candidate It does not include rejected postal votes that never appear in these	Number	1

			final figures but which are described in the offline electoral Form K.		
	BallotsRejectedIdentification	The number of votes rejected		This is a total of the number of ballots rejected during the count for each the categories of: • writing or mark by which the voter could be identified It does not include rejected postal votes that never appear in these final figures but which are described in the offline electoral Form K.	Number	1
	BallotsRejectedInPart	The number of votes rejected		This is a total of the number of ballots rejected during the count for each the categories of: • rejected in part (e.g. at a local authority multi-vacancy ward election) It does not include rejected postal votes that never appear in these final figures but which are described in the offline electoral Form K.	Number	1
	BallotsRejectedUnmarked	The number of votes rejected		This is a total of the number of ballots rejected during the count for each the categories of: • unmarked or void for uncertainty It does not include rejected postal votes that never appear in these final figures but which are described in the offline electoral Form K.	Number	1

25

	PercentageTurnout	The percentage of the electorate that attended the voting process		A percentage figure calculated to one decimal place as VotesCast divided by EligibleElectorate times 100. Note this figure may be subject to revision and republication at a later date if the EligibleElectorate is revised.	Number	1
	InfoURL	Web address of the department conducting the election	In case the user needs further information	E.g. http://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/election-results/	String (URL)	0..1
	ReturningOfficer	Name of the returning officer	To record the officer responsible for the legitimate running of the election	Name of the returning officer in the form John Henry Smith	String	1
	ElectoralDept	The council's own name	To help the user identify where further	e.g. "Election Services"	String	0..1

		for the department conducting the election	information can be sort			
	ContactEmail	A contact email address for the publishing Electoral Services Department	In case the user needs further information	e.g. elections@adur-worthing.gov.uk	String	0..1
	ContactTel	Electoral Services Department contact telephone no.	In case the user needs further information	01903 221014	String	0..1

For more information please contact

Research and Information

Local Government Association

18 Smith Square

Westminster

London SW1P 3HZ

Email: transparency@local.gov.uk

Local Government Association

For a copy in Braille, Welsh, larger print or audio, please contact us on 020 7664 3000.

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