

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Re-Elect Ann Black for 2022 / 2024



I am seeking re-election as one of your nine CLP representatives on Labour's NEC. I served from 2000 to 2018, returning in 2020, still committed to accountability, socialist policies and genuine party democracy. I am loyal to Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner, as I was to all previous leaders.

The Tories are undermining our democracy, cutting social security while fuel bills rocket, blaming the victims of the cost-of-living crisis which they created, starving local government of funds, lining their mates' pockets, making enemies at home and abroad, and partying while the rest of us follow the rules. Boris Johnson's departure does not excuse the MPs who enabled him, and who will continue his divisive, destructive policies.

I want to spend less energy looking inwards and more on our shared goal of political power. As chair of the national policy forum I am focused not just on what a Labour government should do, but on how to achieve that government, with an inspiring vision, clear policies and punchy messages. Members must be fully involved in developing the next manifesto, as we are the people who will take it to voters on the doorstep.

In 2020 I argued that local parties should receive a bigger share of membership subscriptions, and have already got £1,500 returned to every CLP. As a CLP secretary myself I understand the pressures on local volunteers. And as NEC co-vice-chair for women I will work with the newly-elected women's committee.

Independence and Accountability

I judge all issues on their merits. For instance I opposed expulsion for supporting organisations before they were proscribed. I supported simpler selection procedures, but I was the only representative to argue against letting candidates spend up to £3,500, and to object to giving the NEC control of longlisting. Conference voted for CLPs to control selections in by-elections, and the NEC was wrong to set this aside.

I continue to report on every meeting at www.annblack.co.uk. Not everyone will always agree with what I say or how I vote, but as one critical friend wrote:

"It feels like you are the only NEC member who actually listens to arguments as opposed to deciding which faction they are in and voting to do down the other lot."

Difficult Areas

The Forde report into alleged wrongdoing has finally arrived, and I am studying the recommendations carefully. I share frustration at the slowness of party disciplinary processes and the distress caused to members who are suspended for months, or whose complaints are languishing unresolved. Suspended members cannot stand for internal or external office, so even if eventually cleared they have already been punished by years of exclusion. I have rescued a few, but the system is broken. I cannot promise to fix it, but I will keep trying.

What Next?

Nominations have now closed, and I am grateful to the 206 constituencies who gave me their support, more than any other candidate. From Wednesday 3 August ballots will be sent to all members, to be returned by Friday 25 August. Please give me your #1 preference, and encourage your friends to vote as well. I'm happy to visit meetings, and you can contact me at annblack50@btinternet.com. / 07956-637958.

In solidarity, Ann Black

Experience

Labour Party: Secretary of Oxford Labour, vice-chair of the south-east regional executive committee. Elected to the national policy forum 1998/2018 and 2020 onwards, and the NEC 2000/2018 and 2020 onwards. Chaired the disputes panel for nine years. Currently chair of the national policy forum, NEC co-vice-chair for women, member of the business board. Chair of the NEC 2009/10.

Trade Union / Other: NALGO from 1982, UNISON from 1993, workplace representative for 30 years and former member of UNISON's national LabourLink committee. Also member of Open Labour, the Fabians, Labour Movement for Europe, Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform.