WANTED

SCOTTISH FAMILY CANDIDATES FOR THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 2022

We are looking for Candidates for the 5th May 2022 Scottish elections. There are 1,227 Councillors to be elected across all 32 Local Authorities - including your own. In addition, there may well be byelections arising; we require ‘oven ready’ SFP candidates to contest these elections. You might never have thought about running for election but your local council plays an important role in many of the major decisions that affect people’s lives on education, social care, housing, highways, economic development and waste management.

The Ward you live or work in may well be the Ward you select to contest but can be any Ward within your Local Authority area. Many of you have already given me an indication of where you would like to stand.

To help you make this decision you should take a look at the 2017 election results. For example the Edinburgh results are found on this web site -

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/election-results/local-government-election-results>

Wards elect a number of councillors, typically 3/4 based on the single transferable vote system.

Voters rank Candidates in terms of preference. This gives voters more choice and can favour the smaller parties and independents as all preferences count.

We can explore this in due course as we go through the candidate training.

The Nomination period commences on 15 March 2022 and closes on the 30 March.

The Nomination papers are not yet finalised but will not be significantly different from those used in 2017 and available on the Electoral Commission web site:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/SLG%20Nomination%20packs%20and%20guidance%20for%20candidates%20and%20agents.doc>

We will also need to complete a certificate of authorisation when standing for the SFP or when using our emblem and description.

I use the acronym PONDER to guide us through the LA election process -

**P**reparation

**O**rganisation

**N**etwork

**D**evelopment

**E**lection

**R**eview

Preparation One of the most helpful documents l have come across is the IS paper attached - 'Preparing for Election'. <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/>

We can work through this during Candidate training.

This will help you prepare for the role and the key local issues. We will overlay this with our training in key policy areas on education, social care, housing, family and economic development. This will commence in January over Zoom for one hour each week.

Organisation: l suggest you try and get a small team together - from Church, your neighbourhood, family etc. They can help plan as well as distribute literature when the time comes and one of them can act as Agent.

Network. This is the most important. Can you and the small team start gaining vote pledges. A team of ten who each get 100 vote pledges is going to get you close to being elected.

Development and training - we plan to start our development and training work in January over Zoom to support the candidates.

The election itself - we will support you with nomination and registration as a Candidate as well as leaflets and a social media campaign.

We are working on a leaflet template which will require you to build up your bio notes and find an appealing picture.

Review - what we have learnt from our success for future elections.

Election to your local Council will also provide a key building block for the SFP to promote and test their policies. Over 60% of Council budgets are allocated to Education and Social Care – these are critical policy areas for the SFP. It might provide us with a political power base to get to know what the electorate really thinks and enables you to represent your ward and the people who live in it. It also provides a cadre of individuals who, with this experience, go onto contest Constituency elections to the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments.

There is no standard template of experience, skills and expertise to undertake the role of a Councillor. It takes all sorts to serve on the Council. I believe you need an interest in people, a desire to serve and the ability to use the opportunity to learn about how local government works. This will serve you well in your future career whether you are just starting out or in retirement.

What exactly does the job involve?

* Attend full Council meeting and help make decisions on the delivery of local services
* Attend sub committees eg Education and Social Care
* Represent the people in your Ward
* Work with other organisations in the area
* Whilst councillors do spend time in council meetings, much of a councillor’s time is spent within their communities speaking and working with members of the public, community groups and fellow ward members
* Around 1 day per week which also involves evenings

What are the requirements for Candidates?

* Need to work or live in the Local Authority
* Aged 18 +

Will l get any help?

* Training provided by SFP and on election continued development from the Council and the SFP
* We will provide centralised support with election literature and overall strategy
* Candidates will develop additional campaign topics based on local issues

Will l be remunerated?

* A payment of £17,854 for ordinary Councillors plus expenses

APPLICATION FORM

Please register your interest by contacting

michael.willis@scottishfamily.org

Please state which Ward you wish to contest and why you want to stand for the Scottish Family Party. Please provide details of any social media accounts or accounts you contribute to – including those which use a pseudonym. Any previous political involvement and unspent criminal convictions where applicable.

Name:

Address

Email

Twitter account

Facebook account

Instagram account

Other accounts

Target Ward/Constituency

Why l wish to stand for the SFP

Please provide details of any previous involvement in politics including membership of political parties and candidacies in elections.

List details of any unspent criminal convictions including the type of offence if applicable.