

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI)

May 2026 Elections Briefing

Local elections are taking place across large parts of England on **Thursday 7 May 2026**, alongside elections for the Scottish and Welsh parliaments. This creates a key opportunity for WASPI to be raised on the doorstep.

While the UK Government is responsible for pension policy, local councillors, MSPs and MSs can all make their voices heard and support WASPI's calls for fair compensation.

Questions to ask canvassers:

1. If you are elected, will you support local WASPI groups in their calls for fair compensation?
2. *[For council candidates]* Will you propose a motion to support WASPI women and work cross-party to demonstrate the Council's support for those affected? WASPI can supply a draft motion.

We need your help! Ask your local candidates:

- Whether they support compensation for WASPI women
- To raise the issue at election hustings, public meetings and with the local MP
- If they are standing to be a councillor, to support a council motion if elected

What do the main parties say about WASPI compensation?



Sir Keir Starmer has previously pledged 'fast and fair compensation' for affected women, yet in January 2026 the DWP said compensation would once again be refused. This is despite strong support from many backbench MPs.



The Conservatives have not made a commitment to compensating WASPI women. However, some backbenchers are explicit in their support for compensation.



Reform UK has not made any commitment to compensating WASPI women, though some of their MPs have previously supported compensation.



Green Party

SNP

**Plaid Cymru
Party of Wales**



The Liberal Democrats, Greens, Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru all support compensation for WASPI women as official policy and have spoken consistently in support of the campaign.

There are also many independents and smaller parties who support WASPI women. Ask them directly to find out their position.



Latest update

- In January 2026, **the Government refused to compensate WASPI women for a second time.**
 - When updating MPs, the Work and Pensions Secretary relied on nearly identical reasoning to the previous decision in December 2024, which WASPI successfully challenged out-of-court
- **WASPI is exploring options for a fresh judicial review:** Ministers are still making the same flawed arguments, including on survey data of general awareness, and assumptions about decisions women would have taken
- **Two-thirds of young people support fair WASPI compensation** (January 2026). Younger voters agree there has been an injustice, and polling shows they are likely to support parties which back compensation
- **Hundreds of MPs across all the main parties support the campaign**, recognising this transcends party politics
- **With the May 2026 elections approaching**, all candidates have an opportunity to demonstrate their support. WASPI women are not going away!

WASPI are asking all candidates in this election to:

- Publicly state their support for fair compensation for WASPI women
- Write to their local MP, explaining why the Government must think again on WASPI compensation
- If elected as a councillor, table a Council motion in support. This can be found on WASPI's website

Background context

- *March 2024:* the PHSO found maladministration in the DWP's handling of women's State Pension age changes and **asked MPs to ensure the Government delivers compensation**
- *December 2024:* the Government **apologised for the mistakes** made by the DWP, and accepted the PHSO's finding of maladministration, but nonetheless refused to set up a compensation scheme
- *February 2025:* WASPI announced it was seeking a **High Court Judicial Review of the Government's decision**, arguing the DWP failed to base its conclusions on cogent or rational reasons
- *December 2025:* just days before the case was set to be heard, WASPI reached a **legal settlement with the Government** which committed to them to reconsidering the whole report again, from the beginning
- *January 2026:* after reviewing the evidence, the DWP said **compensation would once again be refused.**

Why the local elections matter

The impact of the DWP's maladministration is not confined to the individual women involved. Instead, this issue has had an impact on their families and local communities. For example:

- Women who would have retired and cared for older relatives or partners are now unable to afford to do so, with a knock-on impact on local social care
- Many WASPI women have been left in poverty and are struggling to meet their housing costs, with a knock-on impact on local housing stock
- Local voluntary services are also losing out on able, active volunteers
- Local economies are also affected through reduced the spending power of 1950s-born women

About WASPI

WASPI calls for fair compensation for the lack of notice 1950s-born women received over State Pension age increases. This resulted in serious harm including loss of independence, autonomy and the financial impact of being denied the opportunity to make informed retirement plans. WASPI does *not* campaign for the retirement age for women to return to 60, nor does it take issue with the law change itself.

For further information, please contact campaign@waspi.co.uk