

To all Local Government Branches

Dear Colleagues,

Janet Green
National Executive Council (NEC) Elections
Nomination for Local Government Female Seat



I am seeking your nomination for the UNISON NEC Election for the Local Government Female Seat.

I have been a member of UNISON for over 15 years joining on the first day of my employment as a mobile cleaner. I worked my way up from member to activist and am now the Branch Secretary of SOUTH TYNESIDELG Branch. Before joining UNISON, I had been a member of NUPE.

In this role I have been fully supportive in fighting for equality and fairness for all members. I am immensely proud of the campaign we led and success we had in bringing the REAL LIVING WAGE to our authority employed staff in 2015.

I am a member of the Northern Region LG committee, Regional Committee and Regional Council.

My desire to stand on the NEC is motivated by my commitment to represent a union that is led by the member, for all members across all employers, many of whom are often not only the lowest paid but also have the worst terms and conditions. I am standing to change that through helping to build organised campaigns with all sectors and all employers.

I want to be part of building UNISON as an organising union. 2020 was a year like no other; COVID-19 has shone a light on the value of our public services and those who we class as “key workers”. The role of trade unions has been paramount in ensuring employers and the Government are held to account for their failings in dealing robustly with the fallout from the pandemic and ensuring people remain safe at work.

UNISON has been at the forefront, highlighting the PPE scandal, the shambolic trace, track and isolate programme, showing what happens when you leave public services understaffed, underfunded and put into the hand of private profiteers.

As we move forward, the vaccination programme gives us some hope, however, the full economic fallout of COVID-19 is yet to be felt, add to that the impact from Brexit and we know that our public services are at even greater risk from this Tory Government.

We know councils have been severely hit due to funding cuts from central government. This has been exacerbated by COVID-19 meaning local authorities are uncertain about the future of the services they provide. Local government workers have already lost around 20% from their pay since 2010 - ALL local government workers deserve a decent pay rise, and I will be fighting to make this a priority for UNISON.

This is a very volatile time within the political landscape at home, in Europe and across the world. Attacks on democracy and a rise in the politics of hate and hate crime, along with a rise in far-right political parties within the UK and across the world means we are entering very uncertain times. UNISON has an important role to play, both at home and abroad, in championing the politics of hope over hate and making our workplaces and communities more equal and fairer places, where we celebrate diversity and root out all forms of discrimination.

Many people, including some of our members, are feeling more disenfranchised from what they call the 'Political Elite' and, as trade unionists, we have an important role in trying to build bridges and enable debate and conversations. We must continue to hold our elected representatives to account and work to hat our elected representatives better reflect the people they seek to serve.

I want UNISON to be the campaigning and organising union that strengthens the fight against cuts to our public service and Tory austerity measures. In order to grow UNISON membership and encourage new activists we need to bring UNISON closer to the members. Really engaging the membership and utilising the union's collective power to fight for our member's rights, deliver pay rises and improve terms and conditions for public service workers. As the biggest trade union, UNISON must lead from the front.

As your elected representative on the NEC, I would keep members at the forefront of NEC decisions – bringing more support to branches. As a current Branch Secretary, I understand how important this issue is. Through working with branches and members we will be stronger together because when we work together, we deliver better outcomes for our members and our communities.

Due to Covid restrictions nominations must be submitted online, branches should receive a link to facilitate this from CES, acting as returning officer for these elections. If you cannot locate this, please contact the nomination helpline on the UNISONDirect number 0800 0857 857.

I hope that you will be able to nominate me to be your Local Government Female candidate and ask if you would also consider my colleagues: Maggie Griffin for a Female Seat, Sean fox for the Male Seat and James Minto for the General Seat.

If your Branch would like me to attend a Branch Committee Meeting or to discuss this further, please contact me on 07788846505 or email janet.green66@yahoo.co.uk.

Yours fraternally

Janet Green
Membership Number: 9013956