

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Re-elect Ann Black for 2016 / 2018



Losing the election was a bitter blow, not only to candidates and activists who dedicated years of their lives to the campaign, but to all those who need Labour to protect them from a Tory government which is undermining public services, attacking the labour movement and damaging democracy itself.

This is a time of danger, but also a time of opportunity. The leadership election showed a hunger for alternatives to austerity, for fair employment laws, for social security systems which support pensioners, disabled people, the young, the exploited and the unlucky, for an end to scapegoating claimants, migrants and foreigners, and for peaceful international solutions. Membership has doubled to nearly 400,000, and the immediate task is to unite new, returning and long-serving members, respecting the mandate that they have given to Jeremy Corbyn and Tom Watson. I am pledged to tolerance, open and inclusive debate, a kinder politics and a more caring society, and I deplore all abuse on social media or in person.

May 2016 sees elections in London, Scotland, Wales and English local authorities, as well as for police and crime commissioners and some mayors, and a likely referendum on continued membership of the European Union. To succeed, Labour must support our councillors as they battle to protect the vulnerable against centrally-imposed cuts; work alongside unions in defending their right to campaign politically and to represent their members; build more homes; safeguard the environment; and oppose Trident, using the savings to maintain skilled jobs and fund education, health and other public services.

The Road Ahead

The national policy forum last met in 2014 and Labour is at the start of a wide-ranging debate, to which members can continue to contribute through the Your Britain website at <http://yourbritain.org.uk>. There are new NEC working groups charged with developing digital strategies and with party reform, including how policy is made, selection procedures, devolution to Scotland, Wales and English regions, more diverse representation, support for councillors, community organising, political education, the youth wing, and the impact of the Collins review and government laws on relations with trade unions. I have particular responsibility for gender issues, where raising the status of the women's conference is high on the agenda, but all NEC members will be able to contribute on everything. Members will be consulted in the New Year, but feel free to send ideas on any of the above, or indeed on anything else.

In sixteen years on the NEC I've talked with members from Tory shires, Labour heartlands, key marginals, London, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and worked closely with representatives of trade unions, councillors and MPs towards our common goals of a united movement dedicated to returning Labour to government. I've taken your views on policy, campaigning and party organisation to the highest levels. My record, with recent reports available at www.annblack.co.uk, shows that I am constructive, responsible and accountable. Please contact me at annblack50@btinternet.com for regular updates by e-mail, and if there is anything you would like to ask me or to tell me. I hope to continue representing you, and ask again for your support.

Experience

Labour Party: Joined in 1982. Secretary of Oxford East, elected to the regional board from 1998, the national policy forum from 1998 and the NEC from 2000. Member of the organisation and equalities committees, the business board and the economic policy commission, and Chair of the disputes panel. Chair of the NEC 2009/10.

Trade Union: ASTMS from 1979, NALGO from 1982, UNISON from 1993.

Other: Founding signatory of Open Labour, member of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform and the Ramblers Association.