

*Dear member,*

We find ourselves in an unusual position. As experienced campaigners who have worked for Lib Dem candidates at various elections and over many years, we are asking you not to vote for a Lib Dem candidate for the post of elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

**Vote for  
Ron  
(Re-opening  
Nominations)**

Let us be clear this has absolutely nothing to do with anyone within the party who has put themselves up for election to the post. We would be happy to fight for these candidates in any election.... just not this one on the basis of Liberal Democratic principle.

In the following we try to explain why. Please consider our arguments set out below and, if you agree then cast your vote for RON.

Brian Stone. Chair of Brighton and Hove Lib Dems  
Simon Doyle. Vice Chair of Brighton and Hove Lib Dems  
Both on behalf of the executive of Brighton and Hove Lib Dems.  
Liz Lee. Member of Lewes Lib Dems.

***The case against putting up a Lib Dem candidate in the  
Police and Crime Commissioner Elections for the South East.***

**1. Policing leadership should not be a party political issue.**

We are concerned that the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, posts which our party did not support in the first place, should be protected from party political posturing. We note how the other parties are desperate to ensure that 'their' side controls police and crime oversight. We believe this to be a worrying trend. In our view the role should be free from party political interference. However, if we are loath to see party based Labour and Conservatives Commissioners, with allegiance to their head offices, it also has to be the case for the Liberal Democrats.

It is not good enough for a party of principle to say simply that because other parties are putting up candidates we should also. The Liberal Democrats should be in opposition to the party politicking of the role on the grounds of principle. We should reflect that principle by refusing to put a candidate up ourselves.