



LRU elections 2026

Why do our branches have elected roles? Branches are the local LRU spaces where members come together to build our collective power. LRU branches:

- Build the active membership or 'base' of the branch and make sure the branch is rooted in the local community through sustained outreach
- Build power through member solidarity
- Run local campaigns and participate in union-wide campaigns
- Create welcoming, joyful, powerful branch meetings and regular meetings and strong relationships
- Develop leadership by supporting and training members to take the lead.

Every member is encouraged to take part in our organising activity. The purpose of the teams and roles in branches is so we have the structure we need to make that happen.

Which branch roles are up for election?

- Coordinating group representatives
- Branch secretary
- Local Organiser
- Member solidarity lead
- Outreach officer
- Membership officer
- Campaigns Committee Representative
- Education leads
- Worker Solidarity Lead
- Organising committee member
- Communications officer

Full descriptions are below.

I've not done loads of community organising before. Is this for me? How do I know which role to put myself forward for? Are you a renter who is fed up with high rents, poor quality housing and how unfair our society is? Do you have a bit of time you can contribute every week or two? Then these roles are for you!

Don't worry if you've not been part of an organised group before, you'll get lots of support from other members and from our amazing LRU staff.

If you'd like to talk about what position to run for or have any other questions, contact your branch secretary or staff member. Email hello@londonrentersunion.org to be put in touch!

5 reasons to put yourself forward for an elected role

1. You'll have the chance to help lead on campaigns that win better housing for ourselves, our neighbours and our city.

2. You'll get support from other members and staff organisers to develop your organising skills and build your confidence.
3. You'll be invited to our incredible training sessions throughout the year.
4. It's your chance to take more leadership and responsibility for your branch.
5. You'll build relationships with incredible people from your community.

How do I put myself forward? To yourself forward for any of the roles, fill out [this form before the election meeting](#). To be eligible for any role, you need to be a current LRU member and to find one other person to nominate you.

Some roles require you to have been involved for a little while first:

- To be an elected Local Organiser, you must have been an active member for at least 3 months and be up for doing 2-3 hours of organising work most weeks over the year.
- To be eligible to be on the branch coordinating group, you must have attended either at least 3 meetings in the last six months, or at least 50% of the meetings held in that period.
- To be eligible for the Staffing and Finance Lead or the Convenor roles, you must be nominated by a branch or working group or by 25 members.

What is a branch organising committee?

All elected branch role holders are part of that branch's organising committee. The organising committee is the elected leadership of a branch. It is responsible for making sure the branch has a strong organising plan and that it carries out its main activities like outreach, campaigns and member solidarity, for making sure branch meetings happen. You can read the full description [here](#).

What other teams exist in a branch?

It's up to a branch and its organising committee in a branch to develop the structure and teams that it needs. Teams that some of our branches have right now include: teams around specific campaigns or projects, a Member Solidarity team, an Outreach team, an Education team.

Is being an elected role holder the only way to contribute more to my branch?

No! Each branch has teams and campaigns that any member can get involved with.

How do the elections work?

Each branch will have an election meeting:

- Hackney - Saturday 26th September 12-3pm
- Brent - Saturday 10 October
- Haringey - Saturday 10 October 12:30-4pm
- Tower Hamlets - Thursday 8 October 6-9pm
- Lewisham - Saturday 3 October 2026 11am
- Newham & Leytonstone - TBC

At these meetings, candidates will be asked to say why they'd like the role. Most branches will vote during the meeting itself. Voting for the cross-union roles (Convenor, Staffing and Finance Lead, directly elected Coordinating Group member) shall take place online after the last branch election meeting.

A motion passed at the 2026 All Member Assembly introduces a few rule changes to how elections happen. See the updated election rules [here](#). The coordinating group will appoint a returning officer from the staff team to oversee the elections. If you have any questions, please email hello@londonrentersunion.org.

Directly elected coordinating group positions

As well as roles in branches, we're also electing members to a number of directly elected positions on the union's coordinating group, the elected leadership of the union:

- 3x Directly elected coordinating group members
- 2x Coordinating group convenor
- 2x Staffing and finance lead

Full role descriptions for these roles are available [here](#).

Working group coordinators

Each of our working groups (Data and Research, Worker Solidarity and Member Solidarity) can elect up to two working group coordinators, who also sit on the coordinating group.

You must have attended either at least 3 meetings in the last six months, or at least 50% of the meetings held in that period. The full role description is available [here](#).

Branch role descriptions

Core roles

2 x Coordinating group representatives

- Represents the branch's issues, ideas and strategic thinking and puts forward proposals from the branch at the union's [Coordinating Group](#).
- To join the coordinating group, a member must have been an active member for at least 3 months

2x Branch secretary

- Responsible for making sure the organising committee and branch meets in a regular monthly slot and attending those meetings.
- Makes sure the branch has a clear strategy and is implementing it.
- Sends out meeting calls for agenda items and proposals, announcements/newsletter and branch updates.

4x Local Organiser

- A local organiser builds the power of the branch by doing things like door knocking, street stalls, being involved in campaigns or disputes, running phone banking sessions and having one-to-ones and holding relationships with other members.
- Local Organisers are responsible for getting other members involved in organising. Each Local Organiser will be responsible for leading a specific activity or team as decided by the organising committee.
- At least one Local Organiser should be responsible for ensuring the branch does regular stalls and door knocking.

- At least one Local Organiser should be responsible for ensuring the branch does regular phone banking.
- To be a Local Organiser, a member must have been an active member for at least 3 months and be up for doing 2-3 hours of organising work most weeks over the year.

3-4 x Member solidarity lead

- Coordinate of member solidarity activities (e.g. peer support spaces) including supporting members to get involved.
- Makes sure the member solidarity team holds regular meetings, if there is a team.
- Has an overview of the active cases in the team.

Optional roles

2x Outreach officer

- Carries out outreach activities like door knocking and street stalls.
- Is a member of any relevant team e.g. a Membership team.

2x Membership officer

- Carries out membership activities like phone banking.
- Is a member of any relevant team e.g. a Membership team.

2x Campaigns Committee Representative

- Is a member of the LRU's cross-union Campaigns Committee, which exists to develop and implement the strategy for the Cut the Rent campaign for rent controls, and other campaigns for system change.
- This roleholder shall make sure there's good communication between the committee group and the branch.

2x Education leads

- Be responsible for running fully accessible and empowering education events within the branch and supporting members to run them.
- Takes part in the activities of the LRU Education and Training Unit, including by helping to run core LRU trainings.

2x Worker Solidarity Lead

- Building relationships with local trades councils and union branches. This includes organising renters rights trainings for union branches, mapping local unions, picket exchanges.
- Encouraging LRU members to share their disputes in branch meetings.
- Taking part in Worker Solidarity Working Group meetings and activities.

Organising committee member: Attends organising committee meetings and takes on action points.

Communications officer: Liaises with local media. Runs social media accounts for the branch.