

# June 2009 European Parliamentary elections and Local Government elections in England

## Key Findings

- Overall, these elections were well run.
- There were high levels of confidence and satisfaction among voters with the process of registering to vote and voting itself.
- Regional and Local Returning Officers generally performed well.

# The Electoral Commission

## EPE

- More than 15.6 million people voted at the European Parliamentary elections in the UK
- 75% of all votes were cast at approximately 37,000 polling stations
- 80% of the people surveyed were very or fairly satisfied with the process of voting
- 19% of non voters stated a dislike of politicians
- There were no election petitions challenging the results

## Local Government

- Turnout at the local government election was 39.2%
- Almost 9,000 candidates were nominated to contest seats in 2,139 wards at the June local government elections in England.

# Report Recommendations

## Electoral administrators

- Complete and accurate registers
- comprehensive plans
- effective local and regional coordination arrangements
- *Making your mark*
- Performance Standards framework

## Electoral Integrity

- **Returning Officers should** put in place robust plans to identify and manage the risks of electoral malpractice.

## To Government

- The UK Government should publish and consult on its strategic vision for the future of elections and electoral administration
- The UK government should develop its plans for pilot schemes to give Electoral registration Officers access to data sources to help improve the completeness and accuracy of electoral registers. It should begin implementation as soon as possible alongside the implementation of individual electoral registration.
- The UK and Scottish Governments should build on the effective arrangements and regional coordination and management that were in place for the 2009 European parliamentary elections to ensure similar support for future elections.
- We welcome the UK Governments commitment to supporting the coordination of a strategic forum for senior electoral administration professionals across the UK
- The Government should amend the Representation of the People regulations to require Returning officers to check and verify the personal identifiers on 100% of returned postal voting statements before postal ballot papers are included in the count.