

# A guide to the YEA elections 20/21

## What is the YEA?

The [Young Essex Assembly](#) (YEA) is the elected youth council for Essex and is supported by Essex Youth Service. Every two years 75 young people representing all districts across Essex are elected to become members of the YEA and every year within the YEA 6 members of Youth Parliament are also elected to represent Essex nationally.

The YEA review priorities and consult with young people as well as campaigning to make a positive difference for young people in Essex.

The YEA isn't just about making sure that young people have a voice and are listened to but also to enable the members to grow their confidence and support their personal and social development.

Members also get unique opportunities to work alongside other organisations within Essex and nationally for example working with the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to work on projects as well as plan and run a yearly conference for secondary schools.

## Who can stand for election?

- The minimum age to join the YEA is 11 years and attending secondary school.
- The maximum age to join the YEA is 19 years, or up to 25 years old with SEND.
- You must either live, work or study in the district you wish to represent.

## How do young people stand for election?

Young people can request an [information pack](#) and [application form](#) by emailing [YEA@essex.gov.uk](mailto:YEA@essex.gov.uk) or download the forms using the links in this pack.

The closing date for applications is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021. All applicants will then be invited to a Husting's day in their local area during February half term, where they will write their statement to go on the ballots.

Voting will take place from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The results will be announced at local Declaration events between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. If a young person is unsuccessful in the elections, they are still able to participate within the YEA as a Youth Voice Champion.

## How to vote?

Any young person living in Essex, aged 11-19 or up to 25 with SEND is eligible to vote.

Voting will be open from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

This year we will be using an online form to vote. To register your schools, groups and organisations for voting please email [YEA@essex.gov.uk](mailto:YEA@essex.gov.uk)

There will also be the option to use tally style voting sheets which can be used in class and group settings.

## What resources are available?

We have put together a range of options and resources for schools, groups and organisation to choose from to help support with promoting the elections. Please contact [YEA@essex.gov.uk](mailto:YEA@essex.gov.uk) if you would like to request any of the resources stated below or if you have any questions regarding the YEA and its elections.

