

Elections and Politicians

Background

The Local Government Act of 1888 is notable for the establishment of county councils and county borough councils within England and Wales. These councils first came into effect from 1st April 1889. The first elections took place in January 1889, initially becoming 'provisional councils' until they properly came into power on 1st April. Elections were then subsequently held every 3 years. After the 1974 Local Government reorganisation, local elections were then held every 4 years. Documentation surrounding elections and politicians can be found within County Council collections, and other official and non-official records here at Gloucestershire Archives. These will give you information concerning the particular elections and the local politics of the time. Several records relating to local MPs are also held within our collections.

What records are there and what information will they contain?

Council Records

The County Council archive includes records listing the results of the County Council Elections. You can find these listed on our online catalogue by searching for "County Council Election*".

Other useful papers relating to Councillors in the County Council Collection include:

- Roll of Members 1889-1967 (**C/CC/M1A**)
- Minute Books 1889-1974 (**C/CC/M**)
- Year Books 1909-1972 (with gaps), including diaries, lists of members and standing orders. (**C/CC/V3/5/1 plus year**)

Gloucestershire Archives also holds records of District Councils (See the *District Councils Research Guide*) and Parish Councils.

Election Results for recent elections and by-elections can be found on the County Council's website at <https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgManageElectionResults.aspx?bcr=1>

Published Sources

Several books and pamphlets have been produced which contain lists of election results and the names of MPs and Councillors. Useful books available onsite include:

Reference	Title	Date
GAL/C3/ 19162GS	Parliamentary representation of the city of Gloucester (1727-1790) Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, vol. 78, 1959, p. 137-152	1960
GAL/C4/ 30495GS	Gloucester's parliamentary elections, 1604-40 Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, vol. 96, 1978, p. 53-59	1979
GAL/E5/ 29742GS	Parliamentary history of the county of Gloucester, ... from the earliest times to the present day, 1213-1898, with biographical and genealogical notices of the members	1898
GAL/G5/ 41070GS	Members of Parliament for Cheltenham 1928-2005 Cheltenham Local History Society Journal 26, 2010, pp 49 - 58	2010
GAL/G5/ 41070GS	Members of parliament for Cheltenham, 1832-1924 Cheltenham Local History Society Journal, Volume 28, 2012, pp 3-13	2012

Newspapers

Local newspapers usually reported the results of local and national elections. A good newspaper to start with is the Gloucester Journal or the Gloucester Citizen, which are held at Gloucestershire Archives on microfilm. (Some local newspapers are also available on sites such as Find My Past and the British Newspaper Archive, which can be accessed for free at the Gloucestershire Family History Centre). The Gloucester Journal also included a full report on the activities of Gloucester City Council and the County Council. For details on more local newspapers within Gloucestershire, please see the ***Newspaper Guide (Handlist)*** on our website

It is worth noting that election results may have taken a couple of days to finalise, so therefore may take a while to appear within the local press. Newspapers will also contain information on candidates campaigning in the local area and local opinions on national politics.

Personal Papers of Politicians

Gloucestershire Archives holds the personal papers of many people who have been MPs or Councillors. These collections may include diaries, correspondence, accounts, memoirs, pamphlets and parliamentary papers of their time in office. These collections include:

- Members of the Hyett and Dickinson Families, including Sebastian Dickinson MP 1820-1878 and W H Dickinson MP, 1878-1943 (Ref: **D6**)
- Thomas Estcourt MP, 1748-1818 and T G B Estcourt MP, 1775-1853 (Ref: **D1571/X**)
- Morgan Philips Price, MP, 1885-1973 (Ref: **D2176/3**)
- Members of the Hicks-Beach Family, including Sir Michael Edward Hicks Beach MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1895-1902 (Ref: **D2455/X**)
- Francis Henry Fitzhardinge Berkeley MP 1854-1864 (Ref: **D3752**)
- Nicholas Ridley of Naunton, MP for Cirencester & Tewkesbury, 1970-1978 (Ref: **D3836**)
- Paul Marland, MP for West Gloucestershire, c.1974-1994 (Ref: **D7075**)
- Sir Charles Irving, MP (Ref: **D7264**)

Other collections might include correspondence with members of parliament or councils and papers commenting about elections and politics.

Pamphlets and Leaflets

Pamphlets and documents produced by candidates and political parties are also held in our local studies collection. You can find these by searching the online catalogue in the local studies section using relevant keywords and terms.

How to Find the Records

To search for these records please use our online catalogue available at:

<https://catalogue.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>. Use the search terms and references given above as your search terms. You can also try searching with keywords and phrases such as: "election", "parliament", "constituency", "MP", "councillor". Details of how to make an appointment to view these items can be found on the 'visit us' section of our website, available at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/visit-us/>

For more guidance on using our online catalogue please see the Help page and FAQs. Or you can watch our YouTube tutorial.