

# AYDIN DIKERDEM for LONDON WIDE

CLP: **Battersea**

Membership: **L1217068**

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I'm running for the London Regional Executive to ensure there is a fair, pluralistic and rules based approach to a crucial year for London's local democracy.

**I've been an active Labour Party member since 2013 and a Councillor in Wandsworth since 2016. I played a leading role in the historic 2017 victory in Battersea** which saw Marsha de Cordova overturn a 7936 Tory majority and volunteered full-time on the 2018 Wandsworth local elections where my ward returned all three Labour Councillors for the first time since 1990 and where we came within 142 votes of taking the Council after 40 years of Tory rule.

I went on to work for the Labour Party as a Community Organiser where I helped tenants take on landlords, youth organisations win community space and built campaign teams in target seats alongside developing and training thousands of activists in campaigning techniques. I'm a committed socialist, and an adamant champion of local government and its role in redistributing power in our communities.

It is my experience of organising and winning elections against the Tories in swing areas that has shaped my views on the comradely and pluralistic culture CLPs should be fostering, and the importance of a politics directly linked to local struggle and campaigns.

As a member and councillor I've seen first hand the harassment, intimidation and toxic culture that can exist around internal Party matters, but I've also seen it overcome and desecalated through open democratic discussion and collegiate commitments to accountability and due process. **My active role in doing this work in my own borough and CLP has given me the skills necessary to operate on the level of the London REC.**

Unsurprisingly then, **my own journey has made me a vociferous critic of council candidates being blocked from shortlists for factional reasons.** I've gained the respect and support from colleagues across the political spectrum because of my work ethic, enthusiasm and commitment to building Labour locally, and nobody should have that opportunity taken away arbitrarily because they fall on the wrong side of factional politics. It is the members that should choose candidates. That does not mean we should not hold candidates to high standards of public office, but it certainly means we don't dictate those standards through a political lens.

Fundamentally, London Labour and the Labour Party nationally will be better off and in a stronger position to win elections if it's processes are fair and it's members know the candidates put before them represent the broadest range of talent and politics.

**I hope you can back me and my running mate Sasha Das Gupta for the London wide division.**

Please also support **SASHA DAS GUPTA** for LONDON WIDE

**AYDIN DIKERDEM**