



Thursday 24th June 2021
Election of Sheriffs for the City of London

Candidature of Alderman Nicholas Lyons

To the Liverymen of the City of London

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen

My colleagues on the Court of Aldermen graciously support my nomination as a candidate for the ancient office of Sheriff of the City of London for 2021/22. I humbly offer myself to the Livery at the election to be held at Common Hall in the Guildhall on Thursday June 24th 2021 at 12 noon.

I was born in Dublin on December 20th 1958. My family moved to Kent in 1964 when my father became the first Professor of History at Kent University and I was educated at the King's School, Canterbury. Founded in 597AD, it is one of the few institutions that predates the ancient role of Sheriff of the City of London. I read History at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, graduating in 1980 and after an internship in Brussels at the Commission of the EEC joined JP Morgan. I worked in investment banking until 2003 advising banks and insurance companies and held a number of senior management roles. Since then I have sat on the boards of many financial service companies that today include a global reinsurance company, a London Market insurance broker, a global health insurer and chair a FTSE 100 UK life insurance company.

Elected in the Ward of Tower in 2017, I am President of Tower Ward Club. At the Corporation, I have sat on the Finance, Planning and Transportation and Markets committees, the Education Board, the Court of the Honourable the Irish Society, the Board of the Lord Mayor's Show Ltd, the St Paul's Cathedral Choristers' Trust and the Boards of King Edward's, Witley and Barrow Hills schools. I have served as Under Renter Warden at the Merchant Taylors Company, as a Court member of the Bakers' Company and a Freeman of the Educators' and the Insurers' Companies. I am a member of the City Livery Club, the Guild of Freemen and the City of London Club.

Family is central to me. Felicity and I met at school at King's in 1976 and were married in 1986. She was a publisher with Macmillans then focused on raising our four children who now work in London in the law, journalism, fund management and Fintech. We have three grandchildren so far. Felicity helped many years ago to start a children's hospice in Guildford. She now chairs the Norfolk Hospice Tapping House from which she will step down in August to support me as consort. She sings, sails and was secretary of the parochial church council for 8 years. We share a passion for visual and performing arts and for education. I am a patron of the East Anglia Art Fund, London Music Masters and Temple Bar Trust, was on the board and Vice Chair of Governors at King's for 16 years and sit on the board of governors at St Columba's school in Dublin and St Dunstan's College, Catford. I play golf at Sandwich, Sunningdale and Brancaster.

The City has been my place of work for almost 40 years. It has always attracted the best and the brightest talent from around the world. With Brexit and, we pray, Covid in the rear view mirror, it is now time for the City to step up and show leadership as it has in the past. I will do whatever I can to give back to a place that has given me so much. Through the Leadership Council of The CityUK, the Advisory Board of the International Business and Diplomatic Exchange and as a member of the Association of British Insurers and Chartered Insurance Institute, I have a strong network of senior City contacts and I look forward to working at the Old Bailey with the Recorder and Judges to help promote the legal foundation on which so much of our reputation as a centre of trade and finance depends. It would be an enormous privilege to represent the interests of our great City and the Lord Mayor in the historic office of Sheriff.

I have the honour to be, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant

Nicholas Lyons
Alderman and Merchant Taylor