

Voting by post

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you do not want to vote in person at a polling station.

You can use this form to apply to vote by post for a particular election or referendum, for a set period of time or for all future polls. Postal votes can be sent to addresses in the UK and abroad.

You must be registered and eligible to vote.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- Fill in the postal vote application form.
- Make sure you complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth and signature. Your date of birth and signature are needed on this application form, and again when you use your postal vote. This information is needed to prevent fraud. If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your local electoral registration office.
- Return your form to your local electoral registration office. **You can find their details and more information at electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.**

Please do not return your form to The Electoral Commission.

You must return your postal vote application form by **5pm, 11 working days before the poll**.

If you are not already registered to vote, you must register before applying for a postal vote. The deadline to register to vote is **midnight, 12 working days before the poll**. Register to vote online at **gov.uk/register-to-vote**

This form and these deadlines do not apply in Northern Ireland. Visit **eoni.org.uk** for more information.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- When an election or referendum is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. To find out when your ballot paper will be issued you can contact the elections office at your council.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by the close of poll, otherwise it will not be counted. A Freepost envelope is included in your postal ballot pack. But, if you are sending it from overseas, you may need to pay the postage.
- If it is too late to send your vote back by post, you can hand it in on polling day to the elections office at your council, or drop it off at certain polling stations.

Privacy statement

We collect information under the legal basis of a task carried out in the public interest, as set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and related regulations. We will look after personal information securely and follow data protection legislation.

If you opted-out of the open register we will only use the information you give us for electoral purposes, including matching it against other sources of data to support the electoral register. We will not give personal information to anyone else, unless we have to by law. The law requires us to share your information with candidates, political parties and campaigners for democratic engagement purposes and credit reference agencies to check your identity when you apply for credit.

If you have not opted-out of the open register your name and address can be bought by anyone and used for lots of purposes, including direct marketing.

The Electoral Registration Officer is the Controller. For further information relating to the processing of personal data you should refer to their privacy notice on their website. You can find their website address and contact details at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**.

