

Voting by post

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to the 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.

In England and Wales you must be 18 or over on polling day to vote.

In Scotland you must be 16 or over on polling day to vote in local elections and elections to the Scottish Parliament. You must be 18 or over to vote in elections to the UK Parliament and European Parliament.

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 electoral registration office.
- Return your form to your electoral registration office. You can find their details at yourvotematters.co.uk

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, your application to register must have reached your electoral registration office by **midnight, 12 working days before the poll.**

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 your elections team at your local 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 team at your council, or drop it off at certain polling stations.

More information

If you have any questions about voting by post, go to yourvotematters.co.uk or contact your electoral registration office.

In England and Wales, the electoral registration office is based at your local council. In Scotland, it may be a separate office.

For contact details, go to yourvotematters.co.uk

Staff at electoral registration offices will only use the information you provide for electoral purposes.

They will look after personal information securely, follow the Data Protection Act 1998 and they will not give your personal information to anyone else unless they have to by law.

