

# A guide to voting in the UK General Election



Thursday 8th June is voting day

# How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.



You may need help and support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.



Some words may still be hard to understand. We have put the hard words in bold and said what they mean.

You can also find a list of the **hard words** on **page 19**.

The  
Electoral  
Commission

This guide was made by the Electoral Commission, Mencap Cymru and Learning Disability Wales.



It was updated in May 2017.

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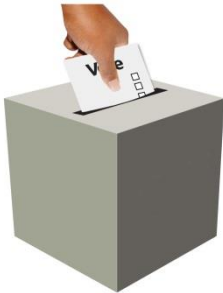
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# What is the UK general election all about?



At this **election** people get to choose a **Member of Parliament** for the area where they live.



You can decide which people run the country by voting.



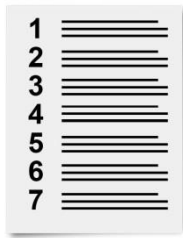
## Important date

**Thursday 8th June** is voting day.

# Can I vote?



Anyone who is registered to vote and is 18 years old or older can vote on Thursday 8 June 2017.



You must put your name on the list of people who can vote. This list is called the **electoral register**.



You might already be on the list if you have voted before. You can call your local council to check.



You can't vote if you are not on the list!

# How do I put my name on the list?



You can use the internet to add your name to the list. You could ask someone to help you with this. The website is [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



You can also fill in a form to register to vote. You can get the form from the website [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

If you don't have the internet you can contact Mencap Cymru. They will send you the form to fill in.



**Phone:** 020 696 6009



**Email:** [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)



You will need to fill in the form and send it to your local council.



## Important date

You have to put your name on the list by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**



# How do I vote in the election?

There are 3 ways to vote:



**a) Go to a polling station to vote**



**b) Send your vote by post**



**c) Ask someone you trust to vote for you**

## a) Go to a polling station to vote

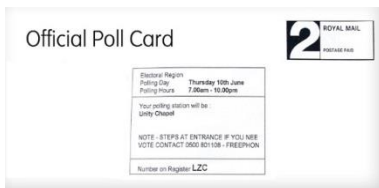
### Where is my polling station?



The building where you go to vote is called a **polling station**.



It is usually a school or community building near to where you live. However, they can be all sorts of places.



Your **poll card** will be sent to your home a few weeks before Election Day. It will look like this.

It will tell you where to go to vote.

## Important date

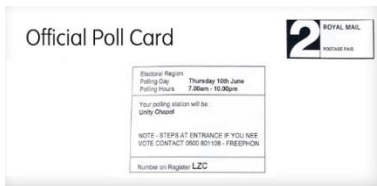
**Thursday 8th June** is voting day.



## What happens at a polling station?



The voting place is open from 7am in the morning to 10pm at night.



It can be useful to take your poll card with you.



You will be asked to give your name and address.



The person at the desk will give you your voting paper. It is also called a **ballot paper**. It will look like this.



Take your voting paper to the **polling booth**.



Mark an **X** against the person you want to vote for.



Put your voting paper in the box. This is called a **ballot box**.

## What help can I get at the polling station?



There will be people working at the polling station who can help you. They are independent.



You can ask them to help you read and understand the ballot paper.



You can take someone with you to help you.



The person helping you can write on your voting paper if you want them to.



The people working at the polling station might ask the person helping you to fill in a form.

## b) Send your vote by post

### How do I ask to vote by post?



You can choose to send your vote by post instead of going to a voting place. This is called a **postal vote**.



If you want to get a postal vote you have to ask to do this.



Fill in a form saying you want to vote by post. You can get the form on the internet at:

[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-post](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-post)



If you don't have the internet you can contact your local electoral services office or you can phone Mencap Cymru on:



**telephone:** 020 696 6009



**email:** [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)



They will send you the form to fill in.

Fill out the address section on the form.



Next, fill out the 'About You' section on the form. Write in your name.

Next, fill out the 'How long do you want a postal vote for?' section. You will need to say how long you would like to vote by post.



Next, fill out the 'Address for postal ballot paper' section. Write the address to which you would like your ballot paper sent.

Finally, fill out the 'Your declaration' section. Write your date of birth, sign in the box or make your mark and write the date you signed the form.



Post the form to your local council

## How do I vote by post?



Your voting paper will be sent to you in the post. It will look like this.



Mark an **X** against the person you want to vote for.



There will be another form to fill out. Sign in the box or make your mark and write your date of birth in the box.



Post your voting paper back in the free envelope.



## Important dates

If you want to vote by post, you have to ask to do this by **5pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**.

Make sure you send your voting paper back in plenty of time.



It has to get there by 10pm on **Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June**.

### c) Ask someone you trust to vote for you



#### How do I ask for someone to vote for me?

You can ask someone you trust to vote for you if you want. This is called a **proxy vote**.



If you want someone you trust to vote for you, you have to fill in a form. You need to give a reason why you can't vote in the **polling station** yourself.



You can get the form on the internet at [www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy)



If you don't have the internet you can contact your local elections office or you can contact Mencap Cymru on:



**Phone:** 020 696 6009



**Email:** [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)



They will send you the form to fill in.

## How does someone vote for me?



Decide who you want to vote for.



Tell the person who is voting for you who you want to vote for.



The person who is voting for you must go to your polling station. They will vote for you.

## Important dates



If you want someone you trust to vote for you, you have to ask to do this by **5pm on Wednesday 31st May.**



If someone is voting for you, they go to the voting place to vote on **Thursday 8th June.**



# Who should I vote for?

It can be hard to know who you want to vote for. Here are some things you can do to help you decide.

## Read what different parties say



People and parties will often send you a leaflet in the post saying what they will do if they win.



**Parties** also write down what they think about issues like schools and hospitals. This is called a **manifesto**.



Some parties write an Easy Read version of their manifesto too. You can look for these on the internet.



## Ask people questions

You can ask friends, family and support workers about the election.



People might come to your door or call you on the phone to ask who you're voting for. You can ask these people questions too.

You don't have to tell anyone who you are voting for.

## Go to a meeting



You can go to a meeting to talk to politicians.



You can find out what they think about things that matter to you.



You can find out what they would do if they get voted in.



This might help you decide who you want to vote for.



Contact Mencap Cymru to find out if there is a meeting in your area.



**Phone:** 020 696 6009



**Email:** [campaigns@mencap.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@mencap.org.uk)



# Hard words

There are lots of hard words to do with elections. Here are some of them and what they mean.



## Ballot box

The box where you put your voting paper after you have voted.



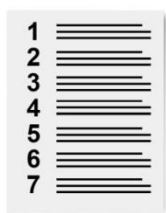
## Ballot paper

Another word for voting paper.



## Election

When people vote on something.



## Electoral register

You must put your name on the list of people who can vote. This is called the electoral register.



## Manifesto

A booklet that says what a party will do if they get in government.



## Party

A group of people who think the same things about lots of issues.



## Polling booth

The desk where you write on your voting paper.



## Poll card

The card that says where you should go to vote.



## Polling station

The building where you go to vote. It is usually somewhere like a school or community centre.



## Postal vote

Sending your vote in a letter.



## Proxy vote

Asking someone you trust to vote for you.