



Register to vote

You need to be on the **electoral register** to vote in UK elections and referendums.

If you are based overseas, you can register as a **service voter** by filling in an electoral registration form for members of the armed forces. This form allows you to be registered to vote at an address in the UK while you are away from home or posted abroad.

You can also register as a service voter if you live in the UK but may be posted elsewhere at short notice or if you are the husband, wife or civil partner of a member of the armed forces. As a service voter, you must renew your registration **every three years**, but you can cancel it at any time. You will receive a reminder letter from your electoral registration office telling you when you need to renew your Service Voter registration. If you change your address, you must inform the electoral registration office in the area where you are registered, or you will not receive your reminder.

If you are based in the UK, you can also register in the normal way by filling in the registration form delivered to your home between September and November every year. If you did not register last autumn or have moved since then, you can still register by filling in a standard registration form.

How do I register to vote?

- 1 Fill in the electoral registration form.
- 2 Make sure **you** sign the declaration.
- 3 Return your completed form as soon as possible to your electoral registration office. You can find their contact details at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Please note: the deadline for registering to vote can be up to two months before an election.

Who has my personal details?

There are two versions of the electoral register – the **full** version and the **edited** version. The full register is used for elections and referendums, preventing and detecting crime, and checking applications for credit. The edited register is available for general sale and can be used for commercial activities such as marketing.

Your details will appear on the full version of the register, but you can **choose** whether or not your details appear on the edited register.

How can I vote?

You can vote in one of **three** ways.

- **By post** if you want your ballot sent to you. It may not arrive until about a week before election day. So, you need to consider whether there is enough time to receive and return your ballot paper **before** voting closes. Ballot papers that arrive after this time will **not** be counted.
- **By proxy** if you want someone else to vote on your behalf. Your proxy must be aged 18 or over, a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen and be living in the UK. Your proxy can either vote at the polling station for the area where you are registered, or by post.
- **In person** if you are in the UK on election day. You can only vote at the polling station where you are registered to vote in the UK. You **cannot** vote in person if you, or your proxy, have applied to vote by post. If you have appointed a proxy, you can still vote in person, provided your proxy has not already voted for you.

If you want to vote by post or by proxy, you need to fill in one of the application forms that accompany this form.

More information

If you have any questions about registering to vote or about postal or proxy voting, contact your electoral registration office. This is the office responsible for the area where you would be living if you were not posted abroad or where you were last registered to vote in the UK.

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 www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

This form does not apply to Northern Ireland. Visit www.electoralofficeni.gov.uk for more information.



Electoral registration form for a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, or their husband, wife or civil partner



Only one person can register using this form. Please read the notes carefully before filling in this form. Please write in black ink and use **BLOCK LETTERS**. When you have filled in every section and signed the form personally, send it to your electoral registration office.

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Service address

This address will be used for correspondence.

Postcode

Tick here if you **do not** want your name to be included on the **edited** register, which is available for general sale.

You do not have to give the following information, but it will help your electoral registration office to contact you if they have any questions about your form.

Daytime telephone or mobile number (including country codes)

Email address

2 UK registration address

Please give the **UK** address where you want to register.

Postcode

This address is (tick one box):

- Where I am living now.
- Where I would be living if I/my husband, wife or civil partner were not a member of the Armed Forces.
- Where I have lived in the past.

3 Service details

Please give your full service details. If you are the husband, wife or civil partner of a member of the Armed Forces, give the service details.

Rank or rating

Service (tick one box)

- British Army Royal Navy Royal Airforce

Service number

Regiment or corps (Army only)

Please tick if you are the husband, wife or civil partner of a service voter.

4 Declaration

You must sign the declaration yourself. If the form is not signed, it will be sent back to you. This declaration cancels any previous declaration you may have made.

- I am a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen.
- I am a citizen of another European Union country. Please state which country you are from.

- I am living in the UK or would be living in the UK if I or my husband, wife or civil partner were not serving in the Armed Forces.

- I am aged 18 or over. If you are under 18, please give your date of birth.

Day Month Year

- As far as I know, the details on this form are true and correct.

Signature

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Polling district: _____ Date received: _____

Elector number: _____ Date added: _____



How do I apply to vote by post?

- 1** Fill in the postal vote application form.
- 2** Make sure **you** complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth and signature.
- 3** Return your form as soon as possible to the address shown below.

Please **do not** return your form to The Electoral Commission.

Please note: your application form must arrive at your electoral registration office at least 11 working days before the election.

Voting by post

You can apply to vote by post for a particular election, for a set period of time or for all future elections. But, you must be registered to vote first. Postal votes can be sent out to addresses in the UK and abroad.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- When an election is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. Remember, it may not be sent out until four working days before election day, or three working days in Scotland. This may not allow enough time for you to return your ballot paper before voting closes, so voting by post may not be the best way for you to vote. You may want to consider voting by proxy (someone else voting for you).
- If it does not arrive by this time, contact your electoral registration office for a replacement ballot paper. In Scotland, contact the returning officer at your local council. You must do this by 5pm on election day.
- You will need to give your date of birth and signature on this application form, and again when you use your postal vote. This information is needed to tackle fraud.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by election day, 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 will need to pay the postage.

- If it is too late to send your vote back by post, you can hand it in on election day to the returning officer at your local council, drop it off at a polling station in your constituency or, if you are voting in a local election, drop it off at any polling station in your ward.
- Your postal vote will be mixed with all the others before counting begins, so your vote will be kept secret.

More information

If you need more forms or have any questions about voting by post, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or contact your electoral registration office. This is the office responsible for the address where you would be living if you were not posted abroad or where you were last registered to vote in the UK.

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 www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or look in your phone book.

This form does not apply in Northern Ireland. Visit www.electorlofficeni.gov.uk for more information.



Only one person can register using this form. Please write in black ink and use BLOCK LETTERS. When you have filled in every section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local electoral registration office. You can get the address at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or in your phone book.

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Your address (where you are registered to vote)

Postcode

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Daytime telephone or mobile number (including country code)

E-mail address (optional)

2 How long do you want a postal vote for?

I want to vote by post (tick one box only):

until further notice (permanent postal vote)

for the elections to be held on

for the period

from

to

3 At which election(s) do you want a postal vote?

Please tick the appropriate box:

Parliamentary or Assembly elections

Local elections

All elections

4 Address for ballot paper

You can have your postal ballot pack sent to your registered address (as given in part 1) or to a different address. However, if you would like your ballot paper sent to a different address, you must give a reason why.

Please send my ballot paper to (tick one box only):

my address where I am registered to vote (see part 1)

the following address

Address

Postcode

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The reason I would like my ballot paper sent to this address, rather than my registered address is:

5 Your date of birth and signature

Please write your date of birth 'DD MM YYYY' in the black boxes below. Then sign, using black ink, keeping within the grey border.

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Declaration: As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate.

Today's date

For office use only

Polling district:

Date received:

Elector number:

Date added:



How do I apply to vote by proxy?

- 1** You must ask someone you know to be your proxy and vote on your behalf. Please note that a person can only be the proxy for close relatives and up to two other people at the same election.
 - 2** Fill in the proxy vote application form.
 - 3** Make sure **you** complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth and signature.
 - 4** Return your form as soon as possible to the address shown below.
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Only one person can register using this form. Please write in black ink and use **BLOCK LETTERS**. When you have filled in every section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local electoral registration office. You can get the address at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or in your phone book.

1 About you

Surname

First names (in full)

Service address

(this address will be used for correspondence)

Postcode

Daytime telephone or mobile number
(including country code)

E-mail address (optional)

2 UK registration address

Please give your full UK registration address:

Postcode

3 How long do you want a proxy vote for?

I want to vote by proxy (tick one box only):

until further notice (while I am registered as a Service Voter)

for the elections to be held on

for the period

from

to

4 About your proxy

Full name

Relationship to you (if any)

Full address

Postcode

5 Your date of birth and signature

I have asked the person I have named as my proxy and confirm that he/she is willing and able to be appointed to vote on my behalf.

Please write your date of birth 'DD MM YYYY' in the black boxes below. Then sign, using black ink, keeping within the grey border. This application cancels any proxy voting arrangements you may have made before.

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Declaration: As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate.

Today's date

For office use only

Polling district:

Elector number:

Date received:

Date added: