



Voting by post

An easy read guide



Voting by post is an easy way of voting if you can't get to a polling station.



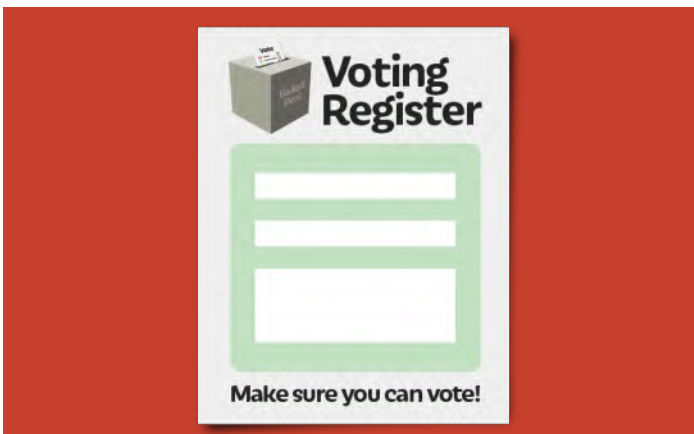
A polling station is where you go to vote.

It is usually a school or a community building.



Anyone who is registered to vote can apply for a postal vote.

You don't need a special reason.



You must be on the electoral register to vote though.

This is the list of all the people who are registered to vote.

To apply for a postal vote online or by post

Apply for a postal vote

Use this service to apply for a postal vote in:

- general elections and other UK Parliamentary elections
- local elections in England (including mayors)
- Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales
- referendums
- MP recall petitions

You must be [registered to vote](#) in the UK before you can apply.

You must apply no later than 5pm, 11 working days before the first election you want a postal vote for.

If you're registered to vote anonymously, apply for your postal vote through your [local Electoral Registration Office](#).

There's a different way to apply:

- in [Northern Ireland](#)
- for the Senedd Cymru (Welsh Parliament), Scottish Parliament and local elections in [Scotland and Wales](#) using a paper form

This service is also available in [Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#).

[Start now >](#)

Part of
[Vote in UK elections](#)

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or [Apply for a postal vote](#)
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In England, Scotland or Wales:

- [apply online for a postal vote](#)
- [apply by post for a postal vote](#)

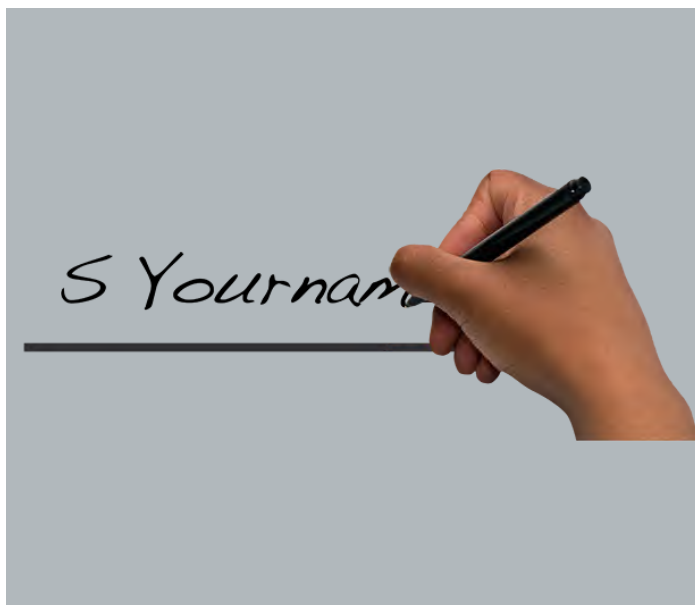
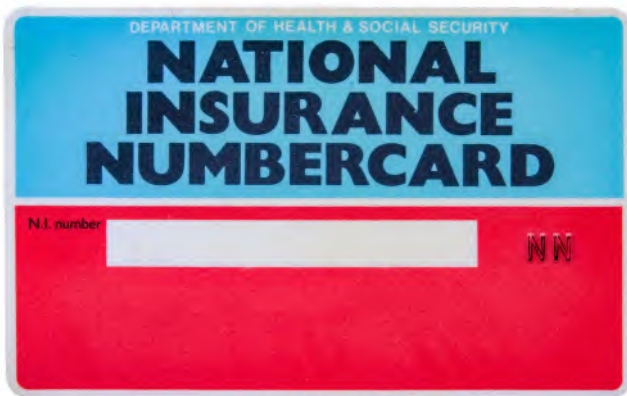
To apply online go to www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting

You need to click on the green Start now button. It will then ask you some questions.

Ask someone to help you like a family member or support worker if you need to.

Before you start you will need:

- The address where you are registered to vote
- Your National Insurance number or other identity documents like a passport
- The date of the election or referendum that you want a postal vote for, if you only want a one-off postal vote



You will also need to upload a photo of your hand written signature. This must be in black in ink on plain white paper.

If you can't provide a signature or one that always looks the same, you might be able to apply for a postal vote signature waiver.

You might need extra documents to identify you.

Other ways to apply

Application to vote by post in England The Electoral Commission

Voting by post

This form applies only in England. You must be eligible to vote, and registered, to get a postal vote. You can use this form to apply to vote by post for a particular election, for a set period of time or for a maximum period of three years. Your local electoral registration office will confirm the duration of your postal vote. When your postal vote expires you will need to apply for a new one to continue voting by post. For more information on postal voting and other ways to apply, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/postalvote. Postal votes can be sent to addresses in the UK and abroad.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- Fill in the postal vote application form.
- Make sure you complete all required sections of the form and provide your date of birth and signature. This information is needed to prevent fraud. If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your local electoral registration office.
- If your application has missing or incorrect information, your local electoral registration office will contact you. You may need to provide supporting documents and it may take longer to process your application.
- 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.

The deadline for returning your postal vote application is 5pm, 11 working days before the poll. If you are not registered to vote, you must apply to 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.

What happens after I have returned this form?

- Your local electoral registration office will confirm if your application has been accepted or rejected.
- When an election is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. For more information on the delivery of the postal ballot pack, you can contact the elections office at

If you can't apply online, download and fill in a postal vote application form.

You can download the form at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>

GOV.UK Menu

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Contact your local Electoral Registration Office

If you live in England, Scotland or Wales

Contact your local Electoral Registration Office if you have a question about registering to vote, including:

- opting in or out of the 'open register' - the version of the electoral register that's available to anyone who wants to buy a copy
- checking if you've already registered to vote

Related content

- [Register to vote](#)
- [The electoral register and the 'open register'](#)
- [How to vote](#)
- [Apply for a postal vote \(paper forms\)](#)

Enter a postcode
For example SW1A 2AA

Find

[Find a postcode on Royal Mail's postcode finder](#)

You then need to send it to your Electoral Registration Office.

You can find the address of your local Electoral Registration Office by going to <https://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office>



They can post you a paper form if you don't have access to a computer or printer.



Make sure you do this in plenty of time before the election, so that you get your postal vote in time to use it.



You must apply no later than 5pm, 11 working days before the election.

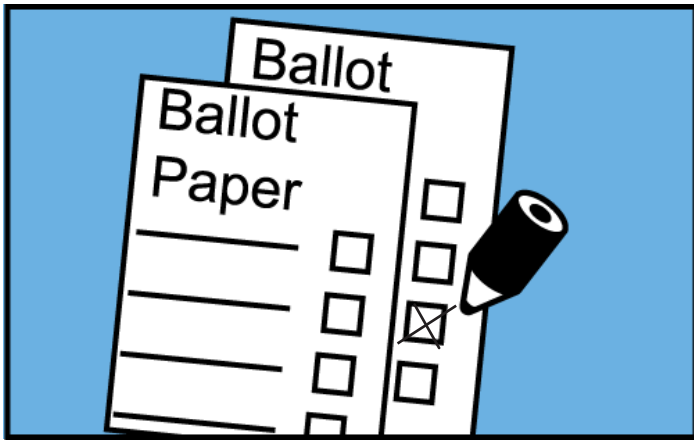


You will get your postal vote about a week before Election Day.



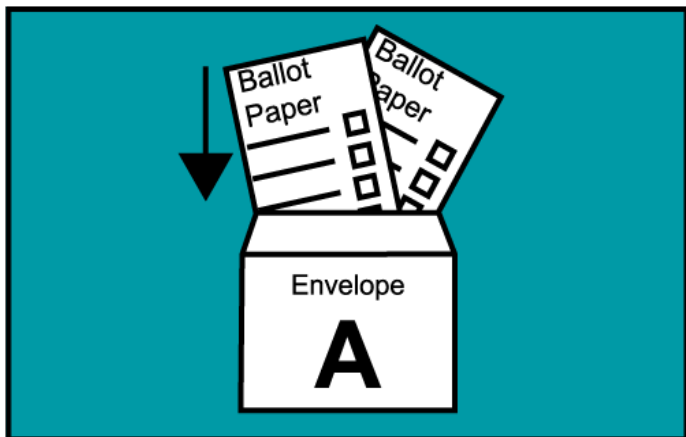
You will get a ballot paper.

This is the paper that has the names of the people you can vote for on it.



Put an X next to the name of the person you want to vote for.

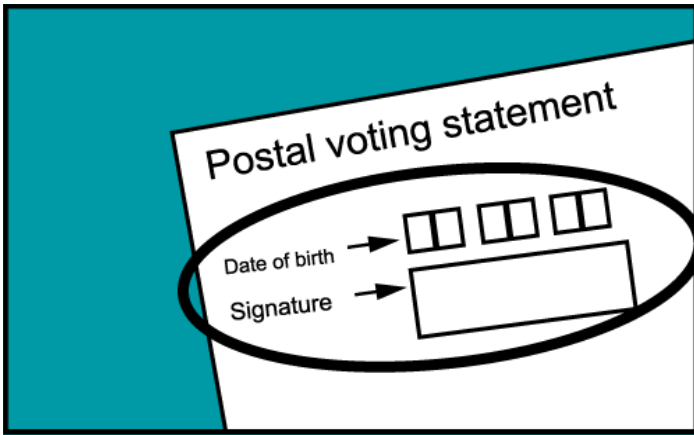
Try to do this in secret as it is your vote and it is your choice.



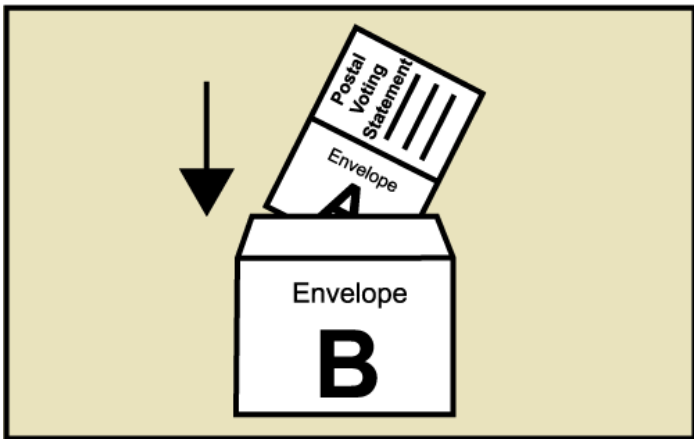
When you have marked your vote put it in the small envelope and seal it.



Don't let anyone else tell you who to vote for and don't give your ballot paper to anyone else.



Fill in and sign the postal voting statement.



Put this and the envelope with the ballot paper in the bigger envelope and seal it.



Take it to the post box yourself and post it.

Make sure it is in plenty of time so your vote gets counted.



If you can't post it yourself ask someone you trust like a family member or friend to do it for you.

For more accessible information on a broad range of subjects please contact



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Bradford BD1 3AZ
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SMS / Text: 07535 120222
E-mail: enquiries@btm.org.uk

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Or visit www.btmprojects.com to access the work made by our workgroups.

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