

# Your guide to voting in the 2024 general election

Election date: Thursday 4 July

What a general election is

Why your vote matters

Who can vote in a general election

Registering to vote

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Voter ID

Deciding who to vote for



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# What a general election is



There will be a general election in the UK on **Thursday 4 July 2024**.



In a general election you vote for the people you want to run the UK.



You vote for 1 candidate. A candidate is someone who wants to be your local **MP**.



**MP** stands for **Member of Parliament**. **MPs** work in the UK Parliament.



Most candidates are part of a political party.



A political party is a group of people that share the same ideas about how to run the Government.

# UK Parliament



The UK Parliament is all the MPs who won in their local areas. They make sure the UK Government thinks about what is important to you.



Your local MP represents you and your community in the UK Parliament.



The UK Parliament is separate from the UK Government. UK Parliament checks the UK Government's work.



You can find Easy Read guides about UK Parliament here: <https://learning.parliament.uk/en/resources/uk-parliament-easy-reads/>

# UK Government

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The political party that wins a general election runs the UK Government for up to 5 years. Until the next general election.



The Prime Minister is usually the leader of the political party that won the general election.



The Prime Minister leads the UK Government.



The UK Government is in charge of making decisions about how the UK should be run. Things like police, benefits, taxes and the courts.



The Welsh Government makes decisions about some things instead of UK Government. Like schools and health in Wales.

# Why your vote matters



Voting in a general election is important. It is your chance to choose who you think are the best people to make decisions for us in the UK.



MPs have different ideas about the best way to run the UK.



MPs in UK Parliament talk about important issues, make laws, and check on the UK Government.



You have a say in who speaks for you and what is important to you.



# Who can vote in a general election

To vote in the general election you must:



- Be 18 years old or over on election day.



- Be British, Irish or from other countries who are allowed to vote in the UK.



- Live in the UK.



- Be **registered to vote**.



For all the rules on who can vote, visit the UK Government website.

[www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/general-election](http://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/general-election)

# Registering to vote



Before you can vote in the general election, **you must register to vote.**



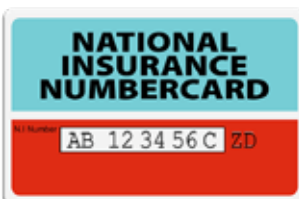
You can register to vote here:  
[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



You must register to vote by **Tuesday 18 June 2024.**



It usually takes about 5 minutes to register.



It is useful to have your National Insurance number ready. You can find this on your payslip or letters from the Government.



If you need help, ask someone you trust.



If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, contact your local Electoral Registration Office to check: [www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office](http://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)



**You only need to register to vote once.** Not every time there is an election.



If your name, address, or nationality changes, you will need to register again.



The UK Government has an Easy Read guide to registering to vote here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/registering-to-vote-easy-read-guide](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/registering-to-vote-easy-read-guide)

# How to vote

There are 3 ways to vote:



- In person. Go to a polling station on election day.



- By post. Send your vote in.



- By proxy. Someone you trust votes for you.



You can choose the way that works best for you.

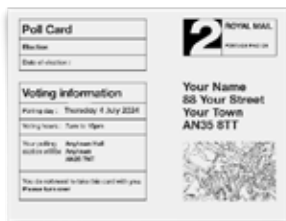
# Voting in person



You can only vote in person if you have voter ID.



You must register to vote by **Tuesday 18 June 2024**.



When you are registered to vote, you will get a poll card in the post. This will be sent to you about 3 weeks before the election.



The poll card will tell you which polling station to go to vote on election day, Thursday 4 July 2024.



A polling station is the place you go to vote in an election. You will only be allowed to vote at the polling station named on your poll card.



Polling stations are usually in places like libraries, schools, and community centres.



Polling stations will be open from 7:00am to 10:00pm on election day, Thursday 4 July 2024.



Go to your polling station on election day between these times. Take your voter ID.



Staff will be at the polling station to help you.



When you arrive, staff will ask for your name, address and voter ID. They will check you are on the voting register.



If everything is OK, they will give you a ballot paper. This is a sheet of paper listing local MP candidates.



Go to 1 of the polling booths. This is a private area where you can vote, so your choice is secret.



Vote for who you want as your MP by marking a cross in the box next to their name.



Put your ballot paper in the big ballot box.



If you need help, ask the staff at the polling station. You can take someone with you for support.

# Voting by post



If you want to vote by post, you must apply by **Wednesday 19 June 2024**.

To apply you need to fill out a form. You can:



- Fill the form out online here: [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote)



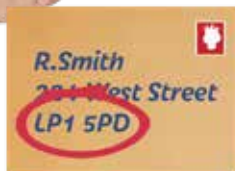
- Download, print and post the form. You can download the form here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote)



- Ask your local **Electoral Registration Office** to send you the form. You can find their details here: [www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office](https://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)



Before applying, make sure you have your:



- Date of birth
- Address where you are registered to vote
- National Insurance number



If you need help with your form, contact your local Electoral Registration Office. You can find yours here: [www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office](http://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)



You can find an Easy Read guide to applying for a postal vote here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote-easy-read-guide](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote-easy-read-guide)



You can call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280 for help.

# What happens next



About 3 weeks before the election, you will get your postal voting pack. Keep it safe and do not let anyone else use it.



Follow the instructions in the voting pack.



Post your completed postal vote back as soon as possible. If you cannot post it yourself, ask someone you trust for help or contact your council.



Your postal vote must arrive at your local council by **10:00pm on Thursday 4 July**. Send it as quickly as you can to make sure it is counted.

# Voting by proxy



This means choosing someone to vote for you at a polling station.



The person you choose should be someone you trust. They are your proxy. You tell them which candidate you want to vote for.

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You must apply for a proxy vote by **Wednesday 26 June 2024.**



Before applying, make sure you have your:

- Address where you are registered to vote
- National Insurance number. Or another type of ID, like your birth certificate
- Contact details of your proxy



You can find an Easy Read guide to applying for a proxy vote here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-proxy-vote-easy-read-guide](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-proxy-vote-easy-read-guide)



If you need help, contact your local Electoral Registration Office. You can find yours here: [www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office](http://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)



You can call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280 for help.



Your proxy will need to take their own photo ID when they vote. They do not need to take yours.

# Voter ID



You will need to show photo ID to vote at a polling station in the general election.



The photo on your ID must look like you.

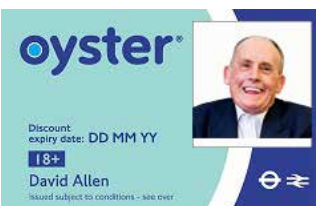
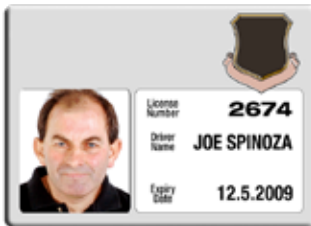


You can use your ID even if it is out of date.



If you do not have a photo ID, you can apply for a **Voter Authority Certificate** instead.

## The types of photo ID you can use are:



- Photocard driving licence
- Passport
- PASS card - National Proof of Age Standards Scheme
- Blue Badge
- Biometric residence permit – a card that shows a person from another country can live in the UK
- Defence Identity Card - for people in the armed forces
- National identity card from the European Union, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- Anonymous Elector's Document - a special paper that lets someone vote without showing their name.
- Older person's bus pass
- Disabled person's bus pass
- Oyster 60+ card
- Freedom Pass – a card that lets people in London over the age of 66 travel for free on public transport
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card - a card that lets people in Wales over 60 travel for free on buses
- Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card - a card that lets disabled people in Wales travel for free on buses

# Voter Authority Certificate

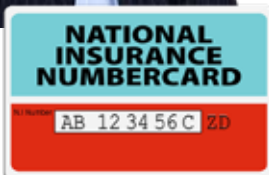


You can apply for this if:

- you do not have any photo ID on the list
- or your photo on your ID does not look like you now
- or your name on your ID is different from the name you used to register to vote.



You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online for free here: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)



**To apply you will need:**

- a recent digital photo of yourself
- your National Insurance number, or another form of ID like a birth certificate.



You can also apply by post. You will need to download, print and fill out the form.



Find an Easy Read guide to applying for a Voter Authority Certificate here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-authority-certificate-easy-read-guide](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-authority-certificate-easy-read-guide)



You can call the Electoral Commission helpline on 0800 328 0280 for help.



# Deciding who to vote for



This is your choice. It can be hard to decide.



It can help to talk to family and friends about what matters to you.



To learn about the candidates in your area visit  
**Who Can I Vote For:** [www.whocanivotefor.co.uk](http://www.whocanivotefor.co.uk)



You can read about what is important to them.



You can contact them to ask questions.



Candidates might knock on your door or be in your area. You can ask them questions to learn about their views.



Most candidates are part of a political party.



The main political parties in Wales are:

- [Labour Party](#)
- [Conservative Party](#)
- [Plaid Cymru](#)
- [Liberal Democrats](#)



You can read a political party's **manifesto** to understand their views and ideas. A **manifesto** tells you what they promise to do if they win the election.



Some candidates are independent. This means they are not part of a political party. You can find out about them on the **Who Can I Vote For** website: [www.whocanivotefor.co.uk](http://www.whocanivotefor.co.uk).



You can take an online quiz at [www.voteforpolicies.org.uk](http://www.voteforpolicies.org.uk) to see which political party matches your ideas and views best.



The quiz will be ready when the election manifestos come out.



There will also be debates on TV. This is where candidates talk about their ideas and answer questions about important issues.



For more information about voting and politics, including Easy Read guides, visit the My Vote My Voice website: [www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk](http://www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk)



My Vote My Voice is a project that supports people with a learning disability and autistic people to vote.



Whoever you choose to vote for, your vote matters. **Make sure your voice is heard in the 2024 general election.**