

What about postal voting fraud?

Some people are worried about postal voting fraud. We take these concerns very seriously. However, we must stress that there has never been any evidence of organised postal voting fraud in Hammersmith & Fulham.

Here are some safeguards we have in place

- Every request for a postal vote is checked against our computer records of electors. You cannot get a postal vote unless you are on the Voters List. You can only get one postal voting pack at an election, even if you send in more than one application form.
- A request for a postal vote is turned down if the application form is not signed or there is no date of birth. You also have to sign any request to cancel or change your postal vote.
- We write back to everyone who arranges a postal vote.
- We are sending this guide to everyone on the postal voters list.
- The postal voting statement is there to prevent fraud.
- Signatures and dates of birth are cross-checked with original application forms.

What you can do

- ✓ Let us know if your postal voting pack does not arrive.
- ✓ Keep your voting pack in a safe place if you are not voting straightaway.
- ✓ When you vote, keep it secret.
- ✓ If you can, post it back yourself.
- ✓ Don't give your pack to someone else to post unless you trust them.
- ✓ If you decide not to vote, never give your pack to someone else - dispose of your pack safely.
- ✓ Tell us if you move, so your postal voting details can be kept up to date.

Never give your postal vote to anyone who says they are collecting for the Returning Officer. We never do this.

Helpline 020 8753 4466
(including Typetalk)

Open 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday
9.00am to 1.00pm Saturday.

For a large print version please call the helpline

For more information visit: www.londonelects.org.uk
This guide is available online at: www.lbhf.gov.uk



If you would like any part of this document interpreted into your own language, please phone 020 8753 4040.

Albanian

Nëse e dëshironi 'cilëndo pjesë të këtij dokumenti të përkthyer në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutemi telefononi në numrin 020 8753 4040.

Amharic

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Arabic

إذا كنت ترغب بالحصول على أي جزء من محتويات هذه الوثيقة بلغتك الأم، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف 020 8753 4040.

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষাতে এই ডকুমেন্টের কোন অংশের অনুবাদ চান তাহলে দয়া করে 020 8753 4040 নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Croatian

Ukoliko želite prijevod bilo kojeg dijela ovog dokumenta na jezik kojim Vi govorite, molimo nazovite telefonski broj 020 8753 4040.

Farsi

لطفاً اگر مایل هستید هر بخشی از این نوشتار به زبان شما ترجمه گردد، با شماره تلفن 020 8753 4040 تماس حاصل فرمایید.

French

Si vous souhaitez quelconque partie de ce document dans votre propre langue, appelez le 020 8753 4040.

Polish

Jeśli życzą sobie Państwo, aby dowolna część tego dokumentu została przetłumaczona na Państwa język ojczysty, proszę zadzwonić pod numer 020 8753 4040.

Portuguese

Se gostaria de ter qualquer parte deste documento traduzida no seu idioma, por favor telefone para 020 8753 4040.

Serbian

Ako želite da bilo koji deo ovog dokumenta bude preveden na vaš materinji jezik, molimo vas da nazovete ovaj broj telefona 020 8753 4040.

Somali

Haddii aad jeclaan lahayd in qayb walba oo kamid ah dukumintigan lagu turjumay luqaddaada, faclan soo wac telefoonka 020 8753 4040.

Spanish

Si desea que le interpreten alguna parte de este documento en su idioma, por favor llame al 020 8753 4040.

Urdu

اگر اس دستاویز کے کسی بھی حصہ کا ترجمہ آپ اپنی زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی پر فون کریں۔ 020 8753 4040

Postal voting guide

Your questions answered



Issued by the Returning Officer

When will I get my postal voting pack?

Some key things have to happen before we can send you your ballot papers.

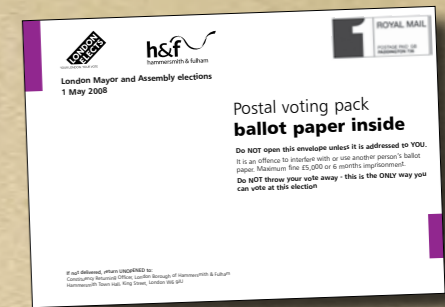
- 1 Candidates tell the Returning Officer they are standing.
- 2 Ballot papers have to be printed.
- 3 Existing postal voters can change or cancel their arrangements.

People can still arrange to vote by post up until 16 April. The postal voting packs will be sent out on 18 April. They are sent by first class post to reach you on Monday 21 April.

Watch out for the pack!

If your pack does not arrive by 25 April we can give you a new one. Just contact Electoral Services as soon as possible, but before 5.00pm, on 1 May, at the latest. Replacements cannot be given to you in a polling station.

If you are not voting straight away, please keep your pack in a safe place.

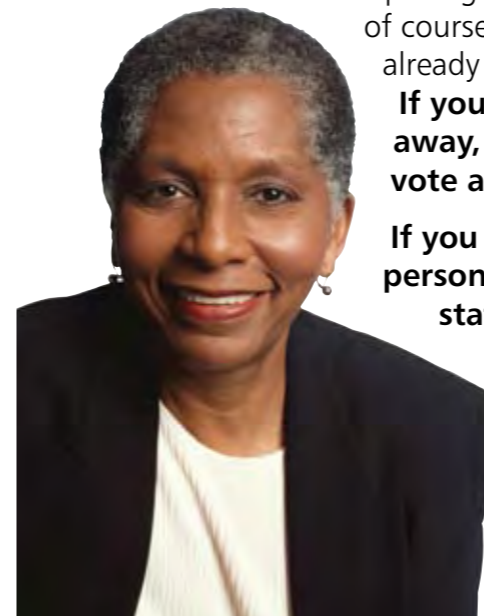


Can I vote at the polling station instead of using my postal vote?

The simple answer is NO. If you get a postal voting pack you cannot change your mind and go to vote at a polling station instead.

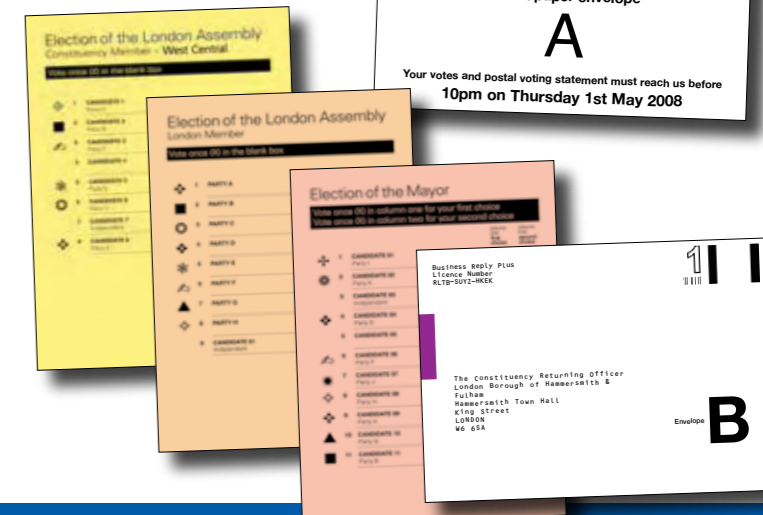
You can only use the ballot papers sent to you in your pack. You cannot get ballot papers at a polling station because, of course, your papers have already been issued to you. **If you throw your pack away, you throw your vote away.**

If you want to vote in person at the polling station, you will have to cancel your postal vote. This must be done in writing and reach us by 5.00pm, 16 April.



In your postal voting pack we will send you:

- ✓ Combined postal voting statement and ballot paper envelope A
- ✓ Information sheet
- ✓ Ballot papers
- ✓ Return envelope B

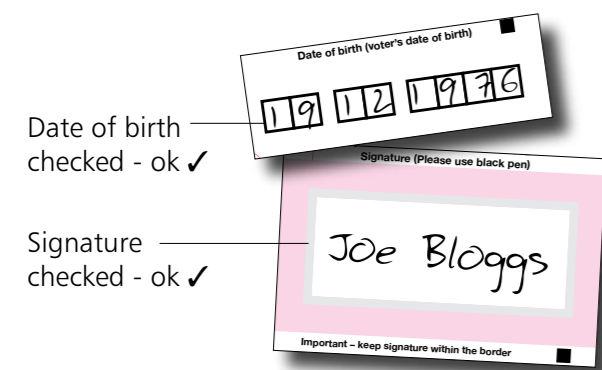


What is the postal voting statement?

The statement is very important. It helps to stop voting fraud.

It tells us that you - the voter - received your ballot papers safely. It does NOT mean your vote can be identified.

You have to sign the statement and give your date of birth. These will be checked against your original application form.



In the past your statement had to be signed by a witness. Signature and date of birth checking means **you do not need a witness anymore.**

Your votes cannot be counted if:

- ✘ you do not return the postal voting statement
- ✘ you do not sign it
- ✘ you do not give your date of birth.

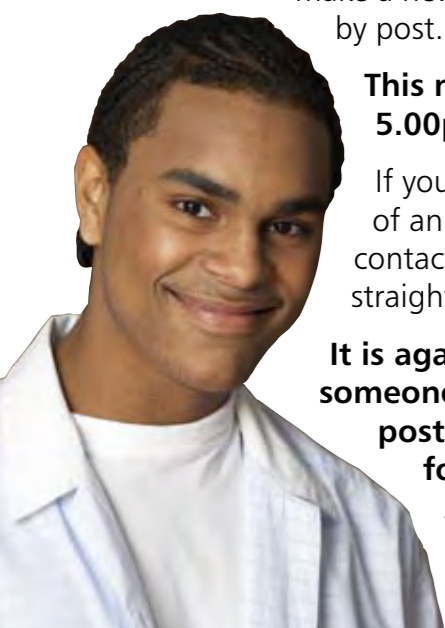
What if my signature has changed or I cannot sign?

If you have a different signature because your name has changed (e.g marriage) you should make a new application to vote by post.

This needs to reach us by 5.00pm, 16 April.

If you cannot sign because of an accident, please contact Electoral Services straightaway for more advice.

It is against the law for someone else to sign your postal voting statement for you. "Power of Attorney" does not apply to postal voting.



Can someone else use my postal vote for me?

If you have a disability, you can ask someone you trust to help you fill in your postal vote. They have to keep your vote secret.

You can arrange for someone to vote by post for you - called a "postal proxy" - but you have to apply to Electoral Services to do this (before 5.00pm, 16 April).

Except in these cases, it is a serious voting offence to give your vote to someone else or to use another person's vote. There is a £5,000 fine, six months in prison, or both.

Can you send my pack overseas?

We can send postal voting packs overseas.

But please remember, you have very little time to receive your pack, vote, and post back to us (you cannot fax your ballot paper). Your votes have to reach us by 10.00pm on election day (1 May). Votes received after this time cannot be counted - even if postmarked before election day.



If you are overseas, our advice is to appoint a "proxy" in the UK to vote for you - although it is, of course, your choice. Contact Electoral Services straight away for more advice.

Can I get independent help?

If you need independent help from the Returning Officer's staff, please call the helpline: 020 8753 4466.

If you have been given an exemption from signing (because of disability) the Returning Officer's staff will deliver your voting pack to you.



How do I return my postal vote?

Postal voting - like voting in person - is not compulsory. But, if you do vote, your pack must reach the Returning Officer by 10.00pm on 1 May for it to be counted. You can do this:

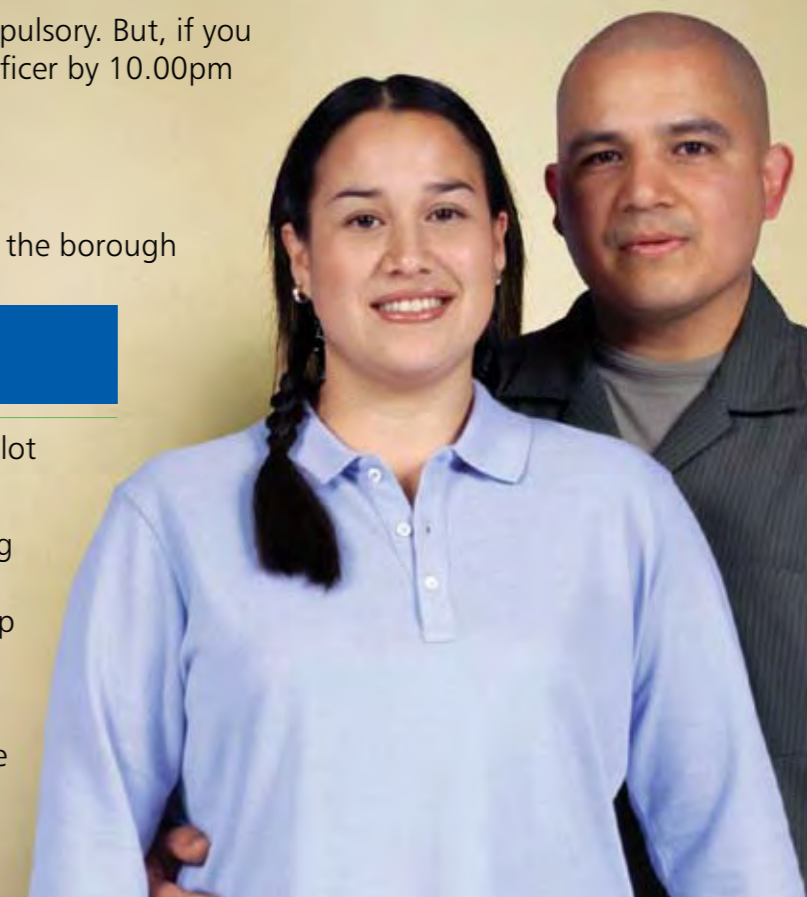
- ✓ By post (no stamp needed)
- ✓ By hand at Hammersmith Town Hall
- ✓ By hand, on 1 May, at any polling station in the borough

What happens when you get my postal vote?

All returned postal votes are put into special ballot boxes, until it is time to open the envelopes.

There are special opening sessions before polling day. These are to make sure it is you - the voter - who has used the voting pack, but also to keep your vote secret. The opening is done according to electoral law by the Returning Officer's staff.

Candidates and their helpers can watch to make sure the rules are followed. Everyone present has to keep the proceedings secret.



How we open your postal vote

- 1 We check your signature and date of birth against your original application form.
- 2 We separate your statement from your ballot paper envelope
- 3 The statements are sealed away in special packets. This means that no one will be able to know who you voted for.
- 4 We take the ballot papers out of the envelope, and check the numbers are the same as on the envelope.
5. Votes are not counted at this stage. The ballot papers are put into ballot boxes, which are kept in locked storage until polling stations close on election day. The boxes go to the counting of votes and are opened in the same way as the boxes from polling stations.

