



What you need to do if you want to vote on 5 May 2016

REMEMBER – If you want to vote, you must be registered to vote. If you're not yet registered, apply now. The registration deadline for the elections on 5 May is Monday 18 April. You can now apply to register online at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

What if I can't vote in person on 5 May?

If you can't vote in person at your polling station, you can apply to vote by post (your ballot paper(s) will be sent to you in the post) or by proxy (where you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf).

The deadline to apply to vote by post is 5pm, 19 April 2016

The deadline to apply to vote by proxy is 5pm, 26 April 2016

Where is my polling station?

The address of your polling station will be written on your poll card which you will receive a few days before election day (Thursday 5 May). Polling stations are often in buildings like schools and local halls and will be clearly sign-posted.

When are polling stations open?

Polling stations will be open on election day (Thursday 5 May) from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

If you are voting by post and have forgotten to send your vote back before election day, you can also take your postal vote to the polling station.

Do I need to take my poll card to vote at a polling station?

No, you do not have to bring your poll card to a polling station but it may make it easier for you if you do take it.

At the polling station, you will need to tell the officers your name and address. They will then check that you are registered to vote before giving you your ballot paper(s).

Can someone support me to vote?

Yes, if you need help to cast your vote you have two options:

1. You can ask the Presiding Officer at the polling station (this is the person who is in charge) for help, OR
2. You can ask someone to come to the polling station and support you who is either:
 - a close family member (father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, civil partner, son or daughter – if they are aged 18 years or over in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, or aged 16 years or over in Scotland), or
 - a person who would be entitled to vote at the election

If you want someone to support you to vote, you should talk to the Presiding Officer at the polling station. The Presiding Officer will ask your supporter to sign a form saying that they will be supporting you to vote. A person may only support up to two voters at the same election.

Your supporter can help you by reading out and explaining who you can vote for. Your supporter can also mark your ballot paper for you.

What if someone says I cannot vote because of my learning disability?

Everyone has the right to vote, including people with a learning disability. As long as you are registered to vote at the election, nobody can say you are not allowed to vote.

If someone at your polling station tries to stop you from voting, please call Mencap on 020 7696 5588 so we can help you.

Can I get an easy-read or large type ballot paper?

No, all ballot papers are the same so that nobody can tell how you have voted. However, every polling station does have a large version of a ballot paper printed out so you can look at it. Polling station staff are there to help.