**UK Parliament general election: Information for blind and partially sighted voters in Wales**

A UK Parliament general election will take place on Thursday 4 July, and there are steps you should take now to make sure you’re ready to vote. This guide has been created by the Electoral Commission in partnership with RNIB Cymru.

Further information about voting in the elections is also available on the Electoral Commission website ([www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)), which is accessible and can be used with assistive technology. You can also request a copy of this guide in braille, large print or audio by contacting RNIB Cymru at CymruCampaigns.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk.

**Key dates**

* Tuesday 18 June, 11.59pm - Deadline to register to vote
* Wednesday 19 June, 5pm - Deadline to apply for a postal vote
* Wednesday 26 June, 5pm - Deadline to apply for a proxy vote and to apply for free voter ID
* Thursday 4 July, 7am to 10pm - Polling day

**Who can vote in the election?**

You can vote in the election if you are 18 or over on polling day, and a British, Irish, or qualifying Commonwealth citizen resident in the UK.

The definition of a 'Commonwealth' citizen includes citizens of British Crown dependencies and British overseas territories. A 'qualifying' Commonwealth citizen is someone who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't require that leave.

**Registering to vote**

To vote in the election you need be registered. If you’ve never registered, or your address or name have changed, register to vote now ahead of the deadline of 11.59pm on Tuesday 18 June.

You can register at [www.gov.uk/registertovote](http://www.gov.uk/registertovote), or by completing a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election).

**Voter ID**

If you want to vote in person at this election, you will need to bring photo ID. There are various forms of photo ID you can use, including a passport, driving licence, older or disabled persons bus pass and Blue Badge.

You can find the full list of accepted photo ID at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID), or by contacting the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election).

You can use expired photo ID, as long as it still looks like you. The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote. The photo ID you bring must be the original version and not a photocopy or digital version on your phone.

If you don’t have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for free voter ID, called a Voter Authority Certificate.

**Applying for a Voter Authority Certificate**

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online at [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) or via the electoral services team at your local council. They will be able to send you an application form, or you may be able to apply over the phone or in person. The deadline for applying is 5pm on 26 June, but you should apply as soon as possible.

To request an application form in an alternative format, please contact your electoral registration officer (details included at the end of this document).

When applying for a Voter Authority Certificate, you will need to provide your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number. You should apply using the same name that you used to register to vote.

You will need to submit a photo with your application. The requirements for the photo are similar to the requirements for a passport photo. If you need help taking a photo, the electoral services team at your local council will be able to do this for you.

The electoral services team at your local council will process your application and send your Voter Authority Certificate to you by post along with instructions on how to use it. When you apply, you will be asked whether you would like the instructions in braille or large print.

A Voter Authority Certificate includes a raised tactile marking in the top left-hand corner, to help you identify it. This marking consists of four small dots repeated three times.

Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiry date, but it's recommended that you renew your certificate after 10 years.

**Voting in person**

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 4 July.

You’ll receive a poll card which will tell you where your polling station is. It may not be the same place you voted last time. If your venue has changed you might need to plan your route in advance or take a family member or friend with you.

Closer to polling day, you’ll be able check where your polling station is and find a list of candidates by entering your postcode at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election) or by calling the Electoral Commission on 0800 3 280 280.

**Having your photo ID checked**

When you arrive at the polling station, a member of staff will ask you for your name and address so they can find you on the register. They will then ask you for your photo ID, check that it is acceptable, and give you your ballot paper.

**Help at the polling station**

You can take a companion with you to help you at the polling station, or you can ask a member of polling station staff to help you. Your own companion must 18 or over and they will need to complete a form.

The person helping you can guide you between the entrance, desk, polling booth and ballot box. They can also mark the ballot paper for you in accordance with your instructions.

**Assistive equipment**

All voters have the right to vote independently and in secret. Some assistive equipment will be available at the polling station to help you to do so.

**Large print ballot paper**

By law, every polling station must display a large print copy of the ballot paper for reference. They must also provide a reference copy for you to take into the booth with you. You can use the large print copy to read all the information on the ballot papers, but you must still cast your vote on the standard print ballot paper.

**Tactile voting device**

If you have difficulty completing the standard print ballot paper, you can use a tactile voting device to help mark your vote in the correct place. Each polling station must provide a tactile voting device.

The tactile voting device has a sticky backing, which is attached over your ballot paper. A staff member will attach the tactile voting device to the ballot paper. It has numbered lift up flaps (the numbers are raised and in braille) directly over the boxes where you mark your vote.

You will need to use the large print ballot paper or ask someone (a companion or polling place staff) to read out the list of candidates to you. The candidates will be in alphabetical order.

The First Past the Post voting system will be used for this election. You'll need to mark your ballot paper with a single ‘X’ in the box next to the candidate you want to represent your constituency in the UK Parliament.

**Mobile phone apps and video magnifiers**

Guidance has also been issued to polling station staff to make it clear that mobile phone apps (such as “Seeing AI” which can use Artificial Intelligence to read out printed text), or video magnifying devices, can be used by blind and partially sighted people to vote as a reasonable adjustment.

**How to find out what assistive equipment will be available**

You can contact your local council to find out what assistive equipment will be available in your polling station and request any additional equipment or support. Your council will decide whether the requested equipment or support can be provided. You can contact the electoral services team at your local council using the contact details at the end of this guide.

**Other ways to vote**

**Voting by post**

Photo ID is not required to vote by post. If you would prefer to vote by post or won’t be able to make it to the polling station on polling day, you can apply to vote by post up to 5pm on Wednesday 19 June.

You can apply to vote by post at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> or by completing a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election).

When you apply to vote by post you will be asked to provide your date of birth and signature. You will be asked to provide this again when you complete your postal vote, so your identity can be verified. If you are unable to provide a consistent signature due to being disabled, you can

apply for a postal vote with a signature waiver from the electoral services team at your local council, which will mean you won’t need to provide a signature when you complete your postal vote. If you are also unable to write your date of birth when you complete your postal vote, someone can assist you with this, but you must complete your ballot paper yourself.

You will receive your postal voting pack around 5-11 days before polling day. You then need to complete and return the pack, ensuring you leave enough time for your postal vote to arrive by polling day.

**Voting by proxy**

If you won't be able to make it to the polling station on polling day, you also have the option to apply to vote by proxy, where you choose someone you trust to vote on your behalf. The deadline for applying to vote by proxy is 5pm on Wednesday 26 June.

You can apply to vote by proxy at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>, or by completing a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election).

The person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to go to your polling station. They will need to bring their own photo ID with them. They could also choose to apply to vote by post as your proxy, if they prefer.

**Contact details for your local council electoral services teams**

This is a table, formed of four columns, headed Council; Telephone number; and Email address; and with 23 rows.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Council**  | **Address** | **Telephone** **number**  | **Email address** |
| Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council | The General Offices, Steelworks Rd, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN | 01495 355086 | electoralservices@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk  |
| Bridgend County Borough Council | Civic offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB | 01656 643116 | electoral@bridgend.gov.uk  |
| Caerphilly County Borough Council | Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7WF | 01443 864203 | electoralservices@caerphilly.gov.uk  |
| Cardiff County Council | County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW | 029 2087 2087 | electoralservices@cardiff.gov.uk  |
| Carmarthenshire County Council | Block 4, Parc Myrddin, Richard Terrace, Carmarthen, SA31 1HQ | 01267 228889 | electoralservices@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  |
| Ceredigion County Council | Ceredigion County Hall, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA | 01545 570881 | electoralservices@ceredigion.gov.uk |
| Conwy County Borough Council | Bodlondeb, Conwy, LL32 8DU | 01492 576051  | electoral@conwy.gov.uk  |
| Denbighshire County Borough Council | County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN | 01824 70 6000 | elections@denbighshire.gov.uk  |
| Flintshire County Council | County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NB | 01352 702412 | register@flintshire.gov.uk  |
| Gwynedd Council | Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH | 01766 771000 | galwgwynedd@gwynedd.gov.uk  |
| Isle of Anglesey County Council | Council Offices, Llangefni, LL77 7TW | 01248 752519 | shxcs@ynysmon.gov.uk |
| Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council | Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN  | 01685 725284 | electoral@merthyr.gov.uk  |
| Monmouthshire County Council | County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA | 01633 644212 | elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk  |
| Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council | Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ | 01639 763330 | elections@npt.gov.uk  |
| Newport City Council | Civic Centre, Godfrey Road, Newport, NP20 4UR | 01633 656656 | uvote@newport.gov.uk  |
| Pembrokeshire County Council | County Hall, Haverfordwest, SA73 3JW | 01639 763330 | electoralservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk  |
| Powys County Council | County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG | 01597 826202 | electoral.services@powys.gov.uk  |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council | The Old Courthouse, Court House St, Pontypridd, CF37 1JW | 01443 490100 | electoralservices@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk  |
| Swansea County Council | Guildhall, Swansea, SA1 4PE | 01792 636123 | elections@swansea.gov.uk  |
| Torfaen County Borough Council | Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB | 01495 762200 | voting@torfaen.gov.uk |
| Vale of Glamorgan Council | Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU | 01446 729552 | electoralregistration@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk |
| Wrexham County Borough Council | The Guildhall, Wrexham, LL11 1AY | 01978 292020 | electoral@wrexham.gov.uk |

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