

Elections 2007

Voting in the Election

If you are not registered to vote, there is still time to register. However, you must register by 18 April 2007.

How do I register?

Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk and fill in your postcode. This will give you details of your local registration office and their contact details. You will also be able to download a registration form to complete and send to the registration office. Details of your registration office are also listed in the "Find your candidate" section of this pack.

Postal Voting

If you want to vote but are unable to visit your polling station, you can apply for a postal vote. You must apply by 18 April 2007. Anyone aged 18 or over can apply for a postal vote. You do not need a reason to vote by post. A postal vote can be sent to your home address or to any other address that you give. Postal votes are usually sent out about a week before Election Day.

You can download a registration form at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk to complete and send to the registration office. (see above to find your registration office online). Details of your registration office are also listed in the "Find your candidate" section of this pack.

Proxy voting

You can apply for a proxy vote as long as you are on the electoral register. When you apply for a proxy vote you have to provide a reason. You can apply for a proxy vote if:

- You are unable to go to the polling station for one particular election, for example, if you are away on holiday
- You have a physical condition that means you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- Your employment means that you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- Your attendance on an educational course means that you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- You are a British citizen living overseas
- You are a crown servant or a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces

Except if you are registered blind, you may have to get someone to support your application to confirm that your reason for applying to vote by proxy is valid.

The deadline for applying to vote by proxy is normally 6 working days before an election.

Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote in UK Elections and they are willing to vote on your behalf.

You cannot be a proxy for more than two people at any one election, unless they are a close relative.

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Campaign tip

Group organisers: Make sure you members are registered to vote. Why not download copies of the forms mentioned above and circulate them to your members? Maybe you can have a mass 'filling in' session at your centre. You could also encourage carers who will find it difficult to get to a polling station to register for a postal vote or perhaps your groups could arrange sponsored transport for groups of carers to go and vote.