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Am I registered to vote?

Anyone included on the electoral roll and eligible to vote will receive a poll card around the 1st April 2017. The poll card will provide details of where to cast your vote, the times the polling station will be open and deadlines for applying for a postal and proxy vote. If you do not receive your poll card around this time contact the elections office on 01633 644212 to check that you are registered.

How do I register to vote?

Applying to be included on the electoral roll is simple and quick. Simply log on to www.gov.uk/register tovot e and complete the online registration process. You will need your date of birth and national insurance number to complete the registration process. Once complete the application should come through to us in 2-3 working days. If you are unable to complete the registration process online you can telephone the elections office on 01633 644212 and request an application form.

In order to be registered in time for the election all applications must be received no later than the 13th April 2017.

I pay council tax so why am I not already registered to vote?

Different people can be registered to pay council tax than register on the electoral roll. Additionally, each individual application to be included on the electoral roll must be verified against the department for work and pensions database before being added to the register and therefore requires different information to be registered.

Who can vote at this elections?

Provided you are registered on the electoral roll, are 18 years of age or over on the 4th May 2017 and a British, Irish, Commonwealth or European citizen you will be entitled to vote at this election.

Those electors registered as service voters, crown servant electors can also vote at this election.

What is postal voting and how does it work?

Any person registered on the electoral roll can apply to vote by post at an election. If you apply to vote by post you will be sent a ballot paper in advance of polling day, this can be to your registered address or a different address, including overseas, of your choice. When applying for a postal vote you will provide your signature and date of birth which must also be provided on the postal vote to verify that it is you completing and returning it to us. When you receive the postal vote, simply complete the enclosed statement providing your date of birth and signature, mark the ballot paper, place it in the pouch included and return it to us.

If you wish to apply for a postal vote you can request an application form by contacting the elections office on 01633 644212 or visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/register-to-vote/postal-vote-application to download an application form.

In order for the postal vote to take effect for the election we will need to have received your application form by 5pm on the 18th April 2017.

I have applied for a postal vote, when should I expect to receive it?

The deadline for registering to vote by post is 5pm on the 18th April 2017. Postal votes will be distributed on the 19th April 2017 first class post so you can expect to receive it around the 21st April 2017.

I have a postal vote but it hasn't arrived yet, what do I do?

If you haven't received your postal vote by the 27th April 2017 you can be issued a replacement. We are not allowed to issue replacement postal votes before this date.

In order to obtain a replacement postal vote you will need to visit the election office at County Hall, Usk, NP15 1GA and bring photographic ID with you.

Replacement postal votes can be issued up to 5pm on polling day.

I have received my postal vote but I have made a mistake, how do I get a new one?

If you have made a mistake on the ballot paper, provided that your intention of who you voted for is clear your vote will still be counted. If you can cross out your mistake and re-mark the ballot paper you do not need a replacement postal vote.

Similarly, if you have entered the wrong date of birth on the postal voting statement or signed outside the box we can still accept the postal vote.

If however you wish to receive a replacement postal vote you will need to visit the election office at County Hall, Usk, NP15 1GA and bring photographic ID with you, as well as the complete postal vote that you have received, before a replacement can be issued.

Replacement postal votes can be issued up to 5pm on polling day.

I have a postal vote but I need to change the details of it, what do I do?

If you need to amend the details of your postal vote you will need to apply in writing before 5pm on the 18th April 2017 to amend the details. This includes cancelling the postal vote.

Changes can be made in writing by sending it to Election Office, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA or email elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk.

After 5pm on the 18th April 2017 no changes can be made to existing postal votes.

What is proxy voting and how does it work?

Proxy voting is where an elector appoints another person to vote on their behalf. Sometimes this can be a useful option if you are abroad and not sure if you will receive the ballot paper in time or if you are travelling with no fixed address.

When applying for a proxy vote you will provide us with the details of the person you are appointing to vote on your behalf. We will then write to that person providing them with details on how they can vote on your behalf.

Any person registered on the electoral roll can apply to vote by proxy. In order to set up a proxy vote for the election we must have received your application form by 5pm on the 25th April 2017.

You can obtain a registration form by contacting the elections office on 01633 644212 or downloading an application form from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/register-to-vote/apply-to-vote-by-proxy.

What day can I go to vote?

Polling stations will be open on the 4th May 2017 to cast your vote. You will have received a poll card with these details and which polling station you must visit in order to vote.

The close of nominations for this election is 4pm on the 4th April 2017 and it is only at that time will we know where elections will take place. You will have been sent a poll card in advance of this date to allow you to make the necessary arrangements for voting before the relevant deadlines however there is still a possibility that an election may not take place in your area due to insufficient candidates standing for election. Where this is the case you will be sent an additional letter before polling day confirming that the election will no longer take place.

What times are the polling stations open?

Polling stations will be open from 7:00am until 10:00pm.

I haven't received my poll card, can I still vote?

You do not need to take your poll card with you to vote on polling day unless you have registered anonymously on the electoral roll. Each polling station will have a list of the people entitled to vote at that building on the day and you can provide your name and address to the staff to be checked.

If you do not know which polling station you need to attend please contact the elections office on 01633 644212 or visit www.monmouthshire.gov.uk.

How do I know who I am voting for?

The deadline for submitting nomination papers to stand for election is 4pm on 4th April 2017. After that time we will know who is standing for election and publish a notice on our website of who they are.

The area in which you live will depend on the number of votes you have. In some areas there may only be one ballot paper for a County Council election or a Community/Town Council election and some areas may have elections to both depending on the number of candidates who stand for election in that area. The number of votes that you have depend on the number of seats within that area. Instructions will be provided at the top of the ballot paper and in the polling station on polling day to inform you of how many votes you have.

It is up to the candidates standing for election to communicate their policies and ideals to you through their own campaigning within the area. On the 5th April 2017, we will publish a notice of the people who are standing for election in your area which will be available on our website at www.monmouthshire.gov.uk and you are able to contact the candidates for information you need.

When will I know who wins the election?

The counting of the votes will take place through the night on the 4th May 2017 immediately following the close of poll. Throughout the night, details of the results of the election will be published to the council website and social media accounts.

For areas where there were insufficient candidates to warrant an election to take place, those candidates who submitted a nomination paper will be automatically elected to fill the seat.

Why did I have a poll card for the election but an election never took place?

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