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## Why are we having a European Election now?

The legislation that removes the need to hold a European Election takes effect when the UK officially leaves the EU. Until that happens, the legislation to hold an election is still active and we are required to elect MEP's to represent Wales within the EU. Due to the extension to delay Brexit beyond the original date of 29 March 2019 and beyond the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019, an election will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 in accordance with the relevant legislation.

## Am I registered to vote?

Anyone included on the electoral roll and eligible to vote will receive a poll card around the 15 April 2019. 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-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) 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 7 May 2019.

## 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.

## Do I need to re-register to vote in this election?

No once you are registered to vote, you will remain registered to vote until you re-apply to register at a new address. If you have received a poll card to vote then you are eligible to vote in this election.

## Who can vote at this elections?

Provided you are registered on the electoral roll, are 18 years of age or over on the 23 May 2019 and a British, Irish or Commonwealth you will be entitled to vote at this election. This includes service voters, crown servants and overseas electors.

## 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](http://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 8 May 2019.

## 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 8 May 2019. If you applied to vote by post before the 15 April 2019 you can expect to receive your postal vote around the 11 May 2019. If you apply between 15 April 2019 and 8 May 2019, you can expect to receive your postal vote no later than 18 May 2019.

## 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 17 May 2019 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 8 May 2019 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](mailto:elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk).

After 5pm on the 8 May 2019 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 15 May 2019.

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](http://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 23 May 2019 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. You can expect to receive your poll card around the 15 April 2019.

## 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](http://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 25 April 2019. After that time we will know who is standing for election and publish a notice on our website of who they are. All nomination papers for the Wales region will be administered by the Regional Returning Officer for Wales based in Pembrokeshire.

It is up to the candidates/parties standing for election to communicate their policies and ideals to you through their own campaigning within the area. After 5pm on the 25 April 2019 we will publish a notice of the people who are standing for election which will be available on our website at [www.monmouthshire.gov.uk](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk) and you are able to contact the candidates/parties for information you need.

## When will I know who wins the election?

The counting of the votes will take place on Sunday 26 May 2019 and a result can be expected around 11pm. Details of the results of the election will be published to the council website and social media accounts.