

Register to vote

Voting information for members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and their families



Visit aboutmyvote.co.uk or see 2008DIN01-178 for further information.



The
Electoral
Commission



You need to be on the electoral register to vote in all UK elections and referendums.

This booklet applies to England, Wales and Scotland. Separate arrangements apply in Northern Ireland. For more information about arrangements in Northern Ireland, see the back of this booklet.

You need to be on the **electoral register** to vote in elections and referendums in the UK.

If you are a member of the Armed Forces, or the husband, wife or registered civil partner of a member of the Armed Forces, and you are a British, Irish, qualifying Commonwealth or EU citizen you can register either as a Service Voter or as an ordinary voter. The way you choose to register to vote will depend on your personal circumstances.

- You can register as a **Service Voter** using the form opposite. This allows you to be registered for three years at a fixed address in the UK even if you move around. Registering as a Service Voter is particularly useful **if you are based overseas** or think you may be posted overseas in the next year.
- **If you are based in the UK** and are unlikely to be posted overseas or change address in the next year, you can alternatively register to vote as an ordinary voter for one year by filling in the electoral registration form that is delivered to your home between mid-August and November.

Your unit has a designated Unit Registration Officer who will be able to give you more information and advice. Speak with your administration office for contact details.

How do I register as a Service Voter?

- 1** Fill in the registration form opposite. If you need more copies, you can photocopy this form, download a copy from **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk** or contact your Unit Registration Officer.
- 2** Make sure you sign the declaration on the form.
- 3** Decide how you want to vote – in person, by post or by proxy (someone voting on your behalf). If you choose a postal or a proxy vote, you should fill in the correct application form in this booklet. If you are based overseas you should consider applying for a proxy vote as there may not be enough time to receive and return a postal vote by election day.
- 4** Return your forms to the Electoral Registration Office in the area where you wish to register as soon as possible. You can find their address details at **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk**.
- 5** You must renew your Service Voter registration **every 3 years** or you will lose your right to vote. You will receive a reminder letter from your Electoral Registration Office telling you when you need to do this. If you change your address, you **must** inform the Electoral Registration Office in the area where you are registered, or you will not receive your reminder. And remember, if you want to re-register as an ordinary voter, you can cancel your Service Voter registration at any time.

Visit **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk** to find out what elections are happening and when the deadlines are for registering to vote and applying for a postal or proxy vote.



Service Voter declaration form for members of HM Armed Forces, or their husband, wife or civil partner



Only **one person** can register using this form. Please write in **black ink** and use **BLOCK CAPITALS**. When you have filled in **every** section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. For address details, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

1 About you

Surname

First name or names (in full)

Nationality

Current address

(This address will be used for correspondence.)
If based overseas, include BFPO number

Postcode/BFPO no

Tick here if you do not want your name to be included on the **edited** electoral register, which is available for general sale.

Daytime phone or mobile number (including country codes) (optional)

Email address (optional)

2 UK registration address

Please give the **UK** address where you would like to register. This can be the address where you are currently living (or where you would be living if you were not in the Armed Forces). If you cannot say where you would be living, give your last UK address before you took up your post.

Postcode

This address is where:

I am living (or would be living if not in the Armed Forces)

I have lived but have no intention to return

3 Service details

Please give your full service details. If you are the husband, wife or registered civil partner of a member of the Armed Forces, give their service details.

Rank or rating

Service (tick one box)

Royal Navy Army Royal Air Force

Service number

Regiment or Corps (Army only)

Please tick if you are the husband, wife or registered civil partner of a Service Voter.

4 Declaration

You must sign the declaration yourself. If you do not sign it, it will be sent back to you. This declaration cancels any previous declaration you may have made.

I am a British, Irish, qualifying Commonwealth or European Union citizen (as stated in section 1).

I am living in the UK, or would be living in the UK if I or my husband, wife or registered civil partner were not serving in the Armed Forces.

If you are under 18 please write your date of birth:

Day Month Year

As far as I know, the details on this form are true and correct. I understand that to provide false information on this form is an offence, punishable on conviction by imprisonment of up to 6 months and/or a fine.

Signature

Date



How can I vote?

When you have registered, you can then choose one of three ways to vote. You should choose the way you vote according to your location and personal circumstances. You can vote:

- **In person** – at your polling station if you are in the area where you are registered to vote in the UK on election day.
- **By proxy** – when you ask someone you know and trust to vote on your behalf. Your proxy can either vote for you at your polling station or by post. Your proxy must be aged 18 or over and must be eligible to vote (for example, a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK). If you have appointed a proxy, you can still vote in person as long as your proxy has not already voted for you or applied to vote for you by post.
- **By post** – if you want your ballot paper sent to you. Your ballot paper may be sent to you as late as four working days before election day, or three working days in Scotland. This may not allow enough time for you to return your ballot paper before voting closes, so voting by post may not be the best way for you to vote. Please note that if you have applied to vote by post, you cannot vote in person on election day.

While you are registered as a Service Voter, you can apply to vote by proxy or by post for a particular election, for a set period of time, or for all future elections.

And remember, you can cancel or change your existing proxy or postal vote arrangement at any time up to 11 working days before election day.

How do I apply to vote by proxy or by post?

- 1** Fill in **either** the proxy vote form opposite **or** the postal vote form over the page.
- 2** Make sure **you** sign the form and give your **date of birth**. You need to fill in **every** section, even if you have already given the information on your Service Voter registration form.
- 3** Send your application form with your Service Voter declaration form to the Electoral Registration Office in the area where you are registering as soon as possible. You can find the address at **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk**.
- 4** Deadlines! You must return your postal vote application form by 5pm, 11 working days before an election. You must return your proxy vote application form by 5pm, six working days before an election. However, if you have a medical emergency, you can ask for a proxy vote up until 5pm on election day.

If in doubt, speak to your Unit Registration Officer.



Application to vote by proxy



Only **one person** can apply using this form. Please write in **black ink** and use **BLOCK CAPITALS**. When you have filled in **every** section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. For address details, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

1 About you

Surname

First name or names (in full)

Address

(This address will be used for correspondence)

Postcode/BFPO no

Daytime phone or mobile number (including country codes) (optional)

Email address (optional)

2 UK registration address

Please give your full UK registration address.

Postcode

3 For how long do you want a proxy vote?

I want to vote by proxy at all elections (tick one box only):

until further notice (permanent proxy vote)

at elections held on

Day Month Year

for the period from

 to
Day Month Year
Day Month Year

For office use only

Polling district:

Elector number:

Date received:

4 About your proxy

Full name

Their relationship to you (if any)

Full address

Postcode

Please tick the box if your proxy might like to vote by post.

5 Your date of birth and signature

Declaration: As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate. I understand that to provide false information on this form is an offence, punishable on conviction by imprisonment of up to 6 months and/or a fine. I have asked the person I have named as my proxy and confirm that he/she is willing and able to be appointed to vote on my behalf.

Date of birth: Please write your date of birth 'DD MM YYYY' in the black boxes below, **using black ink**.

Signature: Sign below, keeping within the grey border.

If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your Electoral Registration Officer.

6 Date of application

Today's date
Day Month Year



Application to vote by post



Only **one person** can apply using this form. Please write in **black ink** and use **BLOCK CAPITALS**. When you have filled in **every** section and signed the form yourself, send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. For address details, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

1 About you

Surname

First name or names (in full)

Address (where you are or will be registered to vote in the UK)

Postcode

Daytime phone or mobile number (including country codes) (optional)

Email address (optional)

2 For how long do you want a postal vote?

I want to vote by post at all elections (tick one box only):

until further notice (permanent postal vote)

at elections held on

Day Month Year

for the period from
 to
Day Month Year

Day Month Year

For office use only

Polling district: _____ Elector number: _____

Date received: _____

3 Address for ballot paper

Please send my ballot paper to (tick one box only):

my address where I am registered to vote (see part 1)

the following address (due to Service circumstances)

Postcode/BFPO no

4 Your date of birth and signature

Declaration: As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate. I understand that to provide false information on this form is an offence, punishable on conviction by imprisonment of up to 6 months and/or a fine.

Date of birth: Please write your date of birth 'DD MM YYYY' in the black boxes below, **using black ink**.

Signature: Sign below, keeping within the grey border.

If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your Electoral Registration Officer.

6 Date of application

Today's date
Day Month Year



What happens after I have applied to vote **by proxy**?

- Your proxy must go to **your** polling station to vote. If they cannot get to the polling station, they can vote for you by post. They can apply to do this up to **11** working days before election day. The Electoral Registration Office in the area where you are registered can give you more details about this.
- Your proxy will be sent a proxy poll card telling them where and when to vote.
- You should tell your proxy how you want them to vote on your behalf, for example, which candidate or which party.
- If it turns out that you are able to go to the polling station on election day, you can vote in person as long as your proxy has not already done so or has not applied to vote for you by post.

What happens after I have applied to vote **by post**?

- When an election is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. Remember, it may not be sent out until four working days before election day, or three working days in Scotland.
- If it does not arrive by this time, contact the Elections Office in the area where you are registered for a replacement ballot paper. You can find contact details on **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk**.
- When you receive your ballot paper, you need to mark your vote, and then **sign** and give your **date of birth** on the postal voting statement. These will be checked to ensure the security of your vote.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by election day, otherwise it will not be counted. A Freepost envelope is included in your postal ballot pack. But, if you are sending it from overseas you will need to use the BFPO service (free of charge) or pay the postage. If it is too late to post your postal vote back and you are in the UK, you can hand it in on election day. Contact your local Elections Office for more details about this.

More information

If you have any questions about registering to vote or voting by post or proxy, contact your Unit Registration Officer or the Electoral Registration Office in the area where you are registering.

Your Electoral Registration Office is the office responsible for the UK address where you are registering to vote.

In England and Wales, the Electoral Registration Office is based at your local council.

In Scotland, it may be a separate office. For contact details, visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

This booklet does not apply to Northern Ireland.

Arrangements for personnel from Northern Ireland

The registration forms for Service personnel and their families from Northern Ireland are different to those for the rest of the UK.

If you are from **Northern Ireland and based in Northern Ireland** and are unlikely to move you should register as an **ordinary voter** using the standard Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) registration form.

If you are from **Northern Ireland and based overseas** you should register as a **Service Voter**, using the EONI Service Voter registration form.

You can obtain these forms by contacting EONI using the details below. The form should be returned to your local Area Electoral Office, whose details can be found on the EONI website. Should you have any questions regarding electoral registration in Northern Ireland, you should contact EONI using the details below:

Telephone: 0800 4320 712 (freephone) or 028 9044 6688

Email: info@eoni.org.uk

Web: www.eoni.org.uk.

Other formats

Please contact your Electoral Registration Office if you need this information:

- on audio tape
- in Braille
- in large print