

Voting in the 2022 Wales local government election

FAQ for qualifying foreign citizens

Can I vote in the 2022 local government election?

If you are a qualifying foreign citizen resident in Wales and 16 or over, you can vote in the local government election. A qualifying foreign is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission.

If you have questions about registering to vote you can contact your local electoral registration team, find their contact details by entering your postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information.

What does local government do?

Local councils (sometimes called local government or local authorities) make decisions about local issues that affect you on a daily basis. Councils are responsible for local services including social housing, education, libraries, parks and public places, roads and footpaths and social services.

Local councillors are elected every four years to represent you in your local council. The area covered by your local council is divided into smaller areas called wards. Your ward could be represented by up to four local councillors.

Your local councillor will be involved in working out how much to spend on local services and develop future plans for your area.

Why should I register to vote?

If you want to have your say about the issues that matter to you and who you want to represent you in local government, you need to register to vote.

How do I register to vote?

You can register online at www.gov.uk/registertovote. It only takes five minutes, and all you need is your national insurance number and date of birth. The deadline for registering to vote in the 2022 local government election is **14 April 2022**.

If you're unable to register online, you can register by post. Download a form at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/register-to-vote-paper-forms>.

If you don't have a National Insurance Number, you need to state this on your registration application then continue to submit it. Your Electoral Registration Officer will then contact you to ask you to provide documentary evidence to prove your identity.

Do I have to vote?






In all elections in Wales, your vote belongs to you. You can decide whether or not you want to vote and who you want to vote for. It's illegal for anyone to influence you to vote a certain way against your will.

What happens when I go to vote?

When you arrive at the polling station a member of staff will ask for your name and address and then give you your ballot papers. You will then be directed to take your ballot papers into a polling booth where you can fill out your ballot paper.

The ballot paper

Use this ballot paper to vote for a candidate to represent your ward (your local area). To vote, mark a cross (X) in the box opposite the name of one candidate. The candidate with the most votes becomes the Local Councillor for your Ward.

Election of councillors to <i>[insert name of local authority]</i>	Ethol cynghorwyr i <i>[rhowch enw'r awdurdod lleol]</i>
Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice.	
Pleidleisiwch ar gyfer un ymgeisydd yn unig trwy roi croes <input type="checkbox"/> yn y blwch nesaf at eich dewis	
BARBER, Ali 5 Anytown Close, Anytown, AT34 6CY Pelican Party Parti Pelican	 <input type="checkbox"/>
BOOTS, Dusty 63 Acacia Avenue, Anytown, AT33 5XZ League of Line Dancers Cynghair y Dawnsywyr Llinell	 <input type="checkbox"/>
CLOVER, Elizabeth Mary 9 Seymour Court, Anytown, AT12 E34 Independent Annibynnol	<input type="checkbox"/>
GREY, Earl 2 Cedar Lane, Anytown, AT23 4YD Mad Hatter's Tea Party	 <input type="checkbox"/>
HOOD, Robin 64 Purple Road, Anytown, AT12 7HT Plaid y Goedwig	 <input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER, Windy 7 Daisy Drive, Anytown, AT98 7RK Alternative Power Forum	 <input type="checkbox"/>

How do I decide who to vote for?

You should choose the candidate that you feel would be the best person to represent you. They might share your views or prioritise issues that you think are important.

The list of candidates standing at an election in each council ward is usually available on the council website a couple of weeks before the election.

Where do I go to vote?

Everyone in your household who is registered to vote will receive a poll card before the election. Your poll card tells you where you need to go to vote.

Is my vote kept secret?

Yes. Your vote is yours alone and you do not have to tell anyone how you have voted. Once you have put your vote in the ballot box, or returned it by post, then it will be kept safe and secure until all the votes are ready to be counted.

All the ballots papers are mixed together at the count so no one will be able to tell how you have voted.

I am concerned about Covid-19, will it be safe to vote in person?

Polling stations will be safe places to vote. Hygiene and distancing measures may be in place to help you stay safe at the polling station. These could include hand sanitiser, floor markings and face masks.

If you would prefer to vote by post or for someone else to vote on your behalf, you need to be registered to vote first and then you can apply to vote by post or proxy. Make sure to apply early to give your elections team enough time to process your application. For more information or to get to a postal or proxy application form, go to www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter or call our helpline on 0800 3 280 280.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about voting at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter.