

Registering for elections

What you need to do to register to vote at an election in Manchester



Registering for elections is essential if you want to vote, as well as for credit checks if you need them. You are not automatically registered when you move house, so you must be proactive to register. Each autumn the electoral register is updated through an annual canvass of residents.

How to register

There are presently two simple ways to register to vote:

1. Go to the UK Government online portal at: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> and follow the simple instructions. You will need your National Insurance number to hand as part of the application process. You must be aged 16 or over to go on the register, but you can only vote from the age of 18.
2. Contact Manchester City Council Elections Team on 0161 234 1212 or email esu@manchester.gov.uk and they will send you a form by post to fill in and send back to them.

Update your details

If you move house, you will not be automatically registered at your new house or flat. You should:

- Register to vote again, either by using the Government's online portal or by contacting the Council's Elections Team requesting a registration form.

If you change your name due to getting married or through a deed poll:

- Contact the Council's Elections Team requesting a change of name form, or re-register using the Government's online portal.

Useful information

Students and second homeowners:

- You can register at both places you live in.
- At local elections you can vote at either place (unless they are both in Manchester).
- In UK Parliamentary elections you can vote in just one place, but you can choose which place to vote. If you vote twice in such an election, it is a criminal offence.

Overseas electors:

- If you are a UK citizen living abroad, you can register to vote in a UK Parliamentary election.
- Currently, you need to have lived in the UK at some point in the past 15 years, but from early 2024 you will be able to vote regardless of how long you have lived outside the UK.
- Register to vote using the Government portal. You will need to prove you were once a resident in Manchester.
- You can either vote using a proxy (someone to vote on your behalf in a polling station) or through a postal vote.

Crown servants or

British Council employees:

- You can vote if you are working abroad as (or if married to) a crown servant or British Council employee
- Register to vote on the portal and you will get a separate form to apply to vote by proxy or post.

Working in the Armed Forces:

- If stationed abroad, you can register as a service voter.
- Go to this portal: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote-armed-forces>

If you have no fixed address:

- If you are homeless, or for any reason have no fixed address, contact the Elections Team for a registration form.

For information on registering for an election go to this web page: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500328/voting/6470/register_to_vote

If you have any queries on how to register or require further support, please ring the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212 or email esu@manchester.gov.uk.