

# Making elections more accessible

Ensuring disabled voters can vote safely and fairly in Manchester's polling stations



We have made the voting process for all elections in Manchester more accessible. We have developed key documents in multiple languages, Braille and 'Easy read' to help you to vote.

## Listening to you

We have been in contact with disabled people's organisations to understand your needs at polling stations and to assist you.

We know that voting in person can be a difficult experience for neurodivergent people or those with learning disabilities. Our staff are available to help you, and further information on the voting process can be found through the links on page two.

The list on page two also shows the type of equipment and materials you will find at polling stations across Manchester to assist you.

There will be signage around the polling station and lots of helpful information inside it to practically assist you to vote.

## Here to help you

Our staff will support you in the polling station and provide you with the right equipment or materials to help you vote.

We want to make the process of voting as stress-free as possible for you. If you do require help, please speak to our staff.

All staff will have name badges and 'here to help' badges. Presiding Officers at the polling station can help you in the voting process. You can also bring a companion or carer with you to the polling station to assist you with voting. On request, privacy screens will be available for private ID checks. Please get in touch with us if you require further assistance.

## Useful information

### Equipment to assist you in the polling station:

- Large sample/audio version of ballot paper
- Key documents in 22 languages and access to 'Language Line' for voters who need help in their own language
- Tactile voting device to assist visually impaired voters
- Braille copy of ballot paper and other key documents
- Sign' video for voters in our deaf community who may need signing assistance
- Temporary ramps for access and exit
- Appropriate lighting
- Chairs for voters
- Magnifiers
- Polling booths at wheelchair level
- Staff name badges
- Large chunky pencils and pencil grips
- Parking spaces for disabled voters (where possible)
- Hearing loops (on request)
- Temporary doorbells (on request)
- Privacy screens for ID checks

### Useful links

Learning Disability UK voting resources: <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/news/latest-news/voting-resources-2023/>

MENCAP guide for elections and people with a learning disability: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-mencap/elections>

RNIB guide for voters who are blind or have a sight disability: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/voting-and-elections-what-you-need-to-know/>

For further information go to the Manchester City Council Elections web page: [https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/362/elections\\_and\\_voting/7641/accessibility](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/362/elections_and_voting/7641/accessibility)

If you need further assistance or would prefer to have a postal vote, contact the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212 or email [esu@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:esu@manchester.gov.uk)