

Polling stations – key information

How we are helping you locate your polling station and supporting you to vote



Manchester City Council has over 240 polling stations for residents to vote in at elections, so that you can vote close to where you live. Our aim is to ensure they are convenient, accessible, and fully stocked with appropriate equipment and materials. All polling station staff are trained to assist you through the voting process.

Finding your polling station

At the May 2023 local election there were 242 polling stations in Manchester. You will be allocated a station close to where you live, which will be noted on the polling card. Each polling station covers a designated area in one of the 32 wards of Manchester.

You will receive a polling card in the post around five weeks before the election. This identifies your polling station and contains key information about all aspects of the voting process. We recommend you keep it handy for polling day and take it to the polling station.

If you are unsure where your polling station is, put your postcode into this link to get a local map:
<https://wheredoivote.co.uk/>

This information is kept regularly updated and the website goes live when an election is formally announced by the Council

Here to help you

All staff at the polling station have been trained to assist you in voting. They all have name badges and 'here to help' badges.

In each polling station there will be the following staff to assist you:

- A Presiding Officer, who manages the polling station, supports voters who request assistance, oversees privacy checks, and monitors all issues between staff and voters.
- Poll Clerks, to meet and greet you, to check your photo ID, to check your name on the electoral register, and to issue you with a ballot paper.

Please speak to them if you have any questions or if you need assistance.

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.

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 electors in our deaf community who require 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

How we choose your polling stations

We try to ensure that polling stations are focal and well-known local buildings in your area. They can be schools, libraries, community centres, faith buildings or social clubs.

Each of the 32 Council wards is split into a number of polling districts determined by the size of the local population. We then look for suitable buildings in the area.

We are happy to hear from you about your local polling stations and any further practical adjustments we can make to them.

For information on voting at a polling station go to this web page:

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/362/elections_and_voting/7641/accessibility_at_polling_stations/4

or if you have any queries on your polling station or require further support, please ring the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212.