

Absent voting

Voting by post or appointing a proxy



There have been changes to the Elections Act to allow those who wish to vote by post to be able to apply online. You can also go online if you wish someone to vote on your behalf as a temporary proxy for an upcoming election. The changes for postal vote renewals are also outlined.

Online postal and proxy voting

You can now apply online to vote by post and for some types of proxy votes for all future elections.

If you already have a postal vote arrangement in place, you do not need to reapply.

When applying online you will need to provide your National Insurance number. This is to verify your identity on the application form.

The process to apply online for a postal or a temporary proxy vote is outlined in the useful information section on page 2.

Postal vote renewals

Electors applying for a postal vote will be required to renew their application every three years.

What has changed:

- Postal voters will need to reapply when their existing arrangement comes up for renewal.
- Postal voters are now required to renew their postal vote and refresh their signature every three years, rather than every five years.

For information or assistance to apply online for an absent or proxy vote, or to see the changes to postal vote handling, contact the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212 or email esu@manchester.gov.uk.

Useful information

You are required to reapply for a postal vote every three years. Changes have been made that relate to local elections, GM mayoral elections and Parliamentary elections.

Applying for a postal vote

Stage 1: To apply to vote by post you also need to be registered to vote. If you need to check your registration, contact the Elections Team. If you need to register to vote, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

Stage 2: To apply for a postal vote (where you will be sent a postal vote ballot pack before the election) go to: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> or you can download a paper application from the Electoral Commission's website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/10570>

Applying for a proxy vote

You can appoint another person to vote in person at your polling station on your behalf. The number of people anyone can act as a proxy for is now limited to four (no more than two domestic electors and two overseas electors).

Proxy voters can continue to put in place a proxy arrangement for an indefinite period (subject to a three yearly eligibility check and a five yearly signature refresh). Existing proxy voters who have an arrangement in place before 31 October 2023 must reapply and make a fresh application by 31 January 2024.

To apply to vote by proxy go to: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote> or you can download a paper application from the Electoral Commission's website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media/10587>