

Anonymous registration

What you need to do if you want to vote anonymously to protect your safety



Anonymous registration is a service available to people whose safety would be at risk if they had their details made public on the electoral register. Such voters go through a careful process that protects and validates their identity, allowing them to vote safely in elections either by post or at a polling station.

Why anonymous voting?

Anonymous registration is a considered process for assisting voters whose safety could be put at risk if their data was on the electoral register.

There are three steps to register to vote anonymously. You will need to:

- Download (or request from the Elections Team) and complete the application form using the link in the 'useful information' section on page two of this fact sheet
- Explain why your safety, or the safety of someone in your household, would be at risk if your details were on the electoral register

- Submit evidence to support your registration, such as a doctor's letter or a letter from a support agency.

The form will need to be signed by an appropriate person linked to the reason for requesting anonymous registration, such as a senior social worker, refuge manager or a police officer.

You should return your application form, the explanation note, and any additional evidence to your local electoral registration office.

Photo ID and getting an anonymous elector document (AED)

Under the Elections Act, if you are an anonymous elector and wish to vote in person at a polling station, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Electors Document, which includes photo ID on the form. Contact the Council's Elections Team and they will explain what you need to do.

To apply for an AED, you will need to provide your name, address, date of birth, National Insurance number and a photo. When voting at a polling station you would show the AED to the poll clerk to vote. This is an alternative to voting by post.

The process noted on page 1 to become an anonymous elector allows you to vote by post, where you will receive your ballot paper and further details on the election.

Useful information

If you would like to be an anonymous elector and receive a postal vote you can download the anonymous registration form using this link or contact the Elections Team, who can post the form to you: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2021-02/Register-to-vote-anonymously-resident-in-England_0.pdf You should follow the process outlined on page 1 of this factsheet. If you would rather prefer to vote in person at a polling station then contact the Elections Team for an Anonymous Electors Document (AED) and they will explain what to do.

Women's Aid and the Electoral Commission have produced this helpful document providing information on how to register to vote anonymously: <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Anonymous-registration-DV-Leaflet-FINAL.pdf>

The Electoral Commission's website gives more information on anonymous registration and how to apply for an Anonymous Electors Document for voting at a polling station: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/register-vote/register-vote-anonymously>

For information or assistance on anonymous registration, filling in the form and/or applying for an Anonymous Electors Document, contact the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212, or email esu@manchester.gov.uk.