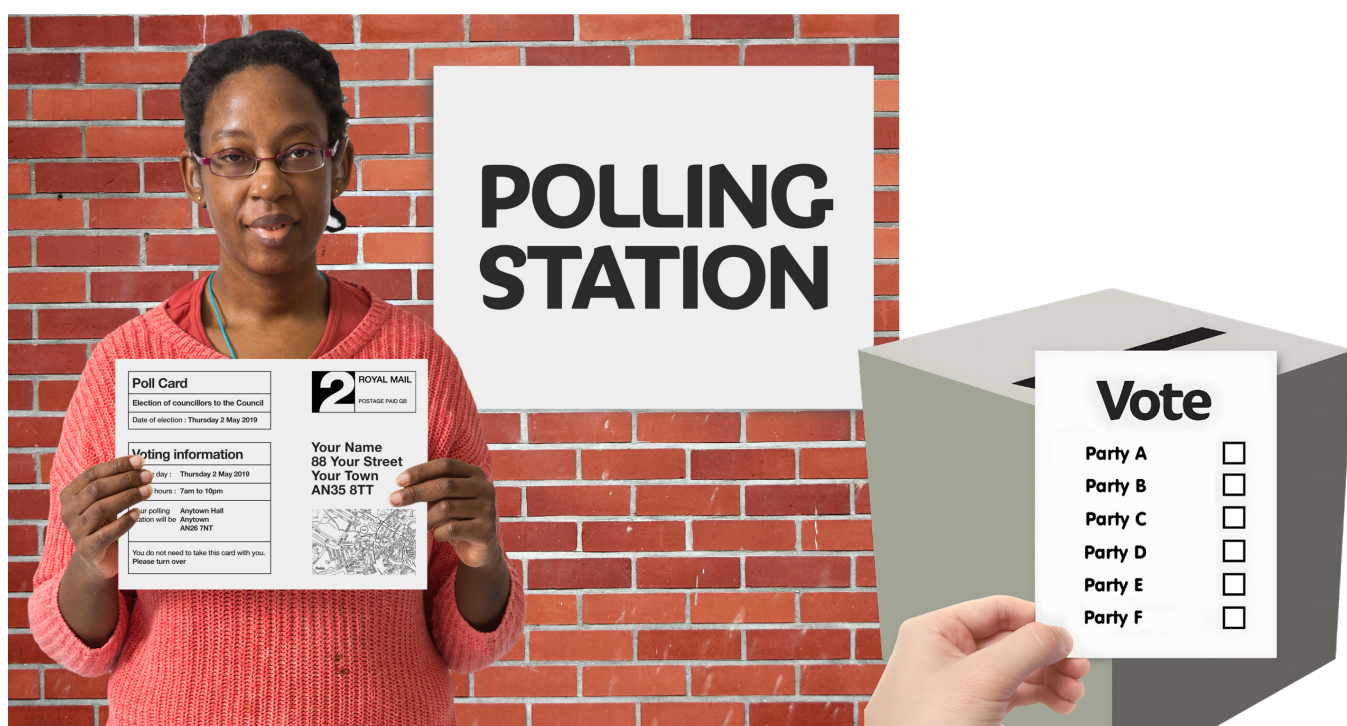




Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Strategy for Elections 2025



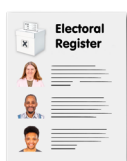
What is in this booklet



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Part of living in a **democracy** means we can vote in an **election**. A democracy is a way of running a country where people vote to choose their leaders.



The Government are making changes which will make it easier to vote at **elections**. An election is when people pick who will be their leaders by voting.



These are changes that will not happen straight away. They will happen over the next few years.



Voting at 16

You can currently vote in an election if you are over 18 years old.



The new changes will mean 16 and 17 year olds can also vote.



We will take extra care to make sure everyone is aware of the voting process.



We will make sure everyone can vote safely.



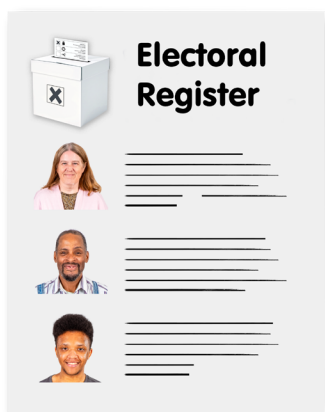
The numbers of people who vote has been going down.



Giving younger people a chance to vote will help young people to carry on voting when they get older.

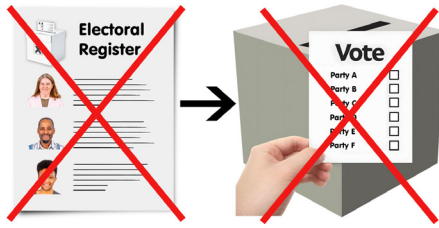


We will talk to different people to make sure we get it right.



Registration

Local councils keep a list of people who can vote. This is called an **Electoral Register**.



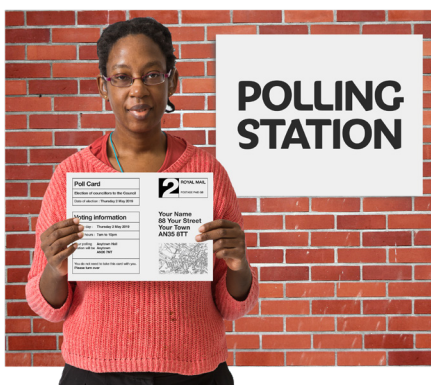
You have to register to get on the Electoral Register. If you don't then you can't vote.



Up to 8 million people may not be registered to vote or haven't registered to vote properly.



We will look at all the different ways of adding more people to the register.



This means when there is an election they will be invited to vote.



There is a big opportunity to register online to vote.



We can do this by sharing information between different areas of Government locally and nationally.



Voter ID

You must show ID to be able to vote at a polling station.



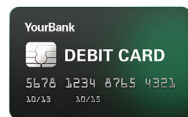
There is a long list of different types of ID that can be accepted.



We know some people don't have any ID and this can stop them from voting.



We will bring in more forms of ID.



Some examples could be showing certain types of bank card or having ID on your phone.



Delivering elections

It takes a lot of hard work and costs a lot of money to deliver an election.



There are currently over 49 million people in the UK who can vote, so there is a lot of work to do!



The Government recently looked at how elections are run. They want to find better ways of doing things.



We will be making changes to support those whose job it is to deliver our elections.



An example is by giving them more time to complete certain tasks.



Voting by post

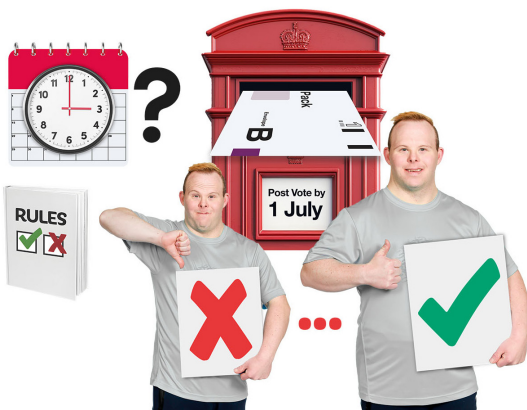
More people are now choosing to vote by post instead of going to a polling station.



Voting by post isn't good enough right now and this needs to be improved.



We will add new rules to make things reliable for staff and voters.



These rules will be about the timings for postal voting and making improvements to the process.



Our values

Our democracy is being threatened by people being unkind to one another.



This could be because they are making threats to one another and sharing information that isn't true.



This happens to those who stand for election - the people who you vote for.



Lots of different government departments are working together to try and understand why this happens.



They want to put a stop to this bad behaviour.



They want to know how to punish those who do not stop.



This could be via fines or sending them to jail.



It is important that everyone is safe and people who break the rules are dealt with.



Political donations

There are rules about how much money someone can give to a political party they support.



The current rules are old. They need to be made stronger to properly protect our democracy.



We are updating our spending rules.



This is to make sure all donations are accounted for.



This also makes sure money from other countries is not entering our democracy illegally.



Delivering these changes

We will make new laws.



These laws will let us bring in these changes over the next few years.



At the same time, there will be other smaller changes and updates to digital services.



We will keep on talking to lots of people and organisations.



This will make sure the changes work as they should.