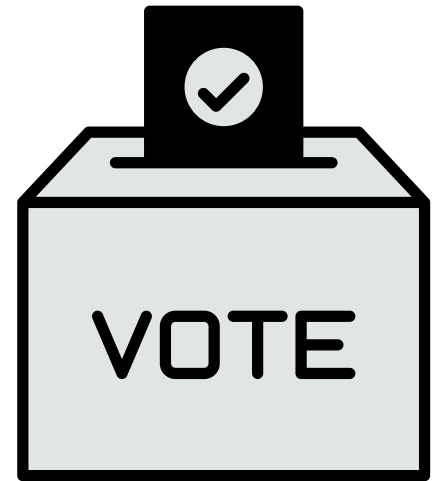


GENERAL ELECTION 2024

MIGRANT VOTING GUIDE



Who is eligible to vote in a General Election?

How do I register?

What information must I provide?

Acceptable ID

Electoral ID card

I've registered, now what happens?

Voting by post or proxy

Edited Electoral Register

Qualifying Commonwealth Countries

British Overseas Territories

Frequently asked questions



Who is eligible to vote in a General Election?

All persons who are:

- Listed on the electoral register i.e. have registered to vote
- At least 18 years old on polling day
- British citizens
- Irish citizens
- Qualifying Commonwealth citizens*
- British Overseas voters**
- Citizens of Malta and Cyprus

How do I register?



Apply Online

OR



Apply By Post

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
(This is the easiest and quickest way)

Download or request an application form from the Electoral Office website:
www.eoni.org.uk

THEN



Verify Identity

The Electoral Office will write to you and tell you if you have been successfully registered, or if you need to provide more information to verify your identity



The deadline to register to vote in the 2024 General Election is midnight on 18th June

* List of qualifying Commonwealth countries on page 5

** List of eligible Overseas voters on page 6

What information must I provide to register?

To register to vote you must provide:

- Full Name
- Date of birth
- National Insurance number*
- Address

Acceptable ID

On voting day, you can use the following photographic documents to prove your identity:

- A UK, Northern Irish or Irish driving licence (provisional accepted)
- Passport issued by UK, Ireland, British Overseas Territory, Commonwealth country or relevant EEA state
- An Electoral Identity Card
- A Translink SmartPass
- Biometric Residence Permit

Electoral ID Card

You can apply for a FREE Electoral ID Card if you do not have any of the documents above. (It can also be used as official ID e.g. when travelling between NI and GB). You must register to vote first and apply for your ID in good time.

Apply here: www.eoni.org.uk/Electoral-Identity-Card/How-to-apply

*You can still register if you don't have a National Insurance number

I've registered, now what happens?

Before an election, you will receive a Polling Card by post. It will tell you when and where to vote.

Poll Card	
.....	
BELFAST SOUTH	

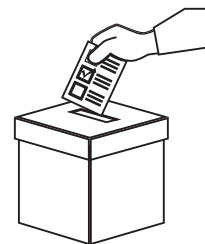
Bring your ID and Polling Card to the Polling Station. Staff are there to help if you need it.

Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am - 10.00pm
Your polling station will be	ADDRESS OF POLLING STATION

At the Polling Station, staff will give you a Ballot Paper and tell you which numbered box to put your completed ballot in.

In UK General Elections (Parliamentary Elections) you will select one candidate by placing a "X" beside their name. Do not make any other marks on the Ballot Paper or your vote may be disqualified.

When you have made your selection, place your ballot paper in the box.



UK General Elections use the 'First Past The Post' voting system. This means that the candidate who receives the most votes wins. Every vote counts!

Voting by post or proxy

If you are registered to vote, but you are unable to attend your polling station on election day you can apply for an **absent vote**. There are two types of absent vote:

- **Postal vote:** Your ballot paper is posted to you before the election, you complete it and return it to the Electoral Office by post.
- **Proxy Vote:** You appoint someone to vote on your behalf. This should be someone you trust as they will attend the polling station and vote on your behalf.

You will find information on applying for an absent vote on the Electoral Office website:

<https://www.eoni.org.uk/Vote/Voting-by-post-or-proxy>



The deadline to register to apply to vote by post or by proxy in the 2024 election is 5pm on 14th June

Edited Electoral Register

The Edited Electoral register can be bought by any person, company or organisation and can be used for marketing purposes. If you do not want your name to appear on the Edited Electoral Register, tick the box on the Electoral Registration Form.

Qualifying Commonwealth Countries

You can register to vote if you are a citizen and you have leave to enter or remain in the UK, or you don't need it.

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belize
- Botswana
- Brunei
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Dominica
- Fiji
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guyana
- India
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Rep of Cyprus
- Rwanda
- St Christopher & Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent & The Grenadines
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- Vanuatu
- Western Samoa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

British Overseas Territories

You can register to vote if you are a citizen of

- Anguilla
- Bermuda
- British Antarctic Territory
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Cayman Islands
- Falkland Islands
- Gibraltar
- Montserrat
- Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie & Oeno Islands
- St Helena & Dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Islands)
- South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands
- Turks and Caicos Islands

Hong Kong - Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration.

Citizens of **Malta** and **Cyprus** are eligible to register to vote in all UK elections.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I am an **asylum seeker from a Commonwealth country** - can I register to vote?

A. NO - Unfortunately the law has changed on this. Because you do not yet have leave to remain in the United Kingdom, you are not considered to be a 'qualifying Commonwealth citizen' for the purposes of voter registration.

Q. I am a **refugee from a Commonwealth country** - can I register to vote?

A. YES - you can vote in all UK elections because you have leave to remain.

Q. I am a **refugee but I am NOT from a Commonwealth country** - can I register to vote?

A. NO - You must be a citizen of an eligible country to be eligible to vote. If you choose to become a British citizen through naturalisation you will secure the right to vote.

Q. I have leave to enter or remain in the UK (e.g. **Student Visa, Skilled Worker Visa, Spousal Visa** etc) and I come from a Commonwealth country - can I vote?

A. YES - having any type of leave to remain or enter is acceptable.

Q. I have **EUSS settled or pre-settled status** - can I vote in a General Election?

A. NO - EU citizens are not eligible to vote in a UK General Election (except citizens of Malta and Cyprus). However you are eligible to vote in local Assembly and council elections.

Q. Is there anything else I need to know?

A. YES - When you join the electoral register, you may be called for jury service. This means you can be required to attend court as a member of a jury



The Migrant Democracy Project has more information and useful resources on their website: www.migrantdemos.org.uk