

Electoral Register – Postal Voting

Dear Parish/Town Clerk

As well as starting the annual canvass of the electoral register, the Elections Team are also starting the postal vote renewal process for 2025/26.

Following a change in the law, the maximum length of time a voter can hold a postal vote changed from indefinitely to a maximum period of three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll or for a shorter time, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Electors who applied for a postal vote on or before 30 January 2024 will have to apply again if they want their postal vote to remain in place for elections on Thursday 7 May 2026 and future elections for another three years. For Wealden District Council, a total of 17,891 postal voters will need to apply for their postal vote again. Those who do not apply will have their postal vote deleted on 31 January 2026.

To try and reduce the number of letters and forms that will need to be sent to postal voters in December, an email campaign will start towards the end of August and will run concurrently with the annual canvass. The emails will be sent in batches on a weekly basis and will be headed 'Important – Action Required for Postal Vote Renewal'. The emails will be sent using the GovNotify system – a sample of the email is shown below. The email encourages electors to use the online service to apply for their postal votes to reduce the number of forms that must be uploaded to the government portal. . Messaging will be included on canvass forms for properties that contain electors that need to renew their postal vote.

If you have any questions about the postal vote renewal process, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Heather Blanshard | Electoral Services Manager

Electoral Services for Wealden District Council

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GOV.UK

Dear Ima Voter

You currently have a postal vote for elections. This email is to inform you that, due to a change in legislation, all postal voting arrangements must be renewed every three years. This means your entitlement to vote by post will soon expire.

If you wish to continue to vote by post, you will need to submit a new postal vote application.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> and complete a fresh application. To avoid delays in processing, please submit your new application as soon as possible.

As part of your application, you will be required to input your National Insurance Number and upload a photo of your handwritten signature in black ink on plain white paper.

If you are unable to complete an application using the online service, we will be sending out paper application forms later in the year. However, as we must manually process all paper applications through the government portal, we would urge you to apply online at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> if you can.

Paper forms can also be downloaded from <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-post> or you can call Wealden District Council on 01892 602417 during office hours, to request one.

If you do not provide a fresh application for your postal vote, we are required by law to cancel your postal vote, and you will only be able to vote in person at a polling station until you make a successful reapplication to vote by post.

We have contacted you via email as you provided us with your email address previously. You have the right to object to the use of your email address for the purposes of electoral registration. If you no longer want to be contacted by email you should contact the Electoral Registration Officer to [Unsubscribe](#) Please include your name and address in the body of the email. Alternatively, please click unsubscribe at the bottom of this email.

Any Questions?

Phone: 01892 602417

Email: elections@wealden.gov.uk

Write to or visit: Electoral Services, Wealden District Council,
Vicarage Lane, Hailsham BN27 2AX

Yours sincerely

Electoral Services Team

Wealden District Council