

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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EA Bulletins are issued on a regular basis. They are one of our key channels for communicating with Returning Officers, Electoral Registration Officers and their staff. Past issues of Bulletins for England, Scotland and Wales are available [here](#). You can also [subscribe to the EA Bulletins](#).

Please [keep us informed](#) of any staff changes within your team. This will help us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date.

We are sending you this newsletter as it contains important information about the Electoral Commission's work which is relevant to you. The newsletter forms part of the Electoral Commission's public task which has its basis in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. We will manage your personal information and contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and UK data protection legislation as outlined in our privacy notice (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/privacy-notice>)

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Issue 316 (England) – 14 September 2021

Electoral Commission report on the May 2021 elections in England

The Electoral Commission has today (Tuesday 14 September) published a [report on the May 2021 elections in England](#). We found that the polls were well-run, notwithstanding the complex range of elections and significant challenges presented by the pandemic. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of those in the electoral community, the polls were delivered safely and successfully.

Our research with the public shows that the changes that were put in place by electoral administrators and the government helped to support and reassure voters. People were confident that they could vote safely, and the overwhelming majority were able to vote using their preferred method.

Campaigners adapted their activities in response to public health restrictions and overall were able to communicate with voters face-to-face, online and through printed material.

However, the experience of these polls has again highlighted concerns about the resilience and capacity of electoral administration structures in the UK, which are coupled with the challenges of delivering elections within an outdated and increasingly complex electoral law framework.

We will continue to work in partnership with the electoral community, the Government and local authorities to develop and deliver proposals to support resilient electoral services for the future.

Our report makes a number of recommendations for future elections:

- Retain an emergency proxy option for isolating voters
- Ensure any new ballot paper designs are tested before they need to be used by voters
- Review subscriber requirements for nominating candidates

More detail on the recommendations can be found in the report.

Separate reports have also been published on the [Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in Wales](#), and on the [elections to the Scottish Parliament](#).

2021 canvass: ERO survey

As in previous years, we will once again be requesting information from all EROs, which will help us to build up a picture of how the canvass is progressing. We will be e-mailing all EROs directly this week with a link to the survey, which can also be accessed [here](#).

The information in the survey will support our engagement with EROs and their teams, and inform our reporting on electoral registration. It will also be used to support the identification and sharing of examples of good practice and to inform our guidance for EROs.

Please complete the survey by no later than **Friday 24 September**.

If you have any questions relating to the survey, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

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