

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

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Welcome to Your Vote Week 2023

A thank you for taking part and promoting the week, and a reminder of our education resources.

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](#).

Issue 349 (England) – 8 February 2023

May 2023 elections: guidance update

Further to [Bulletin 348](#), we can confirm that we have now completed the final updates to our [core Returning Officer guidance](#) and published all supporting resources to reflect the changes that will be in effect for the May 2023 polls.

This includes the [polling station handbook](#) and related resources, including the updated [template briefing slides for polling station staff](#). Please note that this is not the final print-ready version of the polling station handbook, but a final text version reflecting the voter ID process, which is being made available to support administrators in planning their polling station training. As in previous years, hard copies of the polling station handbook will be distributed in March.

Accessibility guidance

The Elections Act includes provisions relating to assisting disabled people to vote and introduces a duty on the Commission to provide guidance for Returning Officers (ROs) on the requirement to provide reasonable equipment to assist disabled voters in polling stations. ROs must have regard to this guidance.

We have now published the [guidance for ROs on assistance with voting for disabled electors](#).

Following an initial consultation on the draft guidance in the autumn, the statutory consultation on an updated version ran from 5 December to 16 January. We received 42 responses from members of the public, electoral administrators, and a wide range of charity, civil society and third sector organisations. You can find a [summary of the feedback received](#) and how we have changed the guidance as a result on our website.

Should you require any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#) who will be happy to help.

May 2023 elections: public awareness update

Got 5? – our campaign plans

Our 'Got 5?' campaign is back and will run from 13 March to 17 April in England. The campaign will focus on raising awareness of upcoming elections in local areas and driving voter registration.

We will be advertising across a combination of channels including:

- TV – ITV, Channel 4 and Sky
- Video on demand – ITVX, All4, Sky and YouTube
- Radio and digital audio (e.g. Spotify)
- Out-of-home (e.g. digital posters)
- Social media – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn
- Digital display (website banners)
- Cinema advertisement
- In-game advertising
- Google search

Advertising will be supported by partnership work, press activity and content on our website and social media channels. We will confirm in a future Bulletin when our 'Got 5?' partner resources are available.

Voter ID partner resources

Our voter ID campaign for May 2023 – 'Note to self' – is live, and we'll continue to raise awareness about the change until the polls close on 4 May.

We have now published resources to help disabled people, and partner organisations who support them, to meet the new requirements.

- [Guide for staff and volunteers \(plain text\) for blind and partially sighted people](#)
- [Voter booklet \(plain text\) for blind and partially sighted people](#)
- [Voter booklet in Easy Read for people with learning disabilities](#)

Further resources and information to support disabled people, including deaf people, will be published in due course.

These resources follow the publication of [resources to help other key groups](#), including older people, trans and non-binary people, and homeless people.

May 2023 elections: candidate and agent webinar – Tuesday 7 March

We are hosting a pre-election webinar for candidates and their agents taking part in the upcoming elections. We've included a copy of the invitation below, for you to share with those you know want to stand for election in your area.

We will publish the slides from the webinar shortly after the event and will provide a link in a future Bulletin for you to share with candidates and agents in your area.

'The Electoral Commission is hosting a pre-election webinar for candidates and their agents taking part in elections in England on 4 May.

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>)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

The webinar provides an opportunity to gain essential information on the nomination process and the spending and donation rules, including information on:

- Standing for election
- The nominations process
- When the spending rules apply
- How much you can spend
- Notional spending rules
- Who you can accept donations from
- What you need to report after the election

There will also be a chance to ask questions. If you have a specific question in advance, or topic you would like the Commission to speak about, please do get in touch before the event.

The webinar will take place virtually on Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 12pm – 1pm.

To confirm attendance please email Stuart Butler on sbutler@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Welcome to Your Vote Week 2023

Thank you for all your support in promoting Welcome to Your Vote Week 2023.

We saw over 300 participating schools and youth groups across the UK with young people learning about our democracy, voting and more. Young people have participated in democracy lessons, registration drives, talks with local representatives and social media campaigns. Take a look on social media with #WelcomeToYourVote and #OurDemocracy.

If you worked with young people, schools or youth groups during Welcome to Your Vote Week, please take two minutes to [share your thoughts with us](#) so we can make Welcome to Your Vote Week 2024 bigger and better.

Our [education resources](#) are available all year round on our website.

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