

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission

Contents

May 2024 elections: guidance update

Information on and links to our updated core guidance for Returning Officers for the May 2024 elections.

Elections Act: update on guidance on overseas electors

Information on changes to the planned timing for publication of the overseas electors' guidance.

Elections Act: postal and proxy voting changes – partnership resources

Information on and a link to partnership resources to help raise awareness of the absent voting changes.

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



Issue 370 (England) – 10 November 2023

May 2024 elections: guidance update

As set out in [Bulletin 362](#), we have now updated our core guidance for Returning Officers for the scheduled polls taking place on 2 May 2024. This includes our guidance for:

- [Returning Officers for local government elections](#)
- [Local Returning Officers for Police and Crime Commissioner elections](#)
- [Police Area Returning Officers \(PAROs\)](#)
- [Constituency Returning Officers for Mayor of London and Greater London Authority \(GLA\) elections](#)
- [The Greater London Returning Officer \(GLRO\)](#)
- [Combined Authority Returning Officers \(CAROs\)](#)
- [Local Returning Officers at combined PCC and local government elections](#)

We have been working with the GLA to update our guidance for the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections in May 2024. Please note that the verification and count guidance is still being finalised and will be published in due course. ROs in London will be notified once this is available.

We have also updated the [guidance for \(Acting\) Returning Officers for UK Parliamentary general elections](#).

All this guidance is now available as web-based HTML content.

The updated guidance reflects changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022 such as the new commonly used name requirements, postal vote handling measures and the updated undue influence and intimidation offences. Full details of the changes can be found in the change log at the start of each set of guidance.

The detailed process for the handing in of postal votes at polling stations is currently being developed, in close consultation with the Elections, Referendums and Registration Working Group (ERRWG), and will be completed in time to be reflected in updates to our polling station handbooks for the May 2024 polls. We will

further update our core guidance to reflect this process as appropriate once this work has been completed, in January 2024.

We have also published election timetables for [the scheduled local government and PCC elections](#) and the [GLA elections](#), as well as an updated [template project plan](#) and [risk register](#). Other resources will be updated and published on a rolling basis by the end of January 2024.

We are currently finalising updates to our guidance for candidates and agents and will publish all the different versions for the May 2024 scheduled polls in web-based HTML format at the end of November.

As always, we will notify you through the Bulletin when any further updates to the guidance and additional resources are published.

If you have any queries, or need any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

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

Elections Act: update on guidance on overseas electors

Further to [Bulletin 362](#) where we set out our plans for updating our guidance to reflect the Elections Act changes, we have now amended the timetable for publication of the guidance for EROs on overseas electors.

The detailed secondary legislation giving effect to the changes was amended after pre-laying scrutiny by the Joint Committee for Statutory Instruments (JCSI) which means we now need to make amends to our draft guidance to ensure it fully and accurately reflects the [final regulations](#) which were laid on 23 October.

The guidance will now be published by mid-December, rather than at the end of November as originally planned.

If you have any queries, or need any further support, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

Elections Act: postal and proxy voting changes – partnership resources

Further to [Bulletin 369](#), on the 31 October 2023, changes to postal and proxy voting came into effect.

We have produced [a range of digital and printed resources](#) to help you raise voters' awareness of these changes. These include:

- a flyer
- a poster
- social media graphics and template posts
- a web banner
- suggested website/newsletter copy
- press FAQs

Changes to the franchise for overseas voters

We are also currently working on resources to help raise awareness of the changes to the franchise for overseas voters. We will provide

further information on these resources and when they will be available in a future Bulletin.

If you have any questions on our partner resources, please contact partners@electoralcommission.org.uk.

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The Electoral Commission

3 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8YZ

Tel England: 0333 103 1928

infoengland@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

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