

electoral administration bulletin

The
Electoral
Commission



Issue 383 (England) – 27 March 2024

May 2024 – Reminder of updates to nomination forms

For elections on 2 May

As outlined in bulletin [374](#), we published updated nomination forms for use at the elections on 2 May to reflect changes to legislation on commonly used names, undue influence, and the introduction of the new offence of intimidation. All of these changes come into effect for polls taking place on or after 2 May 2024.

For elections before 2 May

To support any by-elections taking place before 2 May, the previous versions of the nomination forms remain on our website, with caveat wording on the website and the accompanying guidance to help ensure that candidates and agents use the correct version of the form depending on when the election is taking place. These forms will be removed from our website on Wednesday, 28 March. If you require nomination forms after this date, please contact your local Commission team.

For elections on or after 7 May

Further updated nomination forms will be required for candidates standing for election on or after 7 May 2024 as a result of changes to candidacy rules for EU citizens which only come into effect from this date. Further information is set out in the article on the changes below.

Please continue to advise and support candidate and agents in your area to use the correct version of the form for each type of poll. Should you receive any nominations that have been completed on the wrong version of the form, please contact your [local Commission team](#) for support.

Elections Act: Changes to EU citizens candidacy rights

In anticipation of the changes to EU citizens candidacy rights introduced by the Elections Act we have now updated our [Candidates and Agents guidance](#) for relevant polls to reflect the new measures.

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Updated Code of Conduct for Campaigners

– Link to the updated code and an overview of the changes relating to voter registration and absent vote applications

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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](#).

The updates focus on the changes to the nationality requirements to be able to stand as a candidate in elections taking place on or after 7 May 2024 for the following poll types:

- Local government elections in England (Principal area and Parish)
- Local Authority Mayoral
- Combined Authority and Combined County Authority Mayoral
- Police and Crime Commissioner

We have also added a new nomination form to our guidance for each of these election types which includes the new requirements. Each nomination form on the website is clearly labelled to indicate whether it should be used for polls on 2 May or from 7 May.

To help support you in managing the practicalities of this change we have developed a [guidance note](#) which looks at delivering both re-run elections as a result of 2 May polls being countermanded or abandoned, or by-elections that may need to be held around the period that the changes come into effect.

Further changes will be made to the core guidance for EROs to reflect changes to EU citizens voting rights. We will update you in a future bulletin when these changes have been made.

As always, should you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the guidance, please contact your [local Commission team](#).

May 2024 - New voter registration campaign resources available

As part of our voter registration campaign, we have worked with civil society partners to produce additional campaign resources you can use to encourage people in your area to register to vote ahead of the elections on 2 May.

These resources complement existing partner resources which were [published on 6 March](#).

Each of these new resources showcases a member of the public from a group we know is typically under-registered and may face compounding barriers to voting.

These groups include:

- people experiencing homelessness
- people with a learning disability and/or autism
- Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities; and
- Muslim women.

We are hugely grateful to Shelter, United Response, Friends, Families and Travellers, and Brighton and Hove Muslim Forum for their support in creating these resources.

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.

Download the resources



The following resources are available:

- Posters (A2, A3 and A4)
- Social media graphics (Instagram, Facebook and X)
- A template press release for local authorities

Download [voter registration partner resources](#)

Please note these resources are being shared with you for you to use on your channels to help promote voter registration, in support of the Electoral Commission's voter registration campaign. These files are not to be used or edited for any other purpose, including to form part of any other campaign.

Any local authority wishing to add their logo to these assets should contact us at partners@electoralcommission.org.uk.

May 2024 elections: data collection

As you know, at each set of elections, the Commission collects key administrative data from Electoral Registration Officers and Returning Officers. This data provides important evidence to support our work in reporting on elections across the UK.

We will collect the data using [our data portal](#) (which we have also used to collect data for previous elections) and a [full user guide](#) is also available. From Friday 3rd May you will be able to log on to the data portal to fill in data. You will receive an email to your electoral services email address with details on how to logon/reset your password on the day after the election.

We are collecting data in two phases:

- Data related to voter ID – the deadline for returns is Friday 17th May
- Core administrative data including that related to postal voting, rejected votes etc – the deadline for returns is Friday 14th June

For full details on the data we are requesting see [the complete list](#) (there are separate tabs for the different elections happening in May). If you have any questions about the data collection, please contact research@electoralcommission.org.uk.

Update to the Code of Conduct for Campaigners

We recently updated the [Code of Conduct for Campaigners at UK Parliamentary General Elections in Great Britain, local elections in England and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections](#) following consultation with political parties in Great Britain.

The section of the Code about electoral registration and absent vote applications now states that:

- Campaigners should encourage voters to use the online electoral registration, and postal and proxy vote application, services in the first instance.
- If a voter asks a campaigner to take their completed application form, the campaigner should ensure that the voter has sealed it in an envelope before taking it on the doorstep.

Cyber-attack attribution

The UK Government announced earlier this week that [a previous cyber-attack](#) on the Electoral Commission has been attributed to a China state-affiliated actor. You can read our response to this announcement [here](#).

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