

# Local elections in England: A guide to voting for carers

## Local Elections 2018

On 3 May there will be elections for local councils in some parts of England. In these elections, voters are choosing who represents them on their local council. To find out if you live in an area that is voting, [visit this webpage](#).

Carers Trust have produced this guide to give you information about:

- What these elections are about
- how to register to vote,
- how to register for a postal vote
- how to be registered as a proxy voter for the person you care for – if that is what they want.

## What these elections are about?

A councillor represents you at a local level, known as local government. Local councils and councillors are responsible for providing local services and facilities. Depending on where you live, your council could be responsible for: council housing, education services, leisure and recreation, libraries, local transport, parks, roads, and social services.

Your local election office will publish a list of all the candidates standing for election in your area. You can find your local election office here:

<https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/register-to-vote/find-your-local-authority>

**Deciding who to vote for is entirely up to you.** You may wish to visit the candidate's website, party websites or write to the party or candidates for more information.

## Registering to vote

You have **until 17 April to register to vote**. It's a simple process and should not take more than 5 minutes. If you want your voice heard on the 3 May, you must register to vote. To register to vote, visit [this page](#):

You'll receive a card telling you when and where you can vote. **Unlike General Elections, all EU citizens living in the UK can vote in local elections.**

### **Registering for a postal vote**

As a carer, you might want to register for a postal vote in case of a caring emergency. You don't need to give a reason for why you are registering for a postal vote.

You can register for a postal vote by visiting this page: <https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/postal-voting>

You'll receive a ballot paper through the post. Make sure you return it by election day (3 May). If you forget to post it, you can hand in your postal vote at your local polling station on the day of the election.

### **Proxy voting – supporting the person you care for to vote**

As a carer, you may also need to think about if the person you care for needs your support to vote. One way of doing this is through a proxy vote. This means that the person you care for will give you permission to fill out the ballot paper on their behalf.

However, both you (as a carer) and the person you care for still need to be registered to vote. You can apply for a proxy vote by visiting this page <https://www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy>

### **On the day of the vote**

You don't need to take your polling card

### **Emergency on the day of the vote**

If you have registered to vote but face an emergency on the day of the vote, you should contact your local council as soon as possible but this must be before 5 pm on the day.

### **More information**

If you would like more information about any of the above, please contact Carers Trust at [campaigns@carers.org](mailto:campaigns@carers.org)