

# news release

24 March 2021

## Residents urged to register now to vote in May

Elections take place on 6 May for West Sussex County Councillors and the next Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner. In some areas, district and borough councillors and town and parish councillors are also being elected.

Residents must be registered to vote several weeks ahead of election day on Thursday 6 May. **For anyone not already on the electoral register, the deadline to apply to register to vote is midnight on Monday 19 April.** Registering is easy and takes just five minutes online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). It is particularly important for anyone who has recently turned 18 or has moved home to act to ensure they are registered to vote.

Anyone who was registered to vote in the last election and whose details have not changed, does not need to act. If in doubt, check with your [local district or borough council](#).

This year, residents in West Sussex will be voting in two or three different elections to select:

- County Councillors: Representatives of a local area (known as a division) and its residents. County Councillors contribute to the development of county-wide policies and services in areas such as roads, schools, public health, social care and the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): The PCC oversees our local police force.
- District and Borough councillors: Councillors working on issues and services at district and borough level across the county.

We will make sure that polling stations are safe to use and that you can be confident in the arrangements for voting in person, but, as part of the county council's current drive to help Keep West Sussex Safe, residents are being encouraged to consider postal voting, rather than travelling to attend polling stations, to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Residents can apply for a postal vote, by visiting the [Electoral Commission website](#) to download, print and fill in the postal vote application form. **The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April.** Postal votes can be temporary for these elections only. Postal votes will be sent out in the run up to election day, with clear instructions on how to return them.

Voters can also appoint someone they trust to vote in their place, known as a proxy vote. **The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on 27 April.** More information on proxy voting can be found on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

For those who do choose to vote in person (or for those voting as someone's proxy), polling stations will be safe places to visit on 6 May.

For the most up-to-date information on the West Sussex County Council elections, including electoral nominations and the election results, voters can visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/elections](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/elections).

### Notes to Editor

Elections taking place in England, Scotland and Wales on 6 May 2021:

- Senedd
- Scottish Parliament
- English local government elections (includes polls postponed from May 2020), including elections to county, district and parish councils
- Police and Crime Commissioners (polls postponed from May 2020)
- Combined Authority Mayoral (includes polls postponed from May 2020)
- Local Mayoral (includes polls postponed from May 2020)
  - Mayor of London and London Assembly (polls postponed from May 2020)

**For further information please contact the news desk on 0330 222 8090 or email [pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk).**

**For urgent out-of-hours enquiries please call 07767 098415.**

