

ELECTIONS ACT 2022: TRANCHE 2 (UPDATE)



ONLINE ABSENT VOTING

- 31 October 2023 – Online Absent Voting went live
- All applications now must include the electors National Insurance Number except for an Emergency Proxy
- Every application must be sent to the DWVP via the online portal for a data match
- If they match the application is then processed by the Elections Team
- If they do not match the elector must provide documentary evidence. E.g. a copy of their passport. Once evidence is seen the application can then be processed.
- If any old applications are received the application must be rejected

ABSENT VOTING AVAILABLE ONLINE

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Postal vote application | ✓ | • Proxy application for definite or indefinite period due to disability | ✗ |
| • Proxy postal application | ✗ | • Proxy application for definite or indefinite period due to employment, service etc. | ✗ |
| • Postal waiver application | ✓ | • Emergency proxy application | ✗ |
| • Proxy application for a particular election or referendum | ✓ | • AV application from an anonymous elector | ✗ |
| • Proxy application for definite or indefinite period for overseas and service electors | ✓ | • Refresh of proxy signatures | ✗ |

WHEN THE ELECTOR COMPLETES AN ONLINE APPLICATION, THEY WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT

Application reference number P6D8WT1DV9

Dear Jill

We've received your application for a postal vote.

We will contact you directly using the details you provided in your application if we need any additional information.

We will notify you of the outcome of your application once it's been processed.

Yours sincerely,

Crawley Borough Council
Town Hall
The Boulevard
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1UZ
01293 438572

<https://democracy.crawley.gov.uk>
elections@crawley.gov.uk

For more information about voting, visit
electoralcommission.org.uk

WWW.GOV.UK/APPLY-POSTAL-VOTE

PAPER APPLICATIONS

- Paper applications can still be accepted as long as they contain all the details
- The Election Team must input them onto portal so they can be sent up to the DWP

MAXIMUM PERIOD

- From 31 October a postal vote can be in place for:
 - A particular poll
 - A definite period of not more than 3 years
 - A maximum period of up to 3 years
- All postal votes will expire on the third 31 January following the date on which their application was accepted.

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Any postal vote prior to the 31 October will continue until 31 January 2026
- All those that was due to have a signature refresh next year will still receive a new application however if they do not respond they will not be deleted until 31 January 2026

WHAT THIS MEANS AT ELECTION TIME!

- We request that when parties send out postal vote applications that they encourage voters to apply online rather than complete the paper version.
- If an application is not matched by the DWP the elector has up to 10pm on Election Day to provide their evidence.

PROXY RESTRICTIONS

- As before a proxy must be registered to vote in the election
- A proxy may only act as a proxy for 4 electors
- Of which no more than 2 electors can be domestic electors
- All current proxy application will expire on 31 January 2024
- A notice will be sent out in December
- Currently we have 25 proxies in Crawley
- 14 of those are for Overseas & Crown Servant Voters
- Proxies will have to renew every 5 years

HANDING IN POSTAL VOTE PACKS

- Legislation is due to be made in December
- Candidates, Agents, Election Campaigners or Political Parties are unable to hand in any completed postal packs except for their own or that of a close family member
- Only voters, a family member or a designated carer will be able to hand in a postal vote
- Voters can only hand in five postal packs (in addition to their own)
- Declaration will need to be made by the person handing in the packs
- If declaration is not completed or completed incorrectly postal vote will be rejected

OVERSEAS VOTERS

- Secondary legislation expected to be made and come into effect in January
- Removes the 15-year limit on voting rights for British citizens abroad
- Extends the overseas franchise to all British citizens who have been previously registered or resident in the UK
- Registration will last for up to 3 years – the 3rd 1st November following the day of the application was submitted

BALLOT SECRECY ACT 2023: “FAMILY VOTING”

- Comes into force 2 May 2024
- Offence for a person to be with or near another person at a polling booth, with the intention of influencing them