



embracing lives, supporting futures

## Vote

-  Labour
-  Conservatives
-  Lib Dems
-  Green
-  UKIP
-  Independent

# Your right to vote

## Information and guide on 12th December 2019 General Election

Thursday

**12th December  
Election  
Day!**

[www.manorcommunity.co.uk](http://www.manorcommunity.co.uk)

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## Hello!

Thank you for choosing to read through this information booklet. This page explains what is in the booklet and why.

### What is in this booklet?

This booklet has some basic information on voting and the 2019 general election. We have tried to make it easy to understand.

### Who created this booklet?

Staff at Manor Community and the people they support helped to create this booklet.

### Why was this booklet made?

Manor Community provides support and care for people. Recently the Prime Minister said there would be an election. This means people can vote for who they want to manage the country.

Staff at Manor Community found that people did not understand that people who needed support in their lives or to make decisions, still have a right to vote.



It was also difficult to find easy to understand information about voting and the election.



So, we decided to do something about it and we:

- ⇒ Organised forums and meetings to discuss voting and the election
- ⇒ Sent out emails to staff to guide them on helping others to register and vote
- ⇒ Created this booklet.



## Why read this booklet?

**Our aim is** to help the people we support to understanding voting and the election and their right to vote.



We have tried to make the booklet as easy to understand as possible in the short time we have had to make it.



## The Right to Vote

There are rules in place which say that people have the same right to vote. This includes people with disabilities. You can complain if someone tells you that you cannot or should not vote.



**You can call the Electoral Commission if you have problems voting**

 **0333 103 1928**

 **info@electoralcommission.org.uk**



## Am I allowed to vote?

If you are aged 18 or over.

If you are registered to vote.

Then yes you can vote.



## What am I voting for?

You are voting for which group of people you want to run the country. The process of everyone voting and making their choice is called **the 'election'**.

## What are political parties?

These are people with similar ideas and views on how to run the country. They come together to form a group. This group is a political party.



## What is a party leader?

The person who manages them is called their party **'leader'**.



## What are Members of Parliament or MPs ?

The party leader manages the Members of Parliament or MPs who belong to their party.

You can contact your MP and they will put forward your views in parliament.

By voting for the MP who is a member of a political party, you are also voting for their party to run the country.



## Who runs the country now?

The political party who runs the country is called 'The Conservative Party'. Their



## What is an election for?

When there is an election, people vote for the MP who belongs to the party they want to win.

The party or parties with the most overall votes for their MPs will be able to run the country.

They will then become the **government**.



## Why are we having an election?

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said there will be an election on 12th December. The election allows you to say which party you would like to run the country.



## What is a vote?

Your vote is you making your choice on who you want to run the country. If you vote, your choice will be counted.

Everyone can have 1 vote.



## What happens if I don't vote?

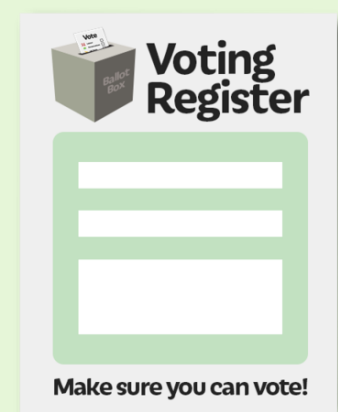
If you don't vote, your choice will not be counted.



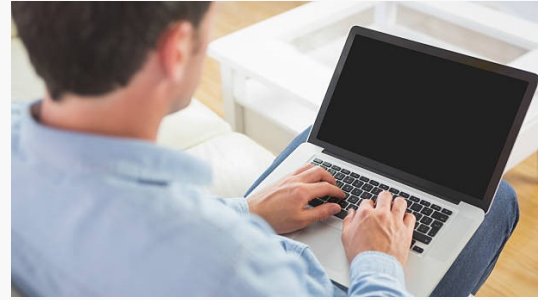
## Registering to vote

In order to vote you need to register to vote. If you have access to a computer you can do this online. [Click here](#) . This web link is also in our [‘resources section’](#) on page 19

You can also register by printing and filling out a form, but this may take longer. [Click here for the form.](#)



You can check if you are already registered to vote. [Click here](#). The full web link is in the [resources table](#) in this booklet on page 19.



You will need your postcode.



**Important date!**



## Why the election matters?

The political party that gets the most MPs voted in, will be the new group of people to run the country. They will be the new **government**.



The Government will make decisions on things including schools, transport, benefits, social care, hospitals and more.



The decisions the government makes effects all of us



To help you decide, each party will give information about how they would like to run the country. This is called a **manifesto**.

## What is a manifesto?

A manifesto gives you information on what a party would like to do if they run the country.

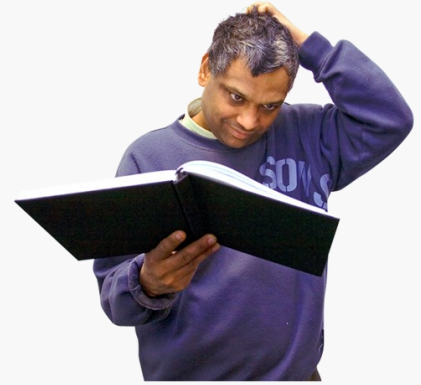
Reading the manifesto, helps you decide which group of people you agree with and would like to vote for.





## What if I still don't understand?

There are things to help you understand the policies of each political party.



This could be newspapers, news on the internet and television programmes.

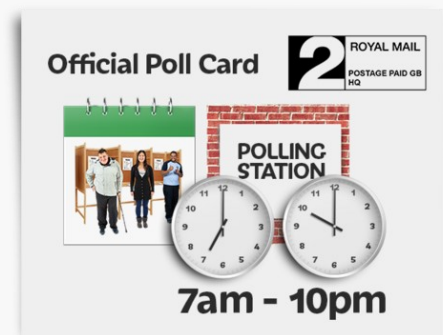


Someone who supports you may be able to help you access these.



## What happens before an election?

- Once you have registered to vote, you will get a 'polling' card in the post. This tells you where and when you can vote. It can help if you take this with you when you go to vote
- Manifestos are published
- The news tells you what MPs say they and their party can do for the country.



There will be information on television where the leaders of the political parties talk. Here are some examples:



Which TV Channel?	What can I watch?	When?
ITV 	There will be a series of prime time Nina Hossain interviews at 22:00 with all party leaders	Link to watch online attached- (skip to 4:15 for start of video)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVNIcfULiZ8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVNIcfULiZ8</a>
BBC one/two 	There will be ongoing interviews and manifesto launches in the 3 weeks before the election	<b>18th November– 12th December</b>
ITV 	<b>The ITV General Election Debate live</b> This was a debate featuring the leaders of the Conservative and Labour party answering peoples questions	Link to watch online attached  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kEB5pqWpJw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kEB5pqWpJw</a>
BBC One 	<b>Question Time Leader Special</b> Each party leader has 30 minutes to debate with the audience on questions people are interested about.	<b>22nd November</b> 

All can be watched on catch-up services– Itvhub/BBC iplayer/4od

## What should I do to prepare?

There are things you should do to help you to vote. If you find any of this difficult, **ask for help**. You can ask for help from people who support you, from family, from friends. Your local council will have information. Some local libraries have information.

Bristol City Council has a website with information on this [web link](#):

[www.bristol.gov.uk/voting-elections](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/voting-elections)

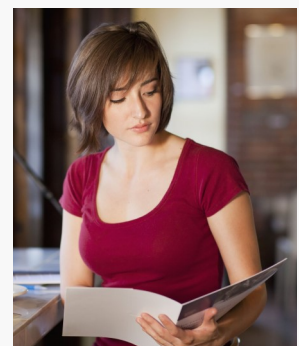


**It is important to remember the decision of who to vote for is YOUR choice. There is no right or wrong answer.**

**There is only your choice.**

## Other things you and the people who support you can help you do:

- **Register to vote** : [Click Here](#)
- Read about what each party says it wants to do
- Think about which party you agree with
- Think about how you will vote – in person, by post, by proxy?
- Think about where you will vote – ‘where is my local polling station?’



## Other things you and the people who support you can help you do:

- Find out where your polling station is. For Bristol [you can click here](#). You will need your post code
- Or you can call this number: 0117 922 3400
- Go to the **resources page** of this booklet for more details
- Consider if you might need support to vote
  - ⇒ do I need help getting to the polling station?
- Decide what time is best for you to vote.
  - ⇒ Maybe when it is less busy, like late morning?



## If you have a physical disability

### Contact your local Electoral Office beforehand

Your local Electoral Registration Office can tell you about:

- Physical access, e.g. wheelchair ramps and disabled parking spaces.
- Low-level polling booths.
- Equipment for voters with a visual needs



Every polling station must provide at least one large print display version of the ballot paper and a special device so that blind and visually impaired people can vote.



## What should I expect on the day?

The day of the election is the day that everyone can vote in person. The date is 12th December.



## The Polling Station

If you vote in person this will be done in a polling station.

Polling stations are places where you vote. They can be a church, school hall, library or somewhere else.



They are open from early in the morning until late in the evening: 7.00am – 10.00pm.



**7am - 10pm**

## What should I expect at the polling station?

There will be a few people sitting behind a desk. When you walk over to them, they will ask for your name and address.



If you have your polling card, give that to them. They will make a note that you have come to vote.



You will be given a piece of paper called a '**ballot paper**'. This will have the people and the parties you can choose to vote for.



You will be asked to go into the 'polling booth'. There is a pen or pencil in the voting booth. Use this to draw ONE cross next to the MP and their party you want to vote for.



When you have finished putting one cross in one box, you can put the paper into a box called a **ballot box**.

If you are not sure, ask one of the people you spoke to when you arrived.



## Other ways to vote

You will need to ask your council for a postal vote. You can check this on your council website. Register for a postal vote by December 1st.



## You can vote by proxy

This is where you can ask someone else to vote for you. This is good if you cannot get to the polling station.

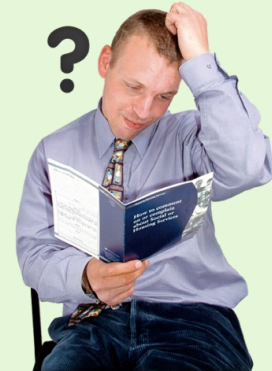
You can register to vote by proxy using this web link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy> this will need to be done by 5pm the on 4th December



## Barriers to voting

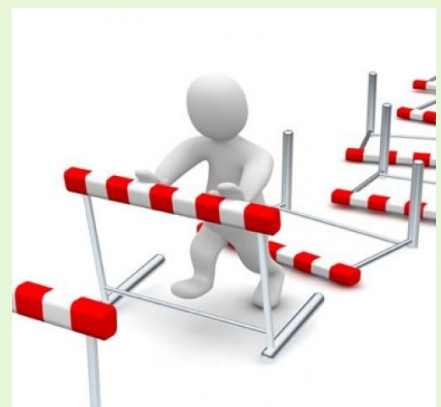
What might stop you from voting when you want to ?

- Not being able to get to the polling station
- Not knowing any information about who I can vote for
- Not understanding what the election is
- Thinking that I cannot vote because I need help in other areas of my life
- Feeling that it is too much to think about.







## Examples of how to overcome the barriers

- Is there anyone who can help you get to the polling station?
- Can I check the bus routes?
- Are there people near me who also want to vote at the same time and who I know and would like to travel with?
- Look at our [resources page](#) for more information





## Who can I vote for? What are the parties and who are their leaders?

Political Party Name	Logo	Who are their leaders
Conservative Party		Boris Johnson
Green Party		Jonathan Bartley and Siân Berry
Labour Party		Jeremy Corbyn
Liberal Democrats		Jo Swinson
Brexit Party		Nigel Farage
You may also have an independent candidate		

# Manifesto

Information on the parties plans for the country if they win the election. See Page 8 for more detail





Party	Where to find their manifesto.
Conservative Party 	See website for updates
Green Party 	Short version- <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50464641">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50464641</a>  Long version- <a href="https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Elections/Green%20Party%20Manifesto%202019.pdf">https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Elections/Green%20Party%20Manifesto%202019.pdf</a>
Labour party 	Short version- <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50501411</a>  Long version- <a href="https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Real-Change-Labour-Manifesto-2019.pdf">https://labour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Real-Change-Labour-Manifesto-2019.pdf</a>
Liberal Democrats 	Short version- <a href="https://www.libdems.org.uk/plan">https://www.libdems.org.uk/plan</a>
Brexit Party 	Short version- <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50515516">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election-2019-50515516</a>

If you would like to find out further about candidates for MP in your area, follow this link!

<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>

## Resources



<p>You can find out more on how to vote on this website</p>	<p><a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/">www.yourvotematters.co.uk/</a></p>
<p>Where does it say I have the right to vote?</p>	<p><b>Examples include:</b></p> <p>Article 29 (a) United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). <a href="#">Accessible here</a></p> <p>Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 of The European Convention on Human Rights. <a href="#">Accessible here</a></p>
<p>Web link to register to vote</p>	<p><a href="http://www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/already-registered?_ga=2.170176032.1008347213.1494341759-1920915342.1471873249">www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/already-registered?_ga=2.170176032.1008347213.1494341759-1920915342.1471873249</a></p>
<p>Check if you are already registered to vote</p>	<p><a href="http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/register-to-vote/find-your-local-authority">www.yourvotematters.co.uk/register-to-vote/find-your-local-authority</a></p>
<p>Mencap have an election hotline and email</p>	<p> 0207 696 6009   campaigns@mencap.org.uk</p>
<p>You can also call the Electoral commission if you have problems voting</p>	<p> 0333 103 1928   info@electoralcommission.org.uk</p>

## Resources



Council Name	Information and details
<b>Bristol City Council</b>	<a href="https://www.bristol.gov.uk/voting-elections">https://www.bristol.gov.uk/voting-elections</a>
<b>Bristol City Council – Electoral Office</b>	<p>✉ Bristol City Council, Electoral Services, Bristol City Council, PO BOX 3176, Bristol, BS3 9FS</p> <p>☎ 0117 9223400</p> <p>📧 <a href="mailto:electoral.services@bristol.gov.uk">electoral.services@bristol.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/">www.bristol.gov.uk/</a></p>
<b>South Gloucestershire – Electoral Office</b>	<p>✉ Electoral Services, South Gloucestershire Council, High Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9TR</p> <p>☎ 01454 863030</p> <p>📧 <a href="mailto:electoral.services@southglos.gov.uk">electoral.services@southglos.gov.uk</a>,</p> <p><a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-democracy-and-elections/elections-voting/">http://www.southglos.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-democracy-and-elections/elections-voting/</a></p>
<b>North Somerset Electoral Office</b>	<p>✉ Electoral services</p> <p>Electoral Services, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ.</p> <p>☎ 01934 634 909</p> <p>📧 <a href="mailto:electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk">electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/voting/elections/general-election-2017/">http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/voting/elections/general-election-2017/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/voting/register-to-vote/how-to-register-to-vote/">http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/voting/register-to-vote/how-to-register-to-vote/</a></p>
<b>I can't find my Electoral Office from this list</b>	<p>Use this web link, you will need your post code:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-on-electoral-register">https://www.gov.uk/get-on-electoral-register</a></p>

## Key Dates to remember

### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

Last date for  
Registration-  
11:59pm

[www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/already-registered?\\_ga=2.170176032.1008347213.1494341759-1920915342.1471873249](http://www.registertovote.service.gov.uk/register-to-vote/already-registered?_ga=2.170176032.1008347213.1494341759-1920915342.1471873249)

### 5pm, Wednesday 1st December–

Deadline to apply for a new postal or postal proxy vote



[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-post](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-post)

Get the form to vote by post here:

[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/222454/Postal-vote-application-form.pdf](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/222454/Postal-vote-application-form.pdf)

### 5pm, Wednesday 4th December –

Deadline to apply for a new proxy vote

[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote/voting-by-proxy)

Get the form to vote by proxy here:

[www.yourvotematters.co.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/222461/Disability-proxy-vote-application-form.pdf](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/222461/Disability-proxy-vote-application-form.pdf)

**7am-10pm,  
Thursday 12th  
December –  
POLLING DAY–  
Vote!!**



Find your polling station here:  
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/voting-elections/polling-station-finder>

**10pm, Thursday 12th December-**  
Vote Counting starts

Everyone will find out the results on  
13th December 2019

[www.manorcommunity.co.uk](http://www.manorcommunity.co.uk)

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