

2026 Senedd election: Information for blind and partially sighted voters in Wales

The Senedd election will take place on Thursday 7 May. The Senedd has powers to make laws for Wales on a range of areas including health, the economy, education, housing, transport, Welsh language and some taxes.

There are steps you should take now to make sure you're ready to vote. This guide has been created by the Electoral Commission in partnership with RNIB Cymru.

Further information about voting in this election is available on the Electoral Commission website, which is accessible and can be used with assistive technology. You can also request a copy of this guide in braille, large print or audio by contacting RNIB Cymru at CymruCampaigns.Mailbox@rnib.org.uk.

Key dates

- **Monday 20 April, 11.59 pm** - Deadline to register to vote
- **Tuesday 21 April, 5 pm** - Deadline to apply for a postal vote
- **Tuesday 28 April, 5 pm** - Deadline to apply for a proxy vote
- **Thursday 7 May, 7 am to 10 pm** - Polling day

What does the Senedd do?

At this election, you will be voting for who you want to represent you in the Welsh Parliament, commonly known as the Senedd.

The Senedd has powers to make laws for Wales on a range of areas including health, the economy, education, housing, transport, the Welsh language and some taxes.

For more information about the Senedd, go to senedd.wales/election.

The Senedd is changing

Wales has been divided into 16 new constituencies for this election. Each constituency will have 6 Members, making a total of 96 Members elected to the Senedd instead of the 60 it has now.

To find your new constituency, go to constituency.senedd.wales.

Who can vote in the Senedd election?

You can vote in the Senedd election if you are registered to vote in Wales, will be **16 years old or over** on Thursday 7 May 2026 and are:

- a UK or Irish citizen or
- a qualifying Commonwealth citizen who has permission to remain in the UK or does not require such permission or

- a qualifying foreign citizen who has permission to enter or stay in the UK or who does not need such permission, including EU citizens

British citizens living overseas **can't vote** in this election.

For more information about eligibility and who can vote go to electoralcommission.org.uk/who-can-vote.

Registering to vote

You must be registered to vote by **11.59 pm** on Monday 20 April 2026 to vote in this election.

If you've never registered, or have recently changed your address or name, make sure you update your details ahead of the deadline.

You can register at gov.uk/register-to-vote, or by completing a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election.

Voter ID

You **do not** need to show photo ID to vote in a Senedd election.

Voting in person

Polling stations will be open from **7 am to 10 pm on Thursday 7 May**.

You'll receive a poll card which will tell you where your polling station is. It may not be the same place you voted last time. If your polling station has changed you might need to plan your route in advance or take a family member or friend with you.

Closer to polling day, you'll be able check where your polling station is and find a list of candidates by entering your postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election or by calling 0800 3 280 280.

Help at the polling station

You can take a companion with you to help you at the polling station, or you can ask a member of polling station staff to help you. Your own companion must be age 16 or over and they will need to complete a form at the polling station.

The person helping you can guide you between the entrance, desk, polling booth and ballot box. They can also mark the ballot paper for you in accordance with your instructions.

Assistive equipment

You have the right to ask for reasonable adjustments to help you vote in the Senedd election. It's best to contact your local Returning Officer or electoral services team

as early as possible to let them know what equipment you need to vote independently.

For more information about available audio devices and to find template letters you can use to make a request, visit the RNIB Cymru website.

Large print ballot paper

By law, every polling station must display a large print copy of the ballot paper for reference. They must also provide a reference copy for you to take into the booth with you. You can use the large print copy to read all the information on the ballot papers, but you must still cast your vote on the standard print ballot paper.

Tactile voting device

If you have difficulty completing the standard print ballot paper, you can use a tactile voting device to help mark your vote in the correct place. Each polling station must provide a tactile voting device.

The tactile voting device has a sticky backing, which is attached over your ballot paper. A staff member will attach the tactile voting device to the ballot paper. It has numbered lift up flaps (the numbers are raised and in braille) directly over the boxes where you mark your vote.

You will need to use the large print ballot paper or ask someone (a companion or polling place staff) to read out the list of candidates to you. The candidates will be in alphabetical order.

Mobile phone apps and video magnifiers

Guidance has also been issued to polling station staff to make it clear that mobile phone apps (such as "Seeing AI" which can use Artificial Intelligence to read out printed text), or video magnifying devices, can be used by blind and partially sighted people to vote as a reasonable adjustment.

Other ways to vote

Voting by post

If you would prefer to vote by post or won't be able to make it to the polling station on polling day, you can apply to vote by post up to **5 pm on Tuesday 21 April**.

To apply to vote by post you need to complete a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election. You can also download the application form at electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-post

When you apply to vote by post you will be asked to provide your date of birth and signature. You will be asked to provide this again when you complete your postal vote, so your identity can be verified. If you are unable to provide a consistent signature due to being disabled, you can apply for a postal vote with a signature waiver from the electoral services team at your

local council, which will mean you won't need to provide a signature when you complete your postal vote. If you are also unable to write your date of birth when you complete your postal vote, someone can assist you with this, but you must complete your ballot paper yourself.

You will receive your postal voting pack around 5-11 days before polling day. You then need to complete and return the pack, ensuring you leave enough time for your postal vote to arrive by polling day.

Voting by proxy

If you won't be able to make it to the polling station on polling day, you also have the option to apply to vote by proxy, where you choose someone you trust to vote on your behalf. The deadline for applying to vote by proxy is **5 pm on Tuesday 28 April**.

To apply to vote by proxy you need to complete a paper application form. To request an application form or further support, contact the electoral services team at your local council. You can find their contact details at the end of this document, or by entering your postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/next-election. You can also download the application form at electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-proxy

The person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to go to your polling station. They could also choose to apply to vote by post as your proxy, if they prefer.

How does the voting system work?

The way you vote in Senedd elections has changed. You will now vote using a voting system called the 'closed proportional list system' to elect Members of the Senedd.

This is a form of proportional representation. This means the number of seats each party or independent candidate wins reflects the percentage of votes they receive.

You will receive one ballot paper and you will have one vote to choose your representative. The ballot paper will show the list of candidates for each political party in your constituency and any independent candidates.

To vote, put a cross (X) in the box next to your choice of political party or independent candidate. Remember, you vote for one political party or one independent candidate, not individual candidates on a party's list.

For a more detailed description of the voting system, go to electoralcommission.org.uk/senedd-voting.

Contact details for your local council electoral services teams

This is a table, formed of four columns, headed Council; Address; Telephone number; and Email address; and with 23 rows.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council; The General Offices, Steelworks Rd, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6DN; 01495 355086; electoralservices@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Bridgend County Borough Council; Civic offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB; 01656 643116; electoral@bridgend.gov.uk

Caerphilly County Borough Council; Tredomen Park, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7WF; 01443 864203; electoralservices@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cardiff County Council; County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW; 029 2087 2087; electoralservices@cardiff.gov.uk

Carmarthenshire County Council; Block 4, Parc Myrddin, Richard Terrace, Carmarthen, SA31 1HQ; 01267 228889; electoralservices@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Ceredigion County Council; Ceredigion County Hall, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA; 01545 570881; electoralservices@ceredigion.gov.uk

Conwy County Borough Council; Bodlondeb, Conwy, LL32 8DU; 01492 576051 ; electoral@conwy.gov.uk

Denbighshire County Borough Council; County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN; 01824 70 6000; elections@denbighshire.gov.uk

Flintshire County Council; County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NB; 01352 702412; register@flintshire.gov.uk

Gwynedd Council; Shirehall Street, Caernarfon,
Gwynedd, LL55 1SH; 01766 771000;
galwggwynedd@gwynedd.gov.uk

Isle of Anglesey County Council; Council Offices,
Llangefni, LL77 7TW; 01248 752519;
shxcs@ynysmon.gov.uk

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council; Civic Centre,
Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN ; 01685
725284; electoral@merthyr.gov.uk

Monmouthshire County Council; County Hall, The
Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA; 01633 644212;
elections@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council; Civic
Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ; 01639 763330;
elections@npt.gov.uk

Newport City Council; Civic Centre, Godfrey Road,
Newport, NP20 4UR; 01633 656656;
uvote@newport.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire County Council; County Hall,
Haverfordwest, SA73 3JW; 01639 763330;
electoralservices@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Powys County Council; County Hall, Spa Road East,
Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG; 01597 826747;
electoral.services@powys.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council; The Old Courthouse, Court House St, Pontypridd, CF37 1JW; 01443 490100; electoralservices@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk

Swansea County Council; Guildhall, Swansea, SA1 4PE; 01792 636123; elections@swansea.gov.uk

Torfaen County Borough Council; Civic Centre, Pontypool, NP4 6YB; 01495 762200; voting@torfaen.gov.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Council; Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU; 01446 729552; electoralregistration@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Wrexham County Borough Council; The Guildhall, Wrexham, LL11 1AY; 01978 292020; electoral@wrexham.gov.uk

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