

Frequently asked questions (as at 26 January 2021)

What elections are happening in my area?

Local elections are expected to be held on 6 May 2021 and the Police and Crime Commissioner election that was postponed in May 2020. If you are entitled to vote at these elections, you will receive a poll card with more information in March 2021. You will also receive information on any other elections that may be happening on the same day and at which you can vote.

Will I be able to vote at the next election in my area?

You need to be included on the electoral register in order to vote and be 18 or over on the day of the election ('polling day').

How do I register to vote

If you are not already registered, you can register quickly and easily online, go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Further information is also available on the following webpage <https://shropshire.gov.uk/elections-and-electoral-registration/the-electoral-register/>

How can I cast my vote at the elections on 6 May 2021?

There are a number of ways to have your say in May - you can vote in a polling station, by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, known as a proxy vote.

- In person – this means going to the polling station to vote on polling day
- By post – this means you are sent a postal voting pack, so you can complete your ballot paper at home and return it in the post
- By proxy – this is when you are unable to go to the polling station yourself, so you ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf.

Polling stations will be safe places to vote in these elections, however you can choose to vote by post or by proxy if you can't or don't want to go to the polling station.

Further information is also available on the following webpage <https://shropshire.gov.uk/elections-and-electoral-registration/voting-and-elections/postal-and-proxy-voting/>

Is voting by post safe?

Voting by post is safe and proven cases of electoral fraud are rare. When voting by post, you should mark your vote on the ballot paper in secret and seal the envelope yourself.

You will also be asked to give your date of birth and signature when applying for a postal or proxy vote. This makes postal voting safe, because when you return your postal voting pack your signature and date of birth are checked against those you provided before to confirm your identity.

Your signature and date of birth are separated from your ballot paper before it is looked at or counted, so giving this information will not affect the secrecy of your vote.

How are you making polling stations safe?

We are putting arrangements in place to help ensure polling stations are safe places to vote. You can expect many of the measures you've become used to over recent months in shops and banks, such as hand sanitiser, face coverings and keeping a safe distance.

We will continue our discussions with public health authorities as we prepare for the elections to make sure we are following the most up to date guidance. We will continue to update this page as more information and guidance becomes available.

Will I need to bring my own pen or pencil?

Guidance in this area is still being developed, but you are always welcome to use your own pen or pencil. We are working with the UK government, members of the electoral community and public health authorities to help ensure polling stations are safe places to vote at the May 2021 elections. We will update this page with new information as it becomes available.

Is it safer to vote by post, instead of going in person?

We are working hard to ensure that polling stations will be safe places to vote in May, but you can choose to apply to vote by post or by proxy instead.

What should I do if I find out closer to the time that I need to self-isolate, or my area goes into a local lockdown?

We want to make sure that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so, regardless of the pandemic. We will be providing more information nearer the time on how you can vote if you need to self-isolate or live in an area under local lockdown.

You do have different options for voting at the May 2021 elections – you can vote in person, by post or by proxy. You can find more information on the [Electoral Commission website](#).