

Easy Read Guide to Voting in the General Election



The
Electoral
Commission

What is voting?



This section will explain what **voting** is and why it's **important**.

People with a learning disability have as much right to vote as anyone else.

It's important to remember that you must register to vote in order to vote.



The people that run the country are called Members of Parliament.

They make important decisions that can affect people's lives.

For example, the government makes important decisions that can change:

- Hate crime laws
- How people with a learning disability get support
- How people with a learning disability get healthcare
- How people with a learning disability get help with the cost of living.



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What is voting?



Different Members of Parliament have different ideas about the best way to run the country.

Members of Parliament are elected. This means people get to decide which Members of Parliament they would like to run the country.

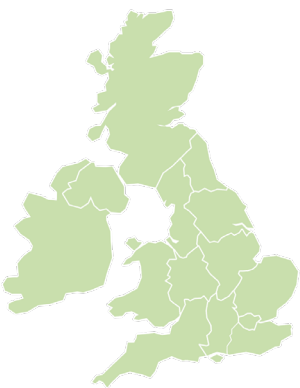
People call this a general election.

Voting is one of the best ways for people to have their voice heard by people in power. There are lots of political parties. Each party is made up of politicians who agree on how the country should be run.



Politicians are usually part of a political party. There are lots of political parties.

You can also vote for candidates who are not part of a political party. They stand as independent candidates.



In a General Election you can vote for who you would like to make some of the most important decisions in the country.

What is voting?



People will vote to choose who they would like to be their local Member of Parliament (MP).

MPs make important decisions that affect the whole country. Most MPs are part of a political party.

The party with the highest number of MPs usually forms the Government.



The leader of the winning party then becomes Prime Minister.

Who can vote in General Elections?

To vote in the General Election you must be:

- 18 years old or over.
- A British or Irish citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen. *A Commonwealth citizen is someone who lives outside the UK, but in one of the UK's Commonwealth Nations.



*More information on which countries are included within the Commonwealth can be found on the Electoral Commission's voter information website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter



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