

Postal Voting - FAQs

1. When is the election?

The General Election will be held on Thursday 8 June 2017.

2. Who is eligible to vote?

British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens will be eligible to vote in this election. European Union citizens (except those from Ireland, Malta and Cyprus) will not be allowed to vote.

3. When is the deadline to register to vote?

Monday 22 May 2017 is the last date that voters may apply to register to vote at the General Election.

4. Who looks after the voting process?

Even though it is a General Election, the electoral services are provided by Merton Council.

5. How do voters know if they are registered to vote?

Merton Council Electoral Services will send a poll card to every qualified voter. This card sets out when, where and how they may vote. If voters have registered to vote by postal vote, this will be indicated on the poll card.

6. What is the deadline to register by postal vote?

If voters wish to vote by post in the General Election on 8 June 2017, they must apply by 5pm on Tuesday 23 May 2017. This is also the deadline for changes to any other details concerning postal voting (eg, the address to which the postal ballot paper is sent).

7. What should voters do if they believe they are registered to vote by postal ballot but have not yet received a postal ballot?

The postal ballot papers are scheduled to be posted by Merton Council Electoral Services from Monday 22 May 2017 until Tuesday 30 May 2017. (Merton Council has also confirmed that they may commence posting slightly earlier.) If voters have not received their postal ballot paper by Friday 2 June 2017 (at the latest), they should contact the council.

8. If voters have registered to vote by postal ballot, does this apply to all elections?

Voters are able to elect to vote by postal ballot for a single election on a specific date, for a specific period or on a permanent basis.

9. Who should voters contact at Merton Council regarding postal ballot papers?

Electoral Services
Electoral Registration Office
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

If visiting, voters should go to Merton Link main reception. Office hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

If voters prefer to phone, the phone number is 020 8274 4901. During election periods, Merton Council usually staffs this line 'outside of normal visiting times'. (Unfortunately, Merton Council does not publish the exact hours.) The fax number is 020 8545 3249.

The email address is electoral.services@merton.gov.uk.

More information, including the form that allows voters to register by postal vote, is provided at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/voting/howtovote.htm#post>.

10. Can voters cancel their postal vote?

If voters wish to cancel their postal vote, they must contact Merton Council Electoral Services by 5pm on Tuesday 23 May 2017.

11. If voters have registered by postal vote, can they still vote in person on polling day?

If voters have registered to vote by postal vote, they cannot vote at a polling station. They can however take their postal ballot paper with them to the polling station and deliver the paper to the Presiding Officer who has a separate envelope for postal ballot papers.

12. When is the deadline to post ballot papers?

Postal ballot papers must be returned to Merton Council Electoral Services by the date of the election, Thursday 8 June 2017. It is therefore recommended that voters post postal ballot papers by Monday 5 June 2017 (if posted from the UK). (Postal ballot papers will arrive with a free post envelope.) If voters miss this deadline, they should hand deliver their postal ballot paper to the polling station on Thursday 8 June 2017.

Voters are allowed to post postal ballot papers from outside the UK though they will need to pay for the postage themselves and mail them in time for the ballot papers to be received by Thursday 8 June 2017.

Voters are also allowed to hand deliver their postal ballot paper to the Electoral Registration Office at Merton Council (address above) at any time up to 8 June 2017.

13. What if voters spoil their postal vote?

If voters spoil or lose their postal ballot paper, they should contact the Electoral Registration Office. Voters will be able to receive a replacement postal ballot paper up to 5pm on polling day. Alternatively, they may collect a replacement postal ballot paper in person at the polling station on 8 June 2017.

In both cases, they must bring their spoiled ballot paper and the rest of the ballot pack with them.

14. Can voters give their postal ballot papers to someone to deliver to the polling station or the Electoral Registration Office on their behalf?

It is strongly recommended that voters deliver their own postal ballot paper to the Electoral Registration Officer or polling station. If this is not possible, they may ask someone to take their postal ballot paper on their behalf.

15. What hours will the polling station be open?

Normal polling hours are 7am until 10pm. The hours will be printed on the polling card that voters receive in the post.

Sources:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/voting/howtovote.htm#post>

<https://www.gov.uk/voting-in-the-uk/postal-voting>

http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/108485/Code-of-conduct-postal-vote-applications-England-Wales-2012.pdf