

## **2017 General Election Postal Vote FAQs**

### **Q: What is this?**

A: It is a postal vote pack for the 2017 General Election.

### **Q: Why did I receive this?**

A: You previously completed a postal vote application form.

### **Q: What do I do with this pack?**

A: You will need to cast a vote on the ballot paper included with the pack. You should do this by writing an 'X' in the box against the candidate you want to vote for.

After you've completed the ballot paper, you should place it in the Ballot Paper Envelope (Envelope A) and seal this envelope. They should then complete the Postal Voting Statement (PVS) that is attached to Envelope A; write your date of birth in the black boxes in DD/MM/YYYYY format (do not write today's date in the box or use any other format). You should then add your signature in the grey box.

Once you've completed the PVS, place Envelope A and attached PVS into the freepost reply envelope (Envelope B), seal Envelope B and post the envelope back as soon as possible.

### **Q. I have lost my postal vote pack.**

A. You will have to come to the Civic Centre to be issued with a new postal vote pack from Friday 2 June. You will have to come to the Civic Centre with a proof of identification (e.g. passport) to collect a new postal vote pack.

You have until 5pm on Thursday 8 June to get a replacement, but you are recommended to come in as soon as possible.

If you are unable to come to the Civic Centre in person, someone on your behalf can come instead to obtain the replacement. They would need to provide a letter of authority from yourself, giving them permission to act on your behalf, and they will also need to provide a proof of identification too.

Please allow 10-15 minutes for the processing of a replacement when you are at the Civic Centre. It may be longer if there is a queue.

You can also request the replacement to be sent by post instead. The deadline to make the request is 5pm on Wednesday 7 June. The request can be made by either contacting us via email or phone.

### **Q: I haven't received a postal vote.**

A: We may not have sent your postal vote yet. The date your postal vote is being posted depends on when you were added to the electoral register and the date we received your application to vote by post.

For the Parliamentary General Election taking place on 8 June 2017, postal ballot papers will be dispatched around **Friday 19 May 2017\*** for anyone:

- Who was already registered to vote by 3 April 2017 **or** who made a successful application by 6 April 2017 to register to vote (i.e. they were added to the electoral register published on 2 May 2017)

**and**

- Was already registered as a postal voter for this election or whose application to vote by post was received by Tuesday 25 April 2017

*\*If you are a registered overseas elector and the above criteria applies to you, your postal vote will be sent around Wednesday 17 May 2017.*

Postal ballot papers will be dispatched around **Tuesday 30 May 2017** for anyone:

- Who made a successful application after 6 April 2017 to register to vote (i.e. they were added to the electoral register after 2 May 2017)

**and**

- Whose application to vote by post was received after Tuesday 25 April 2017

If your postal vote pack has been issued but you haven't received it, you can be issued with a new postal vote pack from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Refer the instructions above for what to do if you have lost your postal vote, as the process you have to follow is the same.

**Q. I've received a postal vote, but I no longer want to vote by post.**

A. The deadline to cancel your postal vote has now passed so if you want to vote at this election you will need to do so using the postal vote that has been sent to you. You can return the pack by post, bring it to the Civic Centre or you can take it to a polling station in your constituency on polling day between 7am and 10pm.

**Q. I have ticked the box for the candidate I want to vote for, instead of entering an 'X'. I need a new ballot paper.**

A. As long as you've made your voting intention clear on the ballot paper, you do not need to be issued with a new postal vote.

**Q. I have voted for the wrong candidate.**

A. As long as you make your voting intention clear on the ballot paper, you do not need to be issued with a new postal vote. Please clearly cross out the mistake and write your cross clearly in the box next to the correct candidate. However, if you need to be issued with a new one, please follow the instructions below.

**Q. I have spoiled (made a mistake on) my ballot paper and need a replacement.**

A. As long as you haven't already posted the ballot paper to us, we can issue you with a replacement.

It depends what mistake you have made as to whether you need to be issued with a replacement. See examples above.

You can be issued with a new postal vote pack until 5pm on Thursday 8 June. You will need to come to the Civic Centre with the whole postal vote pack and spoilt ballot paper, plus a proof of identification (e.g. passport) to collect a new postal vote pack and ballot paper.

**Q. I cannot find the ballot paper in my pack.**

A. The ballot paper is white and has been folded

**Q. Why isn't Theresa May/Jeremy Corbyn/Tim Farron/Paul Nuttall/Nicola Sturgeon etc. on the ballot paper?**

A. You cannot vote directly for a party political leader at a General Election unless one of them is standing as a candidate in the parliamentary constituency where you are registered to vote. None of the major party political leaders are candidates in either of the parliamentary constituencies in London Borough of Hounslow at this election.

You can only vote for a candidate who is standing for election in the constituency where you are registered to vote.

**Q. Why isn't there an SNP or Plaid Cymru candidate on my ballot paper?**

A. They did not nominate a candidate to stand for election in either of the parliamentary constituencies in London Borough of Hounslow.

**Q. I'm coming to the Civic Centre today. Can I hand in my completed postal vote pack while I'm here?**

A. Yes you can. You should hand your postal vote pack to a member of the Access Hounslow team on the reception desk during normal Civic Centre opening hours.

**Q. My wife's postal vote has arrived, but she's away on business and won't be back until after 8 June. Can I complete it on her behalf?**

A. No. It is illegal to use another person's vote, even if they have a close relationship to you.

**Q. I've put today's date on the PVS, instead of my date of birth.**

A. Cross out the incorrect date on the PVS and enter your correct date of birth just above the black boxes. As long as the date of birth is clear on the PVS, you do not need to be issued with a new postal vote pack. Remember to use the DD/MM/YYYYYY format as any other format would not be accepted.

**Q. I've placed the PVS in Envelope A, along with the ballot paper. Is my vote disallowed?**

A. No. As long as we receive both the ballot paper and PVS, we will accept the postal vote.

**Q. I do not want to vote for any of the candidate's on my ballot paper.**

A. It is not mandatory to vote in any elections in the UK, you should simply destroy the pack you have received if you do not intend to vote at this election. You should not give the pack to anybody else to use as this would be illegal.

**Q. I am unable to sign or complete a postal vote application due to disability/impairment.**

A. Please contact Electoral Services to request for a waiver application form. The waiver application form will mean someone else can assist on your behalf and you will not have to sign the form as well as the postal vote pack as it will be waived. The deadline to apply for a waiver at this election is 5pm on Tuesday 23 May.