

CANVASS FORM FAQs

I pay Council Tax so why have you not registered me using those details?

The Register of Electors includes the details of all people eligible to vote and Council Tax only records the name of the tax payers. The data held by Council Tax does not include all of the information you are required to give when you register to vote therefore we are unable to use that information to register you.

If I don't vote, I don't need to register, do I?

The law requires you to register to vote, however it is your personal choice whether you use your right to vote or not. If you do not register, you have no choice. Not being registered can also affect your credit rating and prevent you from taking out loans, mortgages and mobile phone contracts.

If my child is only 16 or at university, do I need to add them to the form?

You must list any children who will be 16 or older at the time you respond. Any children under the age of 16 should not be listed. Students can register at both their home and university address, so if they live with you during the holidays, they can be added to the register at your property.

Why are you sending someone to knock on my door if I don't respond to a Canvass Form?

Changes in the law have allowed the Electoral Registration Officer to conduct the personal canvass stage for non-responders by telephone or email as well as by a door knock. However, where we have no telephone or other contact details we have no choice but to obtain the information by sending someone to the property to collect it. The best way to avoid a canvasser calling at your property is to use one of the automated systems to record your response or to complete and return one of the forms sent to you.

Email: vote@dover.gov.uk

Telephone: 01304 872344



Web: www.dover.gov.uk/elections

Electoral Services, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ



FUTURE CHANGES

THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR VOTE AND CANVASS FORM FAQs



The following information has been supplied in anticipation of the changes to the law due to come into force from October 2023 and the details are subject to change until the law has been passed.

For the most up to date news on the Elections Act changes and links to further information on the Electoral Commission website,

visit our webpage

[www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/
Elections/The-Elections-Act-2022.aspx](http://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/The-Elections-Act-2022.aspx)



Postal and Proxy Voting

The following provisions are due to come into force in October 2023 and will apply for all election types in England.

- New identity verification requirements will be introduced for all absent vote applications, with the exception of emergency proxies.
- All applications will be subject to a DWP check similar to the process for applications to register to vote.
- For applicants whose identity cannot be verified by the DWP check, there will be a need to follow an exceptions process whereby the applicant must provide certain documentary evidence to prove their identity and, failing that, an attestation process.
- Postal vote arrangements will be limited to a maximum of three years, at which point the elector will need to make a new application.
- The total number of electors for whom a person may act as a proxy will be limited to four, of which no more than two can be domestic electors (i.e., an elector that is neither an overseas elector nor a service voter).
- All electors who have a permanent proxy vote must reapply for their proxy vote before 31 January 2024.

Postal vote handling and secrecy

There will be new restrictions on the handling of postal votes due to take effect for polls in May 2024.

There will be a ban on political campaigners handling postal votes, except where the postal vote is their own, that of a close family member or someone that they provide regular care for.

Postal vote handling and secrecy (Continued)

There will be limits on the number of postal votes that a person can hand in at polling stations and council offices.

Any person who hands in postal votes at polling stations or council offices will be required to complete a form. If postal votes are handed in without the relevant form completed, the postal votes will be rejected.

Secrecy requirements – i.e., the need to complete your ballot papers in secret - will be extended to postal and proxy votes.

EU citizens' voting rights

In England, the general right of European Union citizens to register, vote, and stand in UK elections which use the local election franchise will be removed.

Two groups of EU citizens will retain their voting and candidacy rights:

- Qualifying EU citizens – i.e., citizens of EU countries which have a reciprocal agreement with the UK Government, currently Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain
- EU citizens with retained rights – i.e., EU citizens from any other EU country who were already legally resident in the UK before 31/12/2020.

There will also be a change to the application process in order to determine applications under the new eligibility criteria.

These changes will not take effect until after the elections due to be held on Thursday 2 May 2024.

This change will not affect the rights of citizens from Ireland, Malta or Cyprus.