

# GENERAL ELECTION 2017

## Registering and Using Your Vote on 8th June

### Guidance for social workers and people using social work services

The deadline for registering to vote in the 2017 General Election is 22nd May 2017. Overleaf is guidance on how to register and vote.

People who use social work and other support services are often left out of democratic processes – because they cannot access information on how to register or use their vote, because they don't know who the candidates are, or because they can't get to the polling station and have not been supported in getting a postal vote.

Social workers can help people exercise their right to vote and to find out what candidates locally and nationally stand for.

If you are a social worker who knows an adult who might need help to exercise their right to vote, please take the time to find out what you can do to help.

This might mean taking two minutes to help them register online, or having a chat about how they can find out about the parties' manifesto pledges or organising a lift to the polling station on the 8th of June.

Helping someone to use their vote should never be about influencing how they vote. The social workers' role is removing the barriers that people with care and support needs often face in exercising their rights and citizenship.

And if you are a social worker – remember to use *your* vote! Ask your candidates what they will do for social workers and for people who need and use social work services!

BASW is producing a Manifesto for Social Work. The manifesto will be available at:  
[www.basw.co.uk/election\\_manifesto](http://www.basw.co.uk/election_manifesto)

- Share it with your local candidates and ask them to pledge to support BASW's policy asks.
- You could also share it with your local newspaper and ask candidates to respond.



**REMEMBER: REGISTRATION FOR VOTING CLOSSES ON  
22ND MAY 2017!**

# Guidance on Registering and Using Your Vote in the 8th June 2017 General Election

## 1. How to register to vote

- If you have received a letter saying you are registered to vote, you don't need to do anything – you will get a voting card through the post.
- If you need to register, or check if you are registered, the easiest way to do this is online (on the computer). Ask your social worker, a family member or friend to help you do this if you don't know how to do this.
- It takes just a few minutes to register to vote online at: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>
- REMEMBER: If you've moved home since the last time you voted you might not be registered and should register again.
- All you need is your National Insurance number which you can find on a payslip, P45 or P60, letters about tax or benefits, letters or emails from HM Revenue and Customs, or Department for Work and Pensions
- Your Council's Electoral Services can help if you cannot register online.

## 2. How to vote

- Your polling card should tell you where and when to go to vote on 8th June. This should be a place close to your home. You don't normally need your polling card to vote on the day, just have some ID with the address that matches the one you are registered to vote at.
- If you are going away you can register for a postal vote here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote>
- If you want to apply for a postal vote, the deadline for new applications is 5pm on Tuesday 23rd May.
- If you want someone to go to the polling station on your behalf, you can apply online for a proxy vote. The deadline for new applications is 5pm on Wednesday 31 May.
- If you forget to post it, you can still take your postal vote to the polling station in person on the 8th June.

## 3. Find out what your local candidates stand for

- A simple web search will tell you who all your local candidates are and their main views. If you don't know what constituency you live in you can use your postcode to find out: <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/constituencies>
- You can also meet and ask questions of candidates at local meetings called 'hustings' which are often advertised locally such as in local newspapers.