

Guidance for carers

Who can vote?

A person can vote elections if they are:

- aged 18 or over on polling day,
- a British or Irish citizen, or citizen of a Commonwealth or EU nation

An individual may register to vote from a care home or nursing home if they are resident there. No one can be denied the right to vote because of their mental health or because they have a physical or learning disability.

In certain circumstances you may assist someone to vote (see below), but a voter must always make their own decision on whom to vote for. You must never make this decision on someone's behalf.

If someone can't get to the polling station

If getting to the polling station is a problem, an individual can request a postal vote. The individual must complete the postal vote application form themselves. An application form is available from Wychavon District Council and can be downloaded from their website at www.wychavon.go.uk/elections or by calling 01386 565437.

If someone votes by post, but is unable to provide a consistent signature they may be entitled to a waiver from signing the statement.

If someone can't get to the polling station but doesn't want a postal vote, they can appoint a 'proxy' to vote for them. This means they ask someone they trust to vote on their behalf. The individual must decide who will act as their proxy if you act as someone's proxy, you must vote according to his or her wishes. You may be a proxy for a maximum of two voters.

Getting to the polling station

Voters who want to vote at the polling station but need help getting there should ask a friend, relative, colleague or carer to help them.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm. While under no obligation to do so, political parties are often happy to give voters a lift to the polling station.

Help at the polling station

If a voter has a disability, they can take a companion with them to the polling station. They may also ask for help from staff at the polling station. The companion or polling station staff can help voters if they cannot read the ballot papers.

All polling stations will have a tactile voting device and large print ballot papers, and polling station staff will help voters to use these. Polling stations will also have wheelchair-accessible polling booths.

If a voter cannot physically complete their ballot papers, they may ask polling station staff or a companion to do this for them. You may only mark someone's ballot paper for them if you are a registered voter in the area, or are a close family member (i.e. a spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild). You must always seek the permission of polling station staff before you help someone to vote. You may assist a maximum of two voters, and you will need to sign a declaration saying you have done so.