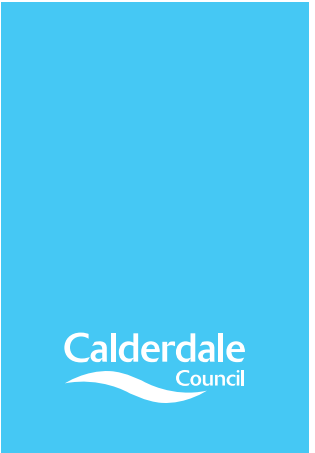
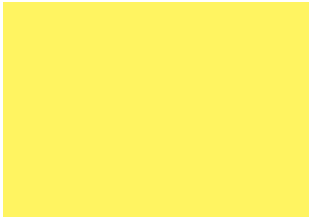




# Have Your Say

Why voting is important



Calderdale  
Council



## Did you know that politics affects all areas of your life?



Everything that happens to you and the people you know is affected by politics in some form or another. This can include your education, the food you eat and how safe you feel on the streets.

By registering now, if something comes up that you want to influence, you'll have the chance to vote on it.

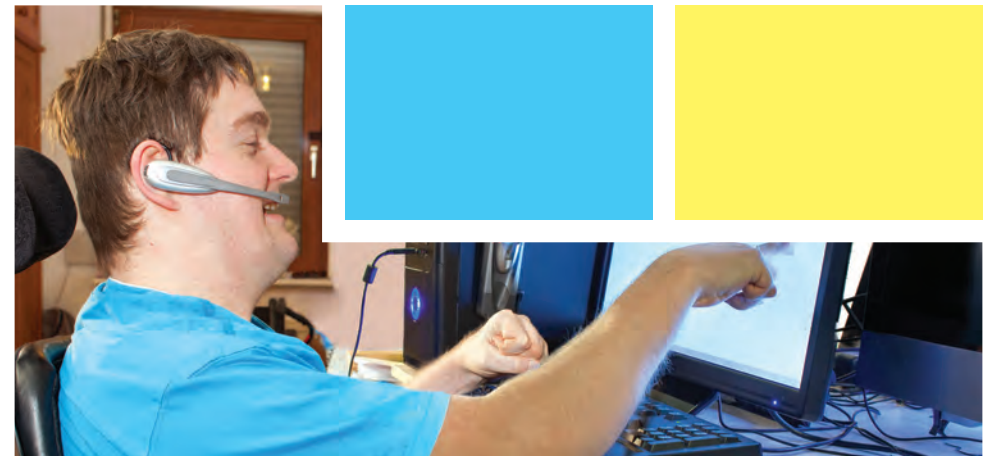
This booklet includes what you need to know about electoral registration and voting.



There are lots of ways that politics can affect the things that matter to you. For example:

- How safe you feel on the street
- National Health Service
- Public Services
- Education
- Cost of public transport
- Recycling

The list is endless and touches all areas of interest regardless of your age.



# 4



## What is voting?



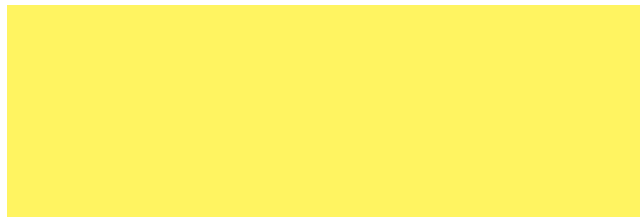
Voting is your chance to help choose the people who run the country, Europe and your local area, Calderdale Council. The time when you make your vote is called an election.

## Who can vote?



Almost all men and women can vote as soon as they become 18, provided that their name is included on the Electoral Register.

When you register to vote your name and address go onto a list called the Electoral Register.



## Why should I vote?



**1.** If you don't register, you can't vote! If you don't register, you can't vote - it's as simple as that.

**2.** It gives you a say on who represents you at all levels of government. All votes are equal, and your vote is as important as anyone else's.

**3.** It's quick and easy! It does not cost anything to vote, but you have to register.

You can register online or by filling in a paper form. It takes less time than making a slice of toast!

**4.** It affects everything you do sport, music, recycling, the

environment, games, education, housing - there is nothing that politics does not affect. Remember, registering to vote doesn't mean you have to, it just means you can if you want to.

**5.** Your vote is important - don't throw it away.





## How do I make sure I can vote?



If you want to vote then you must register. This means you will be on the Electoral Register and receive a polling card when there is an election.

If you're not on the Electoral Register you need to:

- Ask Electoral Services to send you a form or
- Go through the application with them over the telephone or
- Visit [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

All you'll need is your National Insurance number and date of birth to help complete your application.

Once the form is completed and your details have been confirmed, you will receive a letter stating your application to register has been successful.



## How do I vote at Election Time?



Just before an election you will receive a card, called a Poll Card. The card tells you where and when to vote. Polling is another word for voting.

On election day, you go to the polling station. The polling station is usually a school, community centre, or local hall near where you live.

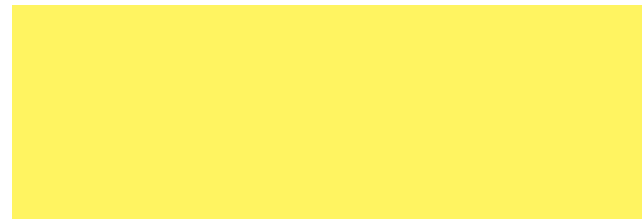
Tell the people at the polling station your name and address. If you like, you can take your poll card with you to show who you are.

The people at the polling station will give you a list of people you can vote for. This is called a ballot paper.

Take the ballot paper into a polling booth and put an X next to the name of the person you want to vote for.

Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

If you don't know what to do, you can ask the people at the polling station to help you.



## Can I vote by post?



If you cannot get to the polling station, you can ask for a postal vote.

Your ballot paper pack will be sent to you at home. You can fill it in and post it back.

Telephone the Electoral Services on **01422 393103** if you would like an application form.

## Proxy vote



Sometimes you can let someone else vote for you. This is called a proxy vote. You can only have a proxy vote if you cannot go to the polling station and you have not asked for a postal vote.

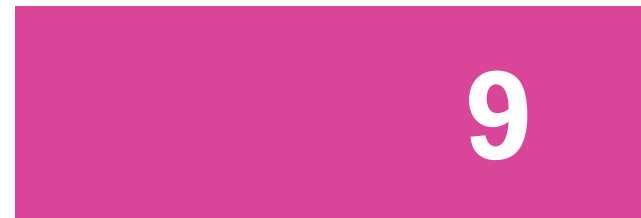
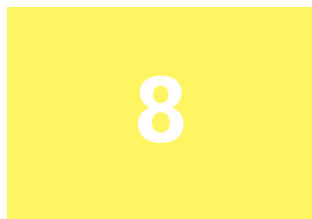
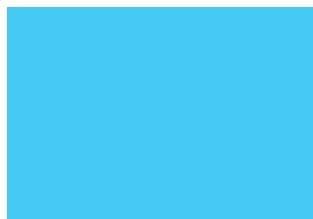
The person who votes on your behalf must vote for the person you want.

Telephone the Electoral Services on **01422 393103** if you would like an application form.

## What happens next



When voting is over, the votes are counted. The winner is the person with the most votes. The people with the most votes decide how to run the country, Europe or local area, Calderdale Council.



## Two versions of the register

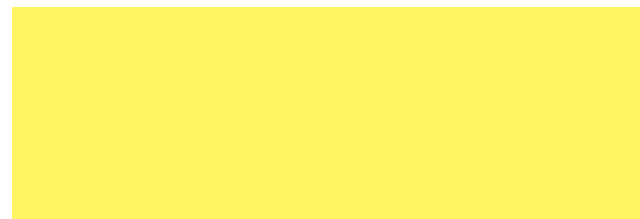


The law says that the Electoral Register can be used for 2 things. There is a full list of names and address of everyone which is used for elections and fraud and crime prevention.

Some of the names on the full list are also on what is called the open register. The open register is not used for elections but it can be bought by any person, business or organisation and used to confirm names and addresses for marketing purposes.

Your name and address will be on the open register unless you ask for them to be removed. Removing your details from the open register does not affect your right to vote.

You can find out more information about both registers and how they may be used at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



## Annual canvass of electors



Every year the council will be sending a form to your home address. If you haven't moved house you will not need to change anything. You will just need to sign and send back the form.

If other people live with you and their names are not on the form or if people who have moved out are still named on the form their names will need to be added or crossed out before the form is signed and sent back.

If the form is not returned by a certain date someone will visit on behalf of the Electoral Services Unit to try to get the form signed.

## What if I move



If you move you will need to re-register at your new address. Go online to [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or ask Electoral Services to send you a form to fill in at your new address.



## Why should I vote in the local elections?



Calderdale Council has 51 elected Councillors or Members. These represent a particular area or ward in Calderdale and help decide aims, objectives and policies for Calderdale.

The Councillors take up issues on your behalf regardless of whether you voted for them.

If you have any issues you want to discuss with local councillors they can be contacted by post, email, telephone or by attending one of their surgeries.





For further information visit  
[calderdale.gov.uk/council/democracy](http://calderdale.gov.uk/council/democracy)

