

Vote 2011 – Your Voice, Your Choice

Voters will be going to the polls in North West Leicestershire on Thursday 5th May. A total of 38 seats for the District Council and 195 seats for 25 Parish Councils are to be decided on that day.

The results of these elections will influence how services are run and decisions made within your local area.

This page gives details on how to stand for election, registering to vote and ways to vote.

How to stand for election

If you are interested in standing for election as either a District Councillor or Parish Councillor you will need to submit a Nomination Paper. Nomination packs and further guidance are available from the Democratic and Support Services Team on 01530 454503. Completed Nomination Papers must be given to the Returning Officer by no later than noon on 4th April 2011.

How to vote

There are three ways you can vote on Thursday 5th May – at a polling station, by post or by proxy.

How you vote is up to you – it may depend on the method you find easiest or most convenient.

Voting at a polling station

On Election Day, polling stations will be open from 7am – 10pm, and you can vote at any time during this period. Voting at a polling station is very straightforward and there is always a member of staff available to help if you're not sure what to do.

If you are on the Register of Electors, you

should receive a poll card towards the end of March / early April telling you where and when to vote. You may only vote at the polling station printed on your poll card.

The poll card is for your information only and you do not need to take it to the polling station in order to vote, although it is helpful if you do.

Voting by post

If you are not able to go to the polling station in person on the day, you can apply to vote by post. You can obtain a postal vote application form from the Electoral Registration Officer and you can apply for just one election, for a specific time period, or for a permanent postal vote. You should receive your ballot paper about two weeks before the election. If it doesn't arrive, you can get a replacement ballot paper in person from the Electoral Registration Office until 5pm on Election Day.

Send your completed postal vote to the Electoral Registration Office. A return envelope with their address will be included in your postal ballot pack.

It is an offence to complete a postal vote that is not your own, and to influence how others complete their postal vote. If you have any allegations of fraud, they should be referred to the police.

If you have applied to vote by post, you cannot vote in person at the polling station. However, on Election Day you can return your postal vote to the polling station before 10pm or to the Electoral Registration Office (before the poll closes) if you do not want to post it or it is too late to post it.

Voting by proxy

When voting by proxy, you nominate someone to vote on your behalf. You can apply for a proxy vote as long as you are on the Register of Electors.

Anyone can be your proxy but they must be eligible to vote in UK elections and they must be willing to vote on your behalf.

When you apply for a proxy vote you have to provide a reason, this could include:

- You are unable to go to the polling station for one particular election, for example, if you are away on holiday
- You have a physical condition that means you cannot go to the polling station on Election Day
- Your employment means that you cannot go to the polling station on Election Day
- You are a crown servant or a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces

Are you registered to vote?

If you returned your electoral registration form sent to you last autumn, you should appear on the Register of Electors.

To check you are on the register, contact the Electoral Registration Office.

If you are not on the register, or if you have moved house since last autumn and have not informed us of your change of details, contact the Electoral Registration Office as soon as possible. Don't miss your change to vote – make sure you are registered **NOW**.

The Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament.

Its mission is to foster public confidence and participation in the democratic process, by promoting integrity, involvement and effectiveness.

The Electoral Commission's responsibilities include registering and regulating political parties, reviewing electoral law and procedures, promoting public awareness of our electoral systems and advising those involved on the conduct of elections and referendums.

For more information go to:
www.electoralcommission.org.uk

KEY DATES

Monday 4th April - Noon
Close of nominations to stand as a candidate at the elections.

Thursday 14th April
Deadline for registering to vote.

Thursday 14th April – 5pm
Deadline for applying for a new postal vote for this election, or deadline for changing or cancelling an existing postal vote or proxy vote.

Thursday 21st April – 5pm
Deadline for applying for a new proxy vote for this election

Thursday 5th May
Election Day. Polling stations will be open from 7am -10 pm. In case of medical emergency, you can also apply for a new proxy vote up to 5pm on polling day.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the District Council and Parish Council elections on Thursday 5th May, contact the Electoral Registration Officer at North West Leicestershire District Council.

☎ 01530 454512 or
01530 454503

✉ electreg@nw.leicestershire.gov.uk

✉ Electoral Registration Officer, North West Leicestershire District Council, Council Offices, Whitwick Road, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE67 3FJ

🌐 www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/electoral_registration

BALLOT BOX