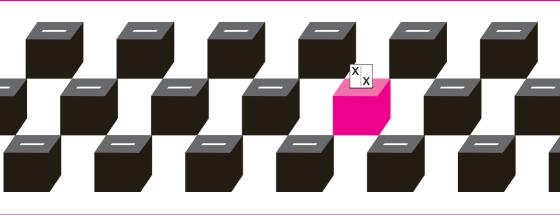
POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS



The Electoral Commission

About this booklet

On Thursday 15 November 2012, new elections are taking place. On that day you will be asked to vote for a Police and Crime Commissioner to oversee your local police force. This booklet explains more about the elections and how to fill in your ballot paper.

About Police and Crime Commissioners

On Thursday 15 November people across England and Wales (excluding London) will be asked to choose a Police and Crime Commissioner for their local police force. The Police and Crime Commissioner will be responsible for holding the Chief Constable and police force to account on the public's behalf. The Police and Crime Commissioner will oversee how crime is tackled in their area and aim to make sure the police are providing a good service.

The Police and Crime Commissioner role includes:

- meeting the public regularly to listen to their views on policing
- producing a police and crime plan setting out local policing priorities
- deciding how the budget will be spent
- appointing Chief Constables and dismissing them if needed.

About the elections

The elections will happen in 41 police force areas in England and Wales. Each area will have one Police and Crime Commissioner. The Police and Crime Commissioners elected in November will serve for three-and-a-half years. The next elections will take place in May 2016.

? Who is standing for election?

To find out who is standing for election in your area and see information from candidates, visit www.choosemypcc.org.uk. Or you can call 0800 1 07 07 08 to order printed information about your candidates.

Can I vote?

You can vote in this election if you are registered to vote in England or Wales, are 18 or over on 15 November 2012 and are:

- a British citizen
- a qualifying Commonwealth citizen*
- a European Union citizen.

British citizens living and registered to vote overseas can't vote in these elections (unless they are crown servants or service voters).

You must be registered to vote by Wednesday 31 October 2012. For more about registration, see page 7.

^{*}Qualifying Commonwealth citizens are people who have leave (permission) to enter or remain in the UK, do not need to have such leave, or are treated as having such leave. Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk for a full list of qualifying countries.

How do I fill in the ballot paper?

For this election you can vote for a first and second choice of who you want to win.

The ballot paper will list all the candidates standing in your area. Next to the list of candidates there will be two columns.

You will be asked to:

- vote for your first-choice candidate by marking a cross
 (X) in the first-choice column, and
- vote for your second-choice candidate by marking a cross
 (X) in the second-choice column.

As long as you mark one cross in the first-choice column, your vote can be counted.

You should not mark more than one cross in the first-choice column and you should not mark more than one cross in the second-choice column.

If you have marked a first choice, you can choose whether or not to mark a second choice. But if you only mark a cross in the second-choice column, your vote won't be counted.

You should not put any other mark on the ballot paper or your vote may not be counted.

The ballot paper will look similar to the one below.

Vote once 🗷 in column 1 for y		
	Column 1 first secon choice	d
Candidate A		
Candidate B		
Candidate C		
Candidate D		

If only two candidates stand in your area, the ballot paper will only have one column and you will be asked to mark only one cross.

You can find out more about the voting system and how your vote is counted at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call 0800 3 280 280.

Ways of voting

There are three ways you can vote:



🚺 In person on Thursday 15 November

Most people vote in person at their polling station. It's straightforward but if you're not sure what to do, a member of staff will always be there to help.

You should receive a poll card telling you where your polling station is. If it doesn't come, you can ask your local council where the polling station is. You don't need your poll card to vote, so don't worry if you lose or forget it.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm. Make sure you arrive in plenty of time. If you have not been issued with a ballot paper by 10pm you won't be able to vote.



By post

To apply to vote by post, you'll need to send an application form to your local council's elections office to arrive by 5pm Wednesday 31 October. You can get an application form and more details at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Or you can contact your local council's elections office.

If you're registered to vote by post, you should receive your ballot paper about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive, you can get a replacement from your local council until 5pm on Thursday 15 November.



If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf.

You'll need to send an application form to your local council's elections office to arrive by 5pm Wednesday 7 November. When you apply for a proxy vote you have to state why you can't vote in person.

If you have a medical emergency in the six days before polling day and this means you can't go to the polling station, you can apply to vote by emergency proxy.

You can get an application form and more details at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Or you can contact your local council's elections office.

Am I registered to vote?

Most people register to vote using the form they receive by post from their local elections office each year. If you haven't completed one of these forms, you may not be on the electoral register. You must be registered to vote by Wednesday 31 October 2012.

If you want to check whether you're registered, ask your local council's elections office. Their contact details are at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

How to find out more
If you have any questions, please visit
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call our
helpline on 0800 3 280 280.

You can download further copies of this booklet from **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk**.

This booklet is available in alternative formats. Please call 0800 3 280 280 for more information.

This booklet has been produced by the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. We regulate party and election finance and set standards for well run elections.

