

# Voting by post or proxy



If you are unable to go in person to vote, you can apply to vote by post or proxy. This leaflet explains what that means and how you can get a postal or proxy vote



# Who can vote by post or proxy?

If you are registered to vote and intend to vote at an election but you are unable to go to the polling station you have been allocated on election day, you can apply for a postal or proxy vote.

There are different types of postal and proxy votes. You can apply to vote by post or proxy at all future elections, for a certain period of time or just for a particular election.

# How do I apply to vote by post or proxy?

1. Obtain an application form by contacting us (see back of leaflet) or download a form from our website: [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk).

2. Complete the application form. You must give a reason for being physically unable to attend the polling station – for example because you will be on holiday or because you have a disability. Some application forms require another person to confirm the details you have given. You will also be asked to decide whether you want to vote by post or appoint someone else (known as a 'proxy') to vote on your behalf.
3. Return the application form to the Area Electoral Office. If an election is scheduled, the form must be returned no later than 14 working days before the date of the election.

## What happens next?

If your application is accepted and you have chosen to:

**Vote by post** - a ballot paper will be sent to you approximately 10 days before the date of an election. Mark the ballot paper and return it to the Area Office before 10.00pm on the day of the election.

**Vote by proxy** - you must nominate another person to go to your polling station on election day and vote on your behalf. The person you choose must agree to do this and they must not have agreed to act as a proxy for more than two people unless they are related to them. A poll card will be sent to your proxy telling them which polling station to go to.

## Contacting the Electoral Office

**Electoral Office Headquarters:**

**Electoral Office for NI**  
St Anne's House  
15 Church Street  
Belfast BT1 1ER

**Area Offices:**

**Belfast Area Office**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, St Anne's House  
15 Church Street  
Belfast BT1 1ER

**Ballymena Area Office**  
122 Broughshane Street  
Ballymena BT43 6EE

**Banbridge Area Office**  
52 Bridge Street  
Banbridge BT32 3JU

**Derry/Londonderry Area Office**  
20(A) Queen Street  
Derry/Londonderry BT48 7EQ

**Newtownabbey Area Office**  
1-3 Portland Avenue  
Newtownabbey BT36 5EY

**Newtownards Area Office**  
2(B) Regent Street  
Newtownards BT23 4LH

**Omagh Area Office**  
21 Kevlin Avenue  
Omagh BT78 1ER

**Freephone:** 0800 4320 712  
**Telephone:** 028 9044 6688  
**Fax:** 028 9033 0661  
**Textphone:** 0800 3284 502  
**Email:** [info@eoni.org.uk](mailto:info@eoni.org.uk)  
**Website:** [www.eoni.org.uk](http://www.eoni.org.uk)  
(Browsealoud enabled)

A Language Line service is available if you would prefer to communicate with us in a language other than English.

This leaflet is available in Braille, large print and audio formats upon request. Please contact the Information Officer on 0800 4320 712 or via email to [info@eoni.org.uk](mailto:info@eoni.org.uk).