

# Elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005

## Postal Voting

### KEEP YOUR VOTE SAFE AND SECRET

If you have a postal vote for the elections on 5<sup>th</sup> May, you can help make sure it is kept safe by following some simple rules:

#### **When you get your postal voting papers:**

- Put them somewhere safe
- Don't let anyone else handle them\*
- Make sure they are not left where someone else can pick them up

#### **When you want to mark your papers:**

- Complete your ballot papers in secret, on your own
- Don't let anyone else vote for you
- Don't let anyone else see your votes
- Don't give your ballot papers to anyone else
- Put the ballot papers in the envelope and seal it up yourself
- Complete your declaration of identity in front of a witness
- Make sure you get the witness to sign and complete their details on your declaration of identity

#### **When you return your postal votes:**

- Where possible, take the envelope to the post box yourself\*
- Don't hand it to a candidate or party worker unless no other way is practical
- Don't leave it where someone else can pick it up

#### **Remember that this is your vote – so keep it to yourself.**

If anyone tries to help you against your will, or force you to give them your postal ballot papers, you should contact the police. If you haven't yet received your postal voting papers, contact the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland advice line on 028 9044 6688. Further information about how to vote by post is available on the [www.electorlofficeni.gov.uk](http://www.electorlofficeni.gov.uk) website.

#### **Remember to send your postal vote back in good time – don't leave it until the last minute.**

\* If for some reason you need help with this (for instance if you are disabled), make sure that only someone you know and trust helps you.

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland

