

# The importance of voting

**Learning disability issues are regularly discussed by members of the main political parties.**

In the last six years, learning disability has been mentioned in debates or official letters from MPs over 1,200 times. **That is over three times a week.**<sup>1</sup>

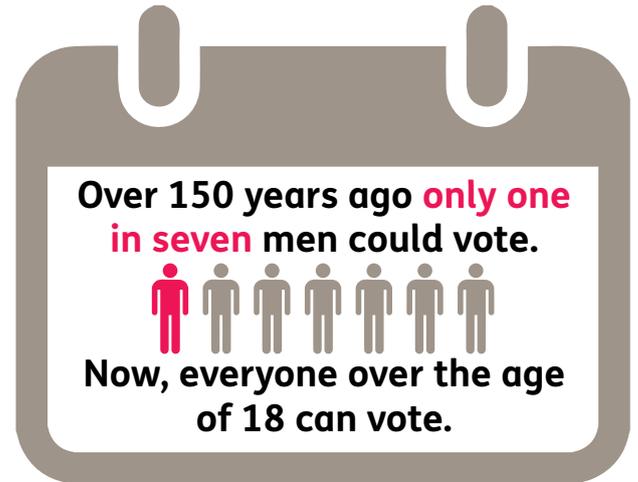
**Over 150 MPs** supported our last campaign to encourage people with a learning disability to vote.

**1995**

The **Disability Discrimination Act** of 1995 made it illegal to discriminate in respect to employment, services, education and transport based on someone's disability.

**2010**

In 2010, the Act was brought into the **Equality Act**, making it illegal to discriminate based on someone's age, gender, partnership, belief, sexual orientation or disability.

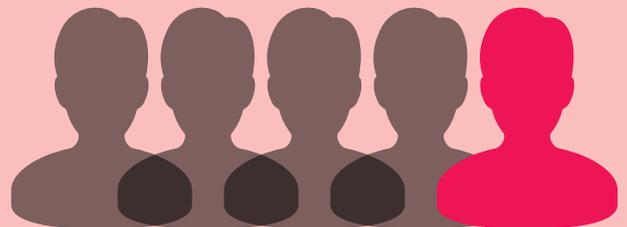


**Over half** the UK voted during the last General Election.

The last General Election was also the first time that **three of the main parties** produced easy read manifestos.



In 2005, **fewer than 1 in 5** people with a learning disability voted in the General Election.<sup>2</sup>



In 2010, **almost 1 in 3** people with a learning disability voted.<sup>3</sup>



1. An approximate figure from TheyWorkForYou.com from a basic search of learning disabilities. This is undoubtedly a conservative estimate.

2. <http://www.mencap.org.uk/campaigns/take-action/get-my-vote>

3. <http://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/local-news/learning-disability-charity-run-voting-6988132>



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