

Councillor

These are **politicians** who make decisions about what happens where you live in your local area. For example, they will decide how recycling works in your local area.

Election

This is when anyone who is registered to vote and is 18 years old or older gets to **vote**. Elections decide who should speak for us and make choices for us. There are **General Elections, local elections and European Parliament elections**.

Electoral Register

The electoral register is the list of everyone that is allowed to **vote** in **elections**. You need to be on the electoral register to be able to vote.

Government

The **Government** is usually the **political party** that gets the most amount of **MPs** at the **General Election**. Sometimes political parties form a Coalition Government. This is when political parties work together to form a Government.

Local council

The council is the name for a group of local politicians called **councillors**. Your local councillors make decisions about what happens where you live. There is also a council building that people sometimes just call the council.

Local election

A **local election** decides who your **local council** will be and which **political parties** make up your local council.

Member of Parliament

Members of Parliament (**MPs**) are **politicians** who are elected to represent your area at the Houses of Parliament. They help make decisions that affect the whole country.

Parliament

Parliament is the name for all the **MPs** in the country. **Parliament** meets at the Palace of Westminster next to Big Ben.

Political Parties

A **political party** is a group of people who think the country should be run in a certain way.

Politicians are usually in political parties. There are also candidates that are independent from political parties.

Politician

Politicians are **elected** by people **voting** for them. They make important decisions that can impact on most people's life. Different politicians have different ideas about the best ways to run the country.

Polling station

A **polling station** is a place where you go to **vote**. Polling stations are often at churches, community centres and schools however they can be in all sorts of places. You will be told where your nearest polling station is on your polling card.

Referendum

This is when people vote yes or no on an important decision. You don't elect a politician.

UK Parliamentary General election

A **General Election** decides which **political party or parties** will govern the country. The political party that has the most **MPs** elected usually wins the election. They will usually become the **government**.

Voting

Voting means that you and other people choose who represents you on a **council** or in **parliament**. In politics, voting happens during an **election**. Voting is very important. It is one of the best ways to get your voice heard by some of the most important people in the country.