



# What Is Voting?

This section explains what voting is and how it works

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This section will explain what voting is and why it's important.

You will find out about:

1. What is voting
2. Who can vote
3. What we are voting for

When a group of people vote, it is called an election. There are different elections in the UK that we can vote in.



People with a learning disability have as much right to vote as anyone else.

We vote for someone to represent us and make decisions for us. They make important decisions that can affect people's lives.

Contact information  
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telephone: **0207 696 6009**

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For example, the government makes important decisions that can change:

- education services
- how people with a learning disability get support
- how people with a learning disability get healthcare

## Who can vote?

To vote in the elections you must be:



- 16 years old or over
- a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of the European Union
- a resident in the UK

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## What we are voting for

We have local elections coming up on the 5 May 2022. Local councils make decisions about lots of issues:

- how often your rubbish is collected
- improving the roads in your area
- making local sports facilities better



You might also hear local councils called local government or local authorities. The people who represent you in local councils are called councillors.

Different councillors will have different ideas about the best way to run local services.



To find out which elections are happening in your area, put your postcode in to the Electoral Commission website searcher and it will tell you about elections taking place.

Visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)

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Read 'booklet 7: voting for a mayor' if there is an election for a mayor where you live on 5 May.

Need help? You can find out more about voting on the Mencap website: [www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/guides-voting](http://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning/guides-voting)

If you have any questions you can call the Mencap election hotline on 0207 696 6009.

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The  
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