

# Media Release: Majority of postal voters need to reapply under new national rules

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## Majority of postal voters need to reapply under new national rules

On Thursday, 13 November, Swindon Borough Council's Electoral Services team will begin contacting postal voters who applied for their postal vote before 30 January 2024, informing them that their current postal vote will expire on 31 January 2026.

This follows changes introduced by the Elections Act 2022. Under the new legislation, all postal vote applications now last for a maximum of three years. This means:

- voters who applied before 30 January 2024 must reapply by 31 January 2026 to keep their postal vote active
- voters who applied on or after 30 January 2024 do not need to take any action

Electoral Services will contact voters either by email or letter, depending on the contact details held.

Postal voters who do not reapply by the deadline will have their postal vote cancelled. They will still be able to vote in person at their polling station (with photo ID) or apply for a new postal vote before 5pm, 11 working days before an election.

The quickest and easiest way to reapply is online via the GOV.UK website at: [www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote](https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote).

If they are unable to apply online, voters can request a paper form by sending an e-mail to [elecrag@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:elecrag@swindon.gov.uk) or calling 01793 464 601.

Sam Mowbray, Electoral Registration Officer at Swindon Borough Council, said:

“Many residents rely on postal voting as a convenient way to take part in elections, so it's important they understand this national change and what it means for them.

“Only those who applied for a postal vote before January 2024 need to reapply, and we'll be contacting them directly with instructions. Anyone who is not contacted does not need to reapply.

“Reapplying is quick and easy online via the GOV.UK website and our Electoral Services team is ready to help anyone who needs support or prefers to complete a paper form.”

For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit the [Swindon Borough Council website](#).

ENDS

### Notes to Editors:

E-mails to voters will come from [swindon.elections@notifications.service.gov.uk](mailto:swindon.elections@notifications.service.gov.uk) with the subject line: 'Action Required to Continue to Vote by Post'.

To help residents identify genuine emails, voters are advised to check their junk mail and add the above address to their safe senders list.

Media Contact: Samuel Boyle-Bowles, [SBoyleBowles@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SBoyleBowles@swindon.gov.uk)

Images: General image of a post box



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