

Electoral Changes 2022

There are changes coming to the way we deliver elections in the New Forest. This leaflet will help you understand what is changing and how it might affect you in the future.



Ward Boundaries

What's happening?

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has concluded an electoral review of the District Council's wards. A ward is the area that you vote in.

You can read their report here lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews

What does that mean?

New Forest District Council will have 48 councillors, instead of 60 and there will be 8 fewer wards.

All of the district ward boundaries will change. Some internal Town and Parish ward boundaries will also change to accommodate the District changes.

Why now?

Our communities have changed significantly since we last held a review around 20 years ago. We want to make sure everyone has equal access to their local councillor.

How will this affect me?

The changes won't affect the external boundaries of the district, your postcode, taxes, house prices, or car or home insurance premiums. The ward you vote in may change.

When do these changes come in to effect?

We have to make these changes for our scheduled May 2023 elections.

What happens if there is an election before then?

If there are any unscheduled elections before May 2023 nothing will have changed.



2023 Elections

When is the next election in the New Forest?

The district and parish elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 4 May 2023.

All seats on the district, town and parish councils will be up for re-election.

Will my polling station still be the same as usual?

We are reviewing our polling stations because of the ward boundary changes. This may mean yours has changed.

Your poll card will have your new polling station marked on it.

You must check this carefully; you can only vote at this polling station.

When will I receive my poll card?

You will receive your poll card in good time before polling day.

It will look different. We are changing to paper poll cards which will arrive in an envelope addressed to you.

Where can I find more information?

Our website is the best place to find everything you need to know.

SCAN HERE



newforest.gov.uk/elections

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The Elections Act 2022

The government has passed a new law affecting the delivery of elections in England from May 2023.



What is changing?

We are waiting for guidance from the government but it will mean there will be some changes to the way we do things.

Is this just a local change?

No, this law will affect the whole of England.

You may read about it in the national press.

Do I need to bring ID to the polling station?

In the future it is likely you will need a photo ID.

Most people will already have a suitable ID, like a photo driving licence, passport, or a blue parking badge.

A list of acceptable forms of ID will be written on your poll card.

What if I don't have an ID?

If you don't have a suitable

form of photo ID, we will be able to issue you with a free voter identification card.

You don't need to contact us yet.

I have a disability; will this new law affect me?

The new law will represent a positive change for voters with access needs.

We will review our polling stations to ensure we are providing the right support for voters with a disability.

Can I still vote by post?

Yes, you still can, the only change will be that you will need to reapply every three years.

We will send you a reminder when you need to reapply.

Can I still nominate a proxy to cast my vote for me?

Yes, you will still be able to nominate someone to

cast your vote for you.

What do I need to do now? Nothing, you don't need to do anything yet.

How will I know what I need to do?

When we have more information and instructions, it will be posted on our website.

SCAN HERE
to visit our website



newforest.gov.uk/elections

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