

Frequently Asked Questions:

City of Lincoln Council
Elections – 7 May 2026

Electoral Registration

Issue/question	Answer
Am I registered to vote?	<p>The Council's Customer Services team can check for you on (01522) 873255.</p> <p>Alternatively, please email electoral@lincoln.gov.uk</p>
How do I register to vote?	<p>You can apply to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote The deadline for registration applications is midnight, 20 April 2026.</p> <p>You can register to vote if you are age 16 or over, however you cannot vote until you reach the age of 18.</p> <p>Details on who is eligible to register to vote can be viewed at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote .</p>
Am I eligible to vote?	<p>You can only vote if you are registered. You can vote at this election if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you are 18 or over by the day of the election (polling day) - you are registered at an address in the area you want to vote in - you are not legally excluded from voting <p>If you live in England or Northern Ireland</p> <p>You can vote if you are a British or Irish citizen.</p> <p>You can also vote if you have permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man - or you do not need permission - and you're a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth citizen (including Cyprus and Malta) • citizen of Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain • citizen of another EU country, if you have had permission to enter or stay - or not needed permission - since 31 December 2020, and this has continued without a break <p>For further details regarding registration, or to check if you are eligible to vote, you can visit the gov.uk website via: https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk</p>
If I pay Council Tax, am I automatically registered?	<p>No. Electoral registration is a separate process performed by your local Electoral Registration Officer. The law does not allow names to be automatically added to the electoral register from Council Tax records.</p>

<p>I'm a student and I'm not sure where I should register to vote.</p>	<p>Students may be entitled to register at both their home address and their college/university (term time) address.</p> <p>Where you are registered in two different local authorities, you can vote in both sets of local elections if the elections are for different councils.</p> <p>It is an offence to vote more than once in a national election, such as a UK Parliamentary General Election or UK referendum.</p>
<p>Do I need to take photo ID to enable me to vote?</p>	<p>Yes, photo ID is now required to vote in person or by proxy at the polling station. Out of date photographic ID can be used at the polling station if the picture is still of likeness.</p> <p>The following webpage provides you with a list of acceptable forms of photographic ID (https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/voting-elections/voter-id-requirements).</p> <p>If you do not have an acceptable form of photographic ID from the list mentioned above, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate via https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate .</p> <p>Your application for a Voter Authority Certificate must be received by 5pm on 28 April 2026.</p>

Postal and Proxy Voting

Issue/question	Answer
<p>Who can apply for a postal vote?</p>	<p>Anyone who is registered to vote. You can apply for a postal vote via www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote You can download postal forms from: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post or submit a request via the Council's Customer Services team on (01522) 873255 or email electoral@lincoln.gov.uk .</p>
<p>What is the deadline for applying for a postal vote for the forthcoming elections?</p>	<p>Your application to vote by post must be received by 5pm on 21 April 2026.</p>

<p>What if I have missed the postal vote deadline?</p>	<p>You may be able to apply for a proxy vote up until 5pm on 28 April 2026 if you can't attend the polling station. You can apply only for certain categories of proxy vote via www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote</p> <p>You can download proxy forms from https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-proxy or submit a request via the Council's Customer Services team on (01522) 873255 or email electoral@lincoln.gov.uk .</p>
<p>Who can apply for a proxy vote?</p>	<p>Anyone who is registered to vote can apply to vote by proxy. Your chosen proxy (i.e. the person voting on your behalf) must also be registered to vote in this country and eligible to vote in this election.</p>
<p>What if I have missed the deadline for proxy vote?</p>	<p>In certain circumstances, where you have an emergency that means you cannot vote in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy.</p> <p>This must be something that you were not aware of before the normal proxy vote deadline (5pm on 28 April 2026). The deadline for emergency proxy applications is 5pm on 7 May 2026.</p> <p>Applications for emergency proxy can be made for: emergency work matters and emergency medical reasons. This form will need to be attested by the appropriate person, outlined in the application.</p> <p>Applications for emergency proxy can also be made if: the form of accepted photographic identification that you were intending to use to vote has been lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed, or has not yet been received if applied for recently.</p> <p>You can download emergency proxy forms from: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/emergency-proxy-vote or submit a request via the Council's Customer Services team on (01522) 873255 or email electoral@lincoln.gov.uk.</p>
<p>Can I hand deliver my postal vote to City Hall or a polling station in the city?</p>	<p>Ideally you need to be returning your postal vote via Royal Mail. However, if this is not possible you can hand deliver your postal vote to any polling station in the city or to City Hall main reception. However, any postal vote returned by hand delivery must be accompanied by a completed postal vote return form. These forms are available at City Hall main reception or at any polling station in the city. Any postal vote returned without a completed postal vote return form will be rejected and not counted.</p>

	<p>Please do not return your postal vote via the post box at City Hall or it will be rejected and not counted.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/how-vote-post</p>
<p>Can I hand deliver someone else's postal vote?</p>	<p>You will only be able to hand in your own postal vote, and the postal votes of up to five other people, at a polling station in the city or City Hall, main reception. However, these must be accompanied by a completed postal vote return form, which can be obtained from City Hall main reception or any polling station in the city.</p> <p>Any postal votes hand delivered without completed postal vote return forms will be rejected and not counted.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/how-vote-post</p>
<p>Can a political campaigner return my postal vote for me?</p>	<p>Campaigners can only hand in their own postal vote, and postal votes for up to five other people that are either close relatives, or someone they provide regular care for.</p> <p>Unless you are considered a close family member or the campaigner is someone who cares for you, then no, you must return your own postal vote.</p> <p>All postal votes must be accompanied by a completed postal vote return form, which can be obtained from City Hall main reception or from any polling station in the city.</p> <p>Any postal votes hand delivered without completed postal vote return forms will be rejected and not counted.</p> <p>Further information can be found at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/how-vote-post</p>

How/Where to vote

Issue/question	Answer
Date of elections	7 May 2026 (polling hours: 7am to 10pm).
How do I find out where my polling station is?	<p>Your poll card details the location of your polling station. You can also use the following link and insert your postcode, which will confirm where your polling station is: https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/v/find-polling-station</p> <p>Alternatively, please contact the Council's Customer Services team on (01522) 873255 or email electoral@lincoln.gov.uk .</p>
What methods of voting are there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In person at the polling station - By post - By proxy
How do I fill in the ballot paper?	<p>Information will be provided by staff at the polling station or, if you opted to vote by post, instructions will be in your postal pack.</p> <p>There will be instructions on the top of the ballot paper which you should read.</p>
Does my polling station meet my accessibility requirements?	<p>To find out if your polling station meets your accessibility requirements, please complete the form on the following webpage https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/voting-elections/voter-id-requirements.</p>

Details of Candidates

Who is standing in the elections?	<p>The Statement of Persons Nominated will be available to view at the Council offices by 4pm on 10 April 2026. It will also be published on the City Council's website: https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/voting-elections</p>
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