

## **May 2021 elections Frequently Asked Questions**

### **When is the election? What elections are taking place?**

On Thursday 6 May 2021, residents in Milton Keynes will be voting for a Police and Crime Commissioner and Borough Councillors. In some areas there will also be Parish Elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendum(s). These elections will be held in May 2021 after being postponed in May 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

### **How can I vote at the May 2021 elections?**

There are a number of ways to have your say in May - you can vote by post, in a polling station, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, known as a proxy vote.

### **How are you making polling stations safe?**

We are putting arrangements in place to help ensure polling stations are safe places to vote. You can expect many of the measures you've become used to over recent months in shops and banks, such as hand sanitiser and face coverings. However, if you prefer you can choose to apply to vote by post or by proxy instead.

### **Will I need to bring my own pen or pencil?**

You are always welcome to use your own pen or pencil. We are working with the UK's governments, members of the electoral community and public health authorities to help ensure polling stations are safe places to vote at the May 2021 elections.

### **How can I apply to vote by post or proxy?**

To vote in the elections, either by post or at a polling station - you must be registered to vote. If you're thinking about voting by **post**, please apply now. This will make sure your application is processed early, and your postal vote can be sent to you in good time. Apply using the enclosed forms which can be sent back to us by freepost, or by e-mailing a scanned or clearly photographed copy of the completed form to [postal.votes@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:postal.votes@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

If you want to appoint a **proxy** to vote on your behalf, they'll also need to be registered to vote and will need to go to your designated polling station or apply for a postal vote in their own right. It's a good idea to apply now so that everything can be checked in good time. You can download and application form from our website at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections).

### **Is voting by post safe?**

Yes - You will be asked to give your date of birth and signature when applying for a postal vote. This makes postal voting safe, because when you return your postal vote, your signature and date of birth are checked against those you provided.

When voting by post, you should mark your vote on the ballot paper in secret and seal the envelope yourself.

### **What should I do if I find out closer to the time that I need to self-isolate, or my area goes into a local lockdown?**

We want to make sure that everyone who is entitled to vote is able to do so, regardless of the pandemic. We will be providing more information nearer the time on how you can vote if you need to self-isolate, or live in an area under local lockdown.

**How do I register to vote?**

To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. If you're not already registered, it takes 5 minutes to register and you can do this online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**How do I get more information?**

You can visit our website at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/elections). If you need more help, please call 01908 254 706.