

Legislation Timeline of Key Changes 1983 - 2021

Contents	Pages
Background	1
Representation of the People Act 1983	1
Legislation Timeline of Key Changes – 1983 – 2021	5
Appendix One – Summary Timeline of Key Changes to Electoral Legislation in the UK Since 1983	60

1 Background

- 1.1 The introduction of the [Elections Bill](#) to Parliament on 5 July 2021 and the ongoing debates linked to the [Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Bill](#) designed to repeal the 2011 Fixed-term Parliaments Act have again drawn attention to the volume of change to the running of elections and electoral registration in the past four decades.
- 1.2 Following calls from some Members of Parliament (MPs) to revert back to a 17 working day¹ timetable for UK Parliamentary elections (from the current 25 working days), we are keen to demonstrate that while a 17 day working timetable was always a challenge, it is now logistically impossible due to the complexity and change introduced to both elections and electoral registration since 1983, when the current Representation of the People Act came into force.

2 Representation of the People Act 1983

- 2.1 The [Representation of the People Act 1983](#) largely forms the bedrock on which most elections continue to be run. It also sets out the general principles of electoral registration.
- 2.2 To look at the scope and impact of legislative change over the past 38 years, it would seem appropriate to firstly outline some of the key aspects of what is effectively the starting point for the running of elections and electoral registration today, i.e. the Act as it was originally enacted.

¹ 'Working days' is as defined in terms of rule 2 of the Parliamentary Elections Rules, i.e. a Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday, bank holidays and days appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning are to be disregarded

2.3 In terms of electoral registration, it provided a system that:

- entitled anyone who was 18 or over and either a UK or Commonwealth citizen or citizen of the Republic of Ireland to vote at UK Parliamentary and local government elections provided they were resident on the qualifying date and not subject to any legal incapacity to vote;
- disenfranchised any category of prisoner from registering to vote;
- established a qualifying date to register each year of 10 October;
- provided for the registration of voluntary mental patients by means of declaration;
- required the ERO to publish the register of parliamentary electors and local government electors once each year (by no later than 15 February);
- only permitted the register to be changed following publication due to a clerical error that needed to be corrected;
- corrections made to the register on or after the Notice of Election was published would not have effect for that election;
- service declarations would remain in force until they were cancelled.

2.4 In terms of elections, the Act provided:

- for postal and proxy voting limited to specific groups of people, although no provision was included to vote by post for parish and community elections;
- postal vote applications were valid for one election only unless they were on the grounds of employment, physical incapacity or the need to travel by sea or air to cast a ballot (where they were for an indefinite period);
- postal proxy applications could only be made by those entitled to have an absent vote or where the proxy lived outside the area of the electors qualifying address;

The Association of Electoral Administrators



- no requirement for a registered description – the only requirement being that descriptions should not exceed six words;
- the requirement for a £150 deposit to stand as a candidate at a UK Parliamentary election;
- the requirement for the official mark to perforate the ballot paper;
- that a postal vote consisted of a ballot paper, declaration of identity and envelope for their return;
- no requirement to check the declaration of identity against the application for a postal vote;
- only provided for the companions of blind voters to attend a polling station to assist an elector.

2.5 Many of the identified points in paragraph 2.3 and 2.4 have evolved significantly since 1983. The changes that have been introduced have added complexity and demands far greater resource, expertise and time than the system in 1983 could ever have envisaged.

2.6 A summary of the key changes over the past 38 years are highlighted in the next section.

2.7 We have identified well in excess of 100 different pieces of legislation that have added to, deleted from and changed the processes originally introduced by the Representation of the People Act 1983. Some are minor technical amendments but many have significantly changed the electoral landscape including:

- The extension of the parliamentary franchise to overseas electors in 1985.
- The introduction of rolling registration in 2000.
- The introduction of postal voting on demand in 2000.
- Establishment of the Electoral Commission in 2000.
- Introduction of the edited register in 2000.
- Introduction of personal identifiers for absent votes in 2006 and enhanced checking processes.

The Association of Electoral Administrators



- Extension of the deadline to register to vote ahead of elections in 2006.
- Introduction on Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in 2013.

2.8 In 1983, in the days when registration was only possible once a year through completion of a household form, when postal voting was limited to a very small group of electors, when all processes were much simpler, running a UK Parliamentary general election on a 17-day timetable was challenging but possible. As a direct result of the changes made to the core legislation since, and with much more planned, it is now logistically impossible to do so.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

3 Legislation Timeline of Key Changes – 1983 – 2021

Legislation	Summary of Key Changes
The Representation of the People Regulations 1983 The Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides for the attestation and transmission of a patient's declaration (voluntary mental patients at mental hospitals)• Alters the time by which absent voting applications must be received as noon on the eleventh day before the day of poll at the election.
Representation of the People Act 1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extension of the parliamentary franchise to overseas electors who were previously resident in a constituency five years prior to the qualifying date;• Indefinite postal votes for certain categories of people;• Increases candidate deposits for UK Parliamentary elections to £500 and requirement to retain deposit changes to one-twentieth of total votes cast;• Permits the combination of UK Parliamentary and principal area elections taking place on the same day;• Parish and Community council elections postponed for three weeks where they fall on the same day as a UK Parliamentary election;• Co-option of parish and community councillors (or power for principal area authority to appoint by order) following an ordinary parish or community election where there are insufficient nominations for all seats



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>The Representation of the People Regulations 1986</p> <p>The Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 1986</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures to be followed in respect of declaration electors • Procedures to be followed in respect of the registration of electors • Alteration of registers and procedures for dealing with claims and objections • Layout of the registers • Supply of the registers • Processes to follow in respect of absent voting applications • The issuing and receipt procedures for postal ballot papers • Combination of poll provisions
<p>Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single MP for each county or borough constituency; • Prevention of a county or part of a county forming a constituency which includes the whole of part of another county
<p>Parish and Community Meetings (Polls) Rules 1987</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the conduct of a poll consequent on a parish or community meeting.
<p>Representation of the People Act 1989</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of the time an overseas elector last needed to be registered in the UK from 5 to 20 years; • Provision for those not previously registered in the UK due to age to register as an overseas electors provided their parent or guardian were previously registered;



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for ERO to remind overseas electors of their need to make a fresh declaration to remain registered
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 1990 Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaces the provision requiring overseas electors declaration requiring an attestation by an overseas attesting officer with the requirement for the attestation to be provided by a British citizen living overseas. Requires the ERO to send reminders to persons registered in pursuance of overseas electors' declarations of the need to make a fresh declaration in order to be registered in the next register of electors. Abolishes the general requirement that applications for a postal or proxy vote for a particular parliamentary or local government election must be attested. However, the requirement for attestation is retained in respect of one of the two categories of persons for whom a later deadline for the receipt of such applications by the registration officer is set (where it relates to a persons health).
Representation of the People Act 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RO can recover charges in respect of services properly rendered or expenses properly incurred in connection with a parliamentary election Introduces a maximum recoverable amount for services or expenses of any specified description to the order made by the treasury proceeding an election
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the right to have an absent vote at both UK Parliamentary and local government elections for an indefinite period where the person is no longer resident at their qualifying address or any other address in the same area.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

The Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1991	
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 1992 The Representation of the People (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribes the requirements for applications for an absent vote for an indefinite period at parliamentary and local government elections on the ground that the applicant cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to his allotted polling station or to vote unaided there because of blindness or other physical incapacity. It provides that the no attestation is required where the relevant local authority registration number is given in the application or the applicant is in receipt of a mobility allowance under section 37A of the Social Security Act 1975 and the reference number of such an allowance is given in the application.
Representation of the People Act 1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents a member of the regular army whose terms of service are such that, except for the purpose of training he is required to serve only in Northern Ireland from registering as a service voter.
The Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 1997 The Representation of the People (Scotland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for any registered nurse to attest such an application. • Where an application for an absent vote for an indefinite period is attested by a registered medical practitioner they are required to state that they are treating the applicant for the physical incapacity specified in the application or that the applicant is receiving care from them in respect of that incapacity.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Amendment Regulations 1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extends the deadline for absent vote applications for a particular election from noon on thirteenth working day before the poll to 5pm on the eleventh working day before the poll.• In the case of applications for an absent vote at a particular election because of unforeseen circumstances relating to the applicant's health the deadline is extended from noon on the sixth working day before the day of the poll to 5 pm on that sixth day.
Scotland Act 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of the Scottish Parliament, elections for Scottish Parliament including timing, allocation of seats, vacancies, franchise, duration of membership and disqualifications.• Provides for elections to the Scottish Parliament on the first Thursday in May in the fourth calendar year following the previous election whereby candidates can stand as constituency or regional members.• Stipulates the D'Hondt calculation for allocating regional seats.• Provides for those electors entitled to vote at local government elections to also vote at Scottish Parliamentary elections.
Government of Wales Act 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of the National Assembly for Wales (NAW), elections for the NAW including timing, allocation of seats, vacancies, franchise and disqualification.• Provides for elections to the NAW on the first Thursday in May in the fourth calendar year following the previous election whereby candidates can stand as constituency or regional members.• Stipulates the D'Hondt calculation for allocating regional seats.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for those electors entitled to vote at local government elections to also vote at NAW elections.
The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) Order 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the Assembly franchise and its exercise. Provides for the election campaigns at NAW elections Provides for the legal proceedings, in particular election petitions for NAW elections. Provides the rules for NAW elections, as well as provisions related to the electors list and registers, absent voting, issue and receipt of postal ballot papers and combined polls. Provided for the withdrawal of candidates up until noon on seventeenth day before the election and the publication of the statement of persons nominated by noon on sixteenth day before the election. Provided for nominations that only required to be subscribed by one person (of which the candidate could subscribe their own nomination if eligible). Provided for a £500 deposit for constituency candidates, individual regional candidates and party lists.
Greater London Authority Act 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the Greater London Authority (GLA) and provides for elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly.
The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision as to the conduct of elections and return of members to the Scottish Parliament ("the Parliament") which was established by the Scotland Act 1998.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

[Representation of the People Act 2000](#)

- Introduction of “rolling” registration allowing electors to register at any point in the year rather than by reference to a single annual qualifying date
- ERO to publish revised registers by 1 December each year
- ERO to publish monthly alteration notices at the beginning of each month (except for the two months preceding the publication of the revised register) detailing additions, deletions and amendments to the register that become effective on the same date the notice is published
- Alterations that take effect on the fifth day before polling day to have effect for the election where they are due to clerical error or give effect to the ruling of a court and requirement for the ERO to publish notice of alteration which takes effect immediately
- Removal of an annual qualifying date - replaced with a relevant date defined as the date on which the application for registration is made
- Requirement to carry out an annual canvass by reference to residence on 15 October
- Disenfranchises those detained in a mental institution as a result of criminal activity
- Removal of the requirement to submit a patient’s declaration to register from those who are not detained mental health offenders
- Modifies residence requirements to be registered to take into account the purpose and circumstances of a persons presence or absence on the relevant date (e.g. provides for students, people working away from home to register despite being absent for period of time)



The Association of Electoral Administrators

- Allows prisoners that are likely to be held on remand for a sufficient amount of time to register
- Introduces Declarations of Local Connection for patients in mental hospitals, remand prisoners and the homeless
- Repeals the provision that those with a service qualification can only register by means of a service declaration
- Reduces the length a service declaration is in force from indefinitely to 12 months
- Introduces the edited version of the register, requiring the ERO to produce two versions of the register a complete one and edited one where electors can ask for their names to be omitted
- Full register to be made available for public inspection but prohibited from making copies
- Sale of the edited register to anyone on payment of a fee
- Provision for the Secretary of State to make orders enabling local authorities to run pilot schemes of innovative electoral procedures at local government elections and where successful to make orders to apply the change permanently for local government elections
- RO to display large print version of the ballot paper in each polling station and provide a device to assist blind and partially sighted voters
- Extends the provision of a companion assisting an elector to vote to those with other physical disabilities or to someone unable to read



The Association of Electoral Administrators

- Provides for the free delivery of election addresses for all Mayor of London candidates in the form of a booklet prepared by the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO)
- Provides for any certificate issued by the ERO stating a person did or did not appear on the register to be taken as a statement of fact
- Expands the EROs requirement to remind overseas electors to renew their declaration to cover all types of applications and declarations
- Allows an elector to vote if they attend a polling station prior to their proxy
- Provides for police officers and others involved in the running of the election to vote at any other polling station in the constituency if they cannot go to their normal polling station
- Requires remand prisoners and detained mental patients to vote either by post or proxy
- Extends postal voting to anyone registered to vote
- Extends indefinite proxy voting to an elector who cannot attend their polling station due to their or their spouse's attendance at an educational establishment
- Extends proxy voting for one election only to all registered electors who cannot reasonably be expected to attend their polling station
- Requirement for ERO to keep for each election an absent voters list made up in two parts – one for postal voters (including address where ballot paper sent) and one for proxy voters (including name and address of proxy)



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Local Government Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduces new political management structures for local authorities in England and Wales, setting out three initial broad forms of executive which all local authorities must consult.• Requirement for local authorities to hold referendums on executive arrangements where its proposals relate to a directly elected mayor or where 5% or more of the councils electorate petition for a form of executive.• Defines the three different schemes of elections for principal councils – all out, elections by halves and elections by thirds – with councillors serving a four-year term of office.• Ability for Secretary of State to specify that a particular scheme of election should apply to a local authority and where the scheme involves elections by halves or thirds it can identify the wards, electoral divisions and councillor affected by such a change.
Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishes the Electoral Commission and sets out its general functions which include reporting on particular elections and referendums, the review of electoral law and promoting understanding of electoral and political matters.• Compulsory registration of political parties with the Electoral Commission.• Requirement for candidates standing for election for a political party to submit a certificate authorising their candidature issued by, or on behalf of, the nominating officer of a registered party• Introduces generic provisions designed to ensure the fair conduct of referendums by providing for the designation of campaign bodies.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction in the time an overseas elector last needed to be registered in the UK from 20 to 15 years.
<p>Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001</p> <p>Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replaces the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 1986 in their entirety and introduces additional changes• Changes to poll card design for ordinary electors and proxies• Clarity on the requirements of a tactile voting device• Clarity on the contents of service and overseas declaration• Powers for the ERO to require any person to give information required in maintaining the register and right to inspect records and make copies kept by the authority or a person providing services to an authority• Requirement to send a reminder nine months after the date of their current declaration to service, overseas and declaration of local connection electors to renew their declaration• Clarity on the contents of an application for registration• Process for objecting to a person's registration and requirement to make all applications and objections available for inspection until they have been determined• Procedure for determining applications and objections and the requirements for hearings• Requirement to retain non-responding electors on the register for an additional year



The Association of Electoral Administrators

- Requirement for ERO to inform another ERO that a person no longer resides in their area
- Provision for G, K, L, F and E markers against a person's name in the register
- Requirement for ERO to make the revised register available at their office and relevant places within electoral areas until the next revised version is published
- Requirement for ERO to provide Secretary of State with information about electorate following the publication of the revised register
- Requirement to prepare and publish a list of overseas electors
- Supply of revised register, alteration notices and overseas list free of charge to British Library, Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission
- Supply of revised register and alteration notices free of charge to ROs for a non-metropolitan county and GLRO
- Supply of a register or list of overseas electors to MPs, Councillors, Candidates, Parish or Community Councils, registered political parties, prospective candidates free of charge on request
- Requirement for postal vote applications to be received by 5pm on eleventh day before the date of poll and proxy vote applications to be received by 5pm on the sixth day before the date of poll
- Supply of list of absent voters to candidates and their election agent free of charge
- Provision of a letter A to indicate a postal voter on a register
- Introduction of 'A' and 'B' envelope for postal voting



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for replacing lost postal ballot papers
Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make provision for the conduct of referendums required on whether a council should adopt executive arrangements that include a mayor and cabinet executive, a mayor and council manager or a leader and cabinet executive.
Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new restrictions on the supply and sale of the full register. • Provides for an edited version of the register of electors.
The National Assembly for Wales (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for required amendments as a consequence of changes made by the Representation of the People Act 2000, the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sets out afresh the provisions as to the conduct of elections for, and the return of members to, the Scottish Parliament, established by the Scotland Act 1998. The Order consolidates, with amendments, the provisions of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 1999 (“the 1999 Order”) and the amendments made to that Order by the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Amendment) Order 2001 and the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Amendment) (No. 2) and (No. 3) Orders 2001.• The main changes to the 1999 Order reflect the introduction by the Representation of the People Act 2000 of a new system of “rolling registration”. Under this system the register of local government electors continues in force indefinitely. Eligibility to vote at elections for membership of the Scottish Parliament depends on registration in the register of local government electors. The changes from the 1999 Order concern, principally, absent voting, voting by proxy, and the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers.• Provision about the free supply and the sale of the register of local government electors to MSPs, their election agents and to candidates standing for election to the Scottish Parliament and also the election agents of registered political parties in respect of list MSP candidates. The provision made in respect of MSPs and candidates for election to the Scottish Parliament is similar to that made in respect of MPs and councillors by the Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 and elections to the UK Parliament and Scottish local councils.
<p>Scottish Local Government (Elections) Act 2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision for local government elections to be moved to a four-year cycle by being linked to the years in which ordinary elections to the Scottish Parliament occur.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides powers to synchronise local government elections with an advanced or postponed ordinary general election and an extraordinary general election of the Scottish Parliament. • Enables Scottish Ministers to make orders enabling local authorities in Scotland to run pilot schemes of innovative electoral procedures at particular local government elections.
The Scottish Local Government Elections Rules 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules, which consolidate with amendments and revoke and replace the Scottish Local Elections Rules 1986 as amended, provide for the conduct of elections of members of local authorities. • The rules in Schedule 2 differ from the 1986 rules by including amendments made to the Scottish parliamentary elections rules by the Representation of the People Act 2000, in particular the provisions of rule 22 (equipment of polling stations) and rule 32 and the Appendix to Schedule 2 (voting by persons with disabilities). • Rules 1 and 2 (timetable and computation of time) and Rule 6 (subscription of nomination paper) have been amended to bring them into line with the equivalent Scottish parliamentary rules. The forms in the Appendix to Schedule 2 have been revised. • Extends the polling hours at the local government election where the poll at that election is taken together with the poll at a parliamentary or European parliamentary election, and provides that the same ballot box may be used for combined polls.
The Scottish Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for revised procedures on the issue and receipt of postal ballot papers for local government elections. It extends to local government elections the



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Elections Regulations 2002	<p>procedures introduced by Part V of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 in February 2001 for the Scottish Parliament elections.</p>
Local Government Act 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces Business Improvement Districts (BID) and requirement for the approval of a BID to be satisfied in a ballot.
The Greater London Authority Elections (Election Addresses) Order 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for the free delivery of election addresses of Mayoral candidates. The provision is solely for an ordinary election of the Greater London Authority, where an election for the return of the Mayor is held with elections for London members and constituency members to the London Assembly.
The Representation of the People (Combination of Polls) (England and Wales) Regulations 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions about the functions of returning officers and their funding, and the polling stations to be used where polls are combined. They also contain additional provision to take account of the possibility of the combination of more than two polls. In addition they include provision for the circumstances where the polls that are combined include a mayoral election or a referendum by virtue of regulations made under sections 44 and 105 or 45 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000.
Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides that the returning officer for local elections in the billing authority area is to be the ballot holder for any ballot in respect of BIDs. Clarifies who is entitled to vote and the arrangements for holding and conducting the ballot.
European Parliamentary and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide that European Parliamentary elections and any combined local elections in the regions specified are to be run as all-postal pilots and on the terms set out



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Local Elections (Pilots) Act 2004	<p>in a pilot order made by the Secretary of State. The pilot regions are the North East, East Midlands, Yorkshire & the Humber and North West electoral regions.</p>
Electoral Administration Act 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power on the Secretary of State to establish by order, one or more Co-ordinated On-line Record of Electors (CORE) schemes for keeping, and use of specified electoral registration information • Expansion of the EROs duties to include the steps that must be taken to identify persons eligible to register. • Introduction of anonymous registration for electors in certain circumstances with a requirement to submit a new application every 12 months to retain the right to be registered anonymously. • Amends the timeframe that alterations can be made to the register prior to an election – enabling amendments to be made on fifth day before polling day. • Empowers an ERO to remove an electors name from the register if it becomes apparent that the elector should not have been registered and allows for objections to registration to be made both before and after registration. • Extends the length of service declarations from a year up to five years. • Introduces personal identifiers from persons applying to vote by post or proxy – requirement to provide a date of birth and signature on an application form which are retained by the ERO. • Introduces the requirement for an elector’s signature and date of birth to be included on a postal voting statement that must be completed and returned with a postal ballot paper.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

- Requirement for RO to verify the signature and date of birth on the postal voting statement with those provided on the application. Where the signature and date of birth do not correspond or no signature or date of birth is provided the ballot paper is rejected.
- Introduces a postal vote waiver for those the ERO is satisfied cannot provide a signature due to a disability or inability to read or write.
- Requirement for ERO to obtain fresh signatures from absent voters to ensure up to date identifier records are kept.
- Reduces the age of a candidate standing for election from 21 to 18.
- Requires the RO to publish a statement of persons nominated once the time for making objections has passed and within 24 hours after the close of nominations.
- Clarifies that the use of debit and credit cards or electronic transfer of funds for candidate deposits are acceptable.
- Power for the RO to correct minor errors made in nomination papers.
- Removes Maundy Thursday as a dies non.
- Introduces the ability for a candidate to use the name which they are commonly known by on the ballot paper.
- Introduces new rules relating to the death of a candidate at UK Parliamentary elections – where an independent candidate dies the election continues, party candidate countermanded or abandoned.
- Introduced corresponding number lists to replace counterfoils on ballot papers.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfers the responsibility for storing election documents after an election to an ERO.• Provision for RO to correct errors or omissions that arise during the preparation for and conduct of elections when made by those administering the election.
Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enables Scottish Ministers to set and publish performance standards for returning officers relating to the administration of a local government election.• Provides for returning officers to correct errors or omissions that arise during the preparation for and conduct of elections. These errors and omissions are those made by those administering the elections and those supplying goods and services to the administrators.• Provides for a number of miscellaneous amendments to the 1983 Act and the Representation of the People 2000 Act linked to the procedure at elections involving voters who are registered anonymously. These include procedures for the sending of electoral registration material by post to voters registered anonymously, the exclusion of any person who is registered anonymously from presenting a petition questioning a local government election in Scotland and procedures involving absent voting. The provisions referred to are inserted into the 1983 and 2000 Acts by the UK Electoral Administration Act. This section will extend those UK Act provisions so that they apply also to Scottish local government elections.• Provisions for the collection of personal identifiers (signature and date of birth) at the point of application for absent voting (both postal voting and voting by proxy) at local government elections in Scotland.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows registration officers discretion to dispense with the need for a signature if they are satisfied that the applicant cannot provide a signature or sign in a consistent and distinctive way because of illiteracy or disability.• Allows the voter to provide a new signature and provides that regulations may be made to enable registration officers to require electors who vote by post or proxy to provide a fresh signature in certain circumstances.• Requires registration officers to supply or give access to information contained in the record kept of personal identifier information to returning officers for use at local government elections.• Removes Maundy Thursday from the list of days that are to be disregarded for the purposes of calculating the timetable for local government elections.
<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006</p> <p>The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes the deadline for postal vote applications from 6 to 11 days prior to polling day.• Introduction of emergency proxy vote provisions.• Changes the hours of poll for local referendums and local authority mayoral elections from 8am to 9pm to 7am to 10pm (England and Wales).



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replaces the Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 1986 in their entirety and introduces additional changes• Rules provide for the conduct of elections of councillors of the council of a principal area, that is a county, county borough, district or London borough.• Reflect changes made to nomination procedures. Candidates may use their common names on nomination forms and ballot papers. The minimum age for a candidate is reduced from 21 to 18. The rules on the use of authorised descriptions by candidates standing on behalf of registered political parties are amended to reflect amendments made to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Returning officers will be able to correct minor errors on nomination papers.• Reflect new security measures introduced by the 2006 Act. Security markings on ballot papers are provided for; so too are unique identifying marks. Counterfoils on ballot papers are replaced by corresponding number lists. Requirements are imposed requiring postal voters and postal proxies to provide both their signature and date of birth when returning postal ballot papers.
<p>Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replaces the Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) Rules 1986 in their entirety and introduces additional changes• Rules provide for the conduct of parish and community council elections.• Reflect changes made to nomination procedures. Candidates may use their common names on nomination forms and ballot papers. The minimum age for a candidate is reduced from 21 to 18. The rules on the use of authorised descriptions by candidates standing on behalf of registered political parties are amended to reflect amendments made to the Political Parties, Elections and



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>Referendums Act 2000. Returning officers will be able to correct minor errors on nomination papers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect new security measures introduced by the 2006 Act. Security markings on ballot papers are provided for; so too are unique identifying marks. Counterfoils on ballot papers are replaced by corresponding number lists. Requirements are imposed requiring postal voters and postal proxies to provide both their signature and date of birth when returning postal ballot papers.
<p>The Local Elections (Principal Areas and Parishes and Communities) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Rules 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the hours of polling at relevant elections from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a reminder to be sent in each year to each person who has an anonymous entry, as the entitlement to registration terminates under section 9C of the 1983 Act after 12 months unless a fresh application is made. • Amendments to the procedure for applications for registration consequential on anonymous registration. • Provides that where a notice of alteration is issued by an ERO on polling day as a result of a court ruling or to correct a clerical error, they must communicate the contents of the notice to the presiding officer. Where such communication takes place by way of telephone, the presiding officer is required to make a written record of the contents of the notice.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect the requirement introduced by section 14 of the 2006 Act that persons wishing to vote by post, by proxy or by postal proxy must provide their signature and date of birth when applying and circumstances where a person is entitled to a waiver from the requirement to provide a signature. • Provides that fresh signatures are to be required by every fifth anniversary of a person being recorded as a postal voter or postal proxy. • Updates the lists of health care professionals and others who may attest applications for proxy votes so that it also includes persons who may be caring for or treating persons with disabilities of a non-physical nature.
Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for the conduct of elections of mayors of county, district and London borough councils (in England) and county and county borough councils (in Wales).
Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability for district councils in England to change their scheme for elections (e.g. whole council, halves or thirds).
Greater London Authority Election Rules 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules make provision for the conduct of those Authority elections and reflect changes made to the rules for the conduct of Parliamentary elections, by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out afresh the provisions as to the conduct of elections for, and the return of members to, the Scottish Parliament, established by the Scotland Act 1998. The Order revokes the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2002. • Alterations have been made to allow for electronic counting of votes (though to retain an ability to count votes manually if a returning officer wishes to run an election on that basis) and to remove the names of party list candidates from regional ballot papers. It will be possible (though not obligatory) for both the constituency and regional ballot papers to be printed on the same sheet. • Changes have been made to provisions governing absent voting by persons with disabilities, to allow a greater variety of persons to attest applications for an absent vote by persons who cannot reasonably be expected to vote in person at a polling station. • Changes have been made to remove the need for witnessing of postal voting statements (which have replaced the former declarations of identity). Provision is also made to allow a postal elector or their proxy to seek confirmation that their returned vote has been received.
<p>The Scottish Local Government Elections Order 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revokes and replaces the Scottish Local Elections Rules 2002 as amended, provides for the conduct of elections of members of local authorities. • The provisions of rule 1 (timetable), rule 4 (nomination of candidates), rule 7 (decisions as to validity of nomination papers), rule 10 (corrections of errors in nomination papers), rule 14 (the ballot papers), rule 16 (security marking), rule 20 (postal ballot papers), rule 23 (issue of official poll cards and notifications), rule 24 (equipment of polling stations), rule 27 (admission to polling station),



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>rule 35 (tendered ballot papers), rule 40 (attendance at counting of votes) and rule 59 (retention of documents) have been amended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the introduction of the single transferable vote (“STV”) system for local government elections in Scotland from May 2007. In addition to revising the format of the ballot paper, the rules dealing with the counting of votes (rules 40 to 54) have been substantially altered to reflect the change to multi-member council wards with either 3 or 4 members together with the introduction of electronic counting. • In addition to the ballot paper, the forms in Schedule 1 have been revised to take account of changes to electoral procedures and the introduction of the STV system.
<p>The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Amendment) Order 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the main, this Order implements changes made by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which (amongst other matters) provided for enhanced anti-fraud measures. These include the introduction, by section 14 of the 2006 Act, of a requirement that persons wishing to vote by post, by proxy or by postal proxy must provide their signature and date of birth when applying.
<p>Political Parties and Elections Act 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces arrangements to expedite the registration of eligible electors in the event of an election falling within a canvass period by enabling EROs to amend the published register of electors before the election is held to show details of new electors or other changes that have been recorded on a canvass form. • Provides for candidates at a UK Parliamentary election to choose that their home address does not appear on the ballot paper at the election where a home address form is completed. The constituency (or country if outside the UK) in



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>which their address is will instead be shown on the ballot paper and statement of persons nominated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the Secretary of State to establish a new corporation sole to be the CORE keeper. It also provides the Secretary of State with the power to establish, by order, a panel for the purpose of advising the corporation on such matters as the corporation may refer to it or which the panel chooses to consider of its own motion. • Provisions requiring EROs, after 1 July 2010, to take steps to collect identifying information from electors for the purpose of improving the accuracy of the electoral register. At this stage it will not be compulsory for electors to provide such information.
<p>Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places duty on local authorities to promote understanding of their democratic arrangements, including promoting voting to elect representatives and standing and serving as a councillor. • Establishes the Local Government Boundary Commission for England who must conduct reviews of electoral arrangements for each principal council in England. • Sets the framework for the establishment of combined authorities in England. • Makes provision for the election of mayors for combined authorities. Among other things it provides that where there are three or more candidates, the elected mayor will be returned under the supplementary vote system. • Paragraph 12 gives the Secretary of State or Chancellor power to make further provision as to the conduct of elections for mayors and the questioning of such elections.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First elections for mayors of combined authorities will take place in May 2017. This includes the mayoral elections established under the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Election of Mayor with Police and Crime Commissioner Functions) Order 2016 and the Tees Valley Combined Authority Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/449). This is in addition to any future orders providing for further combined authority mayoral elections in other areas.
<p>The Representation of the People (Amendment) Regulations 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amends regulation 31I(3) of the 2001 Regulations to include relevant court orders or injunctions made under Northern Ireland legislation as acceptable documentary evidence for anonymous registration. • Extends the provision so that police officers of or above the rank of superintendent of any police force in England and Wales or Scotland, or of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, are qualifying officers for anonymous registration applications.
<p>The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Amendment) Order 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for changes to the timetable for the election with the deadline for nominations being moved from 16 days before the day of the poll to 23 days. • Candidates' descriptions which appear on the nomination papers and ballot papers for a constituency ballot may no longer be political parties' registered descriptions but must be either the registered name of the political party or the word "independent". • The registered names of political parties must be used in the regional ballot. The political party will also have the option of using a registered description in addition to the registered name if desired.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the word "Scottish" does not form part of the registered name of a political party, it can be added to the registered name for use on nomination papers and the ballot papers for both constituency and regional ballots. • In elections to the Scottish Parliament separate ballot papers will be used for the constituency ballot and for the regional ballot and references to combined papers are therefore removed. • The provisions for electronic counting of votes are removed.
Scottish Local Government (Elections) Act 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the next two ordinary local government elections to be held in 2012 and 2017. After 2017, ordinary local government elections will revert to taking place every fourth year. The effect of this will be that the local government elections will take place halfway through the term of the Scottish Parliament.
The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out afresh the provisions as to the conduct of elections for, and the return of members to, the Scottish Parliament, established by the Scotland Act 1998. The Order revokes the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2007.
Localism Act 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the executive of a local authority to either take the form of a directly elected mayor or an executive leader elected by full council. • Clarification that elections for elected mayors take place on the same day as council elections, with their term of office being 4 years. • Requirement for mayoral elections to be by supplementary vote where three or more candidates or first past the post where two. • Introduces the principal of Neighbourhood Planning Referendums



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<u>Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Act 2011</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides for a referendum on whether to change the voting system for UK parliamentary elections from first past the post to alternative vote.• Provides that the number of parliamentary constituencies in the UK be reduced to 600 and requires the boundary commissions to recommend constituency boundaries that ensure that the electorate for each constituency is no more than 5% more or less than the electoral quota for the UK.• The next general reviews are required to be completed by September 2013 with subsequent reviews taking place every five years.
<u>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduced Police and Crime Commissioner elections, with the first to be held on 15 November 2012 and subsequently every four years.• Required the supplementary vote system to be used where three or more candidates were standing or first past the post where there were just two.
<u>Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2011</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set the date for the next UK Parliamentary general election as 7 May 2015 and for subsequent elections to take place every 5 years on the first Thursday in May.• Sets out the conditions of when an early UK Parliamentary election can be held - House of Commons passes a motion that there should be such an election or House of Commons passes a motion of no confidence in the Government, an election must be held, unless within the period of 14 days, the House passes a motion expressing confidence in a Government.• General elections for the Scottish Parliament which were scheduled to take place on 7 May 2015 will instead be scheduled to take place on 5 May 2016. Subsequent ordinary general elections will be scheduled to be held on the first



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>Thursday in May in the fourth calendar year after the May 2016 general elections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General elections for the National Assembly for Wales which are scheduled to take place on 7 May 2015 will instead take place on 5 May 2016. Subsequent ordinary general elections will be scheduled to be held on the first Thursday in May in the fourth calendar year after the May 2016 general elections.
The Local Elections (Parishes and Communities) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable a candidate who is standing for election on behalf of two or more registered political parties to request that the ballot paper may feature, alongside the candidate's particulars, an emblem registered by one of those political parties.
The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Rules 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable a candidate who is standing for election on behalf of two or more registered political parties to request that the ballot paper may feature, alongside the candidate's particulars, an emblem registered by one of those political parties.
The Local Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (England and Wales)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable a candidate who is standing for election on behalf of two or more registered political parties to request that the ballot paper may feature, alongside the candidate's particulars, an emblem registered by one of those political parties.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

(Amendment) Regulations 2011	
The Scottish Local Government Elections Order 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revokes and replaces the Scottish Local Elections Order 2007, provides for the conduct of elections of members of local authorities.• Provides that nomination papers must be delivered by not later than the 23rd day before the poll, rather than the 16th day.• Allows for use of commonly used names instead of other names.• There are changes to rule 19 (supply of free copy of register, lists and notices), rule 22 (provision of polling stations), rule 24 (issue of official poll cards and notifications) and rule 26 (appointment of polling and counting agents). Rule 27 (requirement of secrecy) now includes a prohibition on publication of exit polls, in line with other elections.• Clarifies that where a person is waiting to cast their vote at a polling station at the close of the poll, they must be permitted to vote.• Allows non-electronic counting of votes at a by-election and permits void ballot papers to be so marked electronically.• Requires that information be kept by the proper officer of the council for one year after a poll, rather than requiring electronic information to be kept for four years.• Introduced to make some voting information available after a poll where electronic counting is used, with safeguards to ensure that the secrecy of individual votes is protected.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 62 (death of a candidate) has been amended in line with the approach taken at Scottish Parliamentary elections, which allow in some cases a result to be declared where the deceased candidate does not obtain sufficient votes to be elected. However, where a deceased candidate obtains sufficient votes to be elected, no member will be returned and the poll will be re-arranged.
Greater London Authority Elections (Amendment) Rules 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make provision for candidates jointly representing two or more parties to be able to request a registered emblem to appear against the candidate's particulars on the ballot paper. • Amends the Mayoral Election Rules to clarify that each voter may only subscribe to the nomination paper of one standing candidate in a Mayoral election, and that nomination papers that contain inoperative subscriptions within the required 330 are to be deemed invalid.
Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes provision in relation to the conduct of Neighbourhood Planning referendums required to be held as a result of paragraph 12(4) of Schedule 4B or paragraph 10(3) of Schedule 4C to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 • Provides the rules for the referendum, question wording, information required to be made available, expenses, counting officer designation and combination of poll requirements.
Local Authorities (Elected Mayors) (Elections, Term of Office and Casual Vacancies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the timing of the first, second and subsequent elections for the return of elected mayors of local authorities. • Provide for the term of office of the individuals elected, for the intervals between subsequent mayoral elections and for the filling of casual vacancies.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

(England) Regulations 2012	
Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) Regulations 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make provision for the conduct of referendums that relate to the question of whether a council tax increase set by an authority – a billing authority, a major precepting authority, or a local precepting authority – for a financial year is approved of. • Specifies that the counting officer at the referendum will be the person designated as returning officer at election of councillors for the area of that authority.
Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (England) Regulations 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate to referendums held on whether a local authority – a county, district or London borough council – should change their governance arrangements to a different form. • Specifies that the counting officer at the referendum will be the person designated as returning officer at election of councillors for the area of that authority.
Police and Crime Commissioners Elections Order 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes provision as to the conduct of elections for a police and crime commissioner (“PCC elections”) for police areas in England and Wales. • Provides that the franchise for PCC elections will be the local government franchise. • Provides for the PCC election rules. • Provides for election addresses submitted by candidate’s election agent to be included on the website maintained by or on behalf of the secretary of state.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the wording of the question to be asked in the referendum. • Provides the form of ballot paper to be used in the referendum
<p>The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make provision for the conduct of additional “business referendums”. The business referendums will relate to the question of whether a neighbourhood development plan or a neighbourhood development order is approved for neighbourhood areas which have been designated as a business area and are in addition to the residential referendum for the area.
<p>The Representation of the People (Provision of Information Regarding Proxies) Regulations 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables EROs to require other EROs to provide information about whether a person, whom an absent voter wishes to appoint as their proxy, has or will have an entry in a register of parliamentary or local government electors maintained by that officer.
<p>Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces individual electoral registration (IER) • Requirement for a person appointed as a proxy to be registered to vote themselves. • Removes the reference date of the 15 October for the annual canvass.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces Invitations to Register (ITR) and requires EROs to send ITRs to unregistered persons they are aware of. • Extension of the UK Parliamentary general election timetable from 17 to 25 days. • Alters the deadline for the appointment of polling and counting agents from 2 to 5 days before polling day. • Removes the requirement to postpone parish or community council elections by 3 weeks if they fall on the same date as a UK Parliamentary Election. • Provides for two interim publication dates when an election is pending (on day - 19 and a day between day -18 and day - 6). • Allows voters waiting in a queue at the close of poll to still be able to cast their vote. • Requirement for ERO to notify a person that their postal ballot paper was rejected.
<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Description of Electoral Registers and Amendment) Regulations 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend and expand Regulations to deal with applications for registration under the new system requiring the applicant to provide their date of birth and national insurance number as evidence that they are the person named in the application. • Provides for applications to be made online through the Individual Electoral Registration Digital Service and for EROs electoral to accept applications through assisted means, either by telephone or in person. • Provision for cases where certain information required is not available or where an ERO considers that additional evidence is necessary to verify the identity of a



The Association of Electoral Administrators

[The Representation of the People \(Scotland\) \(Description of Electoral Registers and Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

person, for the ERO to request alternative or additional documentary evidence that a person is the person named in the application. Where evidence cannot be provided, there is the provision to request an attestation.

- Provides for the annual canvass, including requirements for the design of the annual canvass form and the manner in which forms must be given and the steps an ERO must take when no information is received in response to a form.
- Provides for invitations to apply for registration and the steps to be taken by a registration officer to encourage a person to make an application for registration.
- Sets out the conditions under which a registration officer may require a person to apply for registration, including provision for the giving of a notice of the requirement.
- Enables the imposition of a civil penalty and gives details of the requirements for notice of the penalty, the payment, enforcement and cancellation of the penalty and the review of and appeals against a penalty.
- Enables a voter to apply for a proxy voting arrangement after 5 p.m. on the sixth day before the date of the poll (an emergency proxy vote) on grounds relating to occupation, service or employment.
- Provide that, notwithstanding the deadline otherwise provided for, an application to cancel or change an absent vote cannot be made after a postal vote has been returned.
- Provision about cancellation of postal ballot papers, requiring postal voters to provide fresh signatures to EROs where their postal vote has been rejected due to mismatched signature, requiring EROs to provide information to ROs and the time when ballot papers are to be issued.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for a RO to check the personal identifiers on every returned postal voting statement against the identifiers held on file. • Requires a RO to keep a list recording the details of every postal voting statement that was rejected and to forward that to the relevant EROs. • Requirement for ERO to notify electors where their postal vote has been rejected. • Prescribes a long version and a short version of a form of words which EROs must use to describe the electoral registers and the purposes for which they are used.
Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the criteria for the review of principal area boundaries, review of community boundaries by principal council and by the Commission, review of preserved counties, review of seaward boundaries and review of electoral arrangements for principal area.
The Representation of the People (Combination of Polls) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaces the notice that must be displayed in polling compartments, the guidance for voters and the form of the declaration to be made by the companion of a voter with disabilities where polls are combined.
The Representation of the People (England and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables an ERO appointed by a district council where there is a two-tier authority to have access to records held by the relevant county council and



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</p> <p>The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</p>	<p>authorises the district council and the county council to disclose information to an ERO for certain registration purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides that, where a registration officer has invited a person whom he has reason to believe would be a special category elector such as an overseas elector or a person with a service declaration, or would have an anonymous entry in the register, to apply to be registered, the officer does not have to carry out follow-up steps such as visiting the person.
<p>The Representation of the People (Supply of Information) Regulations 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires EROs to supply national and local political parties, for a limited period, with information as to whether entries on an electoral register were either made following an application under the system of individual electoral registration, which begins in 2014, or were included as a result of the entry having been confirmed in accordance with the transitional arrangements for the new system. The information can only be used for electoral registration purposes and cannot be used after 7 May 2015.
<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2014</p> <p>The Representation of the People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide that the declaration made by a Crown servant or British Council employee working abroad, when that person applies to be registered in an electoral register, no longer has to be sent via their employer. However, there is to be an additional requirement to include their staff number in the declaration. A declaration may now be made on-line. Requires electoral registration officers, where necessary, to send a second reminder to people, such as overseas electors, who are registered by virtue of a declaration, that their declaration is about to expire.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>(Scotland) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2014</p>	
<p>Recall of MPs Act 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a process by which an MP is to lose his or her seat in the House of Commons as a result of a successful recall petition, which will trigger a by-election. • Establishes three alternative conditions for the opening of a recall petition - MP is convicted in the United Kingdom of an offence and receives a custodial sentence that is not overturned on an appeal brought within the usual time limit for appeals or; following on from a report from its Committee on Standards, the House of Commons orders the suspension of an MP from the service of the House for a period of at least 10 sitting days, or, if the period is not expressed as a specified number of sitting days, for a period of at least 14 days; and MP is convicted under section 10 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009 (offence of providing false or misleading information for allowances claims), regardless of the sentence imposed. • Provides that every constituency will have a petition officer who will be the person who is the acting returning officer for UK Parliamentary elections in the relevant constituency. • Eligible parliamentary electors in that constituency will have an opportunity to sign the petition over a six-week period and will be successful if it is signed by at least 10% of registered parliamentary electors in that constituency.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</p> <p>The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides that, where people wish to change their name in the electoral register, the requirement to provide documentary evidence of the change of name is not limited to particular documents.
<p>The Representation of the People (Combination of Polls) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides that, where a UK Parliamentary election is combined with another election or referendum, the RO at the parliamentary election may begin the count of the votes once they have verified, separated from the ballot papers relating to the other elections and referendums and mixed with the ballot papers from at least one other ballot box or, in the case of postal ballot papers, with the ballot papers from at least one ballot box.
<p>The Representation of the People (Ballot Paper) Regulations 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides for a new ballot paper design for UK Parliamentary elections, removing candidate numbers.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2015</p> <p>The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No longer a requirement to provide the applicant's previous name on the application for registration.• Amends the requirement for applicants to provide information as to their age on their application for registration to reflect the amendments to the upper age limit for jury service.• Authorise EROs to inspect the records of a registrar of marriages or a superintendent registrar of births, deaths and marriages for the purpose of their registration duties.
<p>The Legislative Reform (Community Governance Reviews) Order 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduces the percentage of local government electors who need to sign a community governance petition in order for it to be valid.• Provides for an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum under section 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to apply for a community governance review in respect of an area specified in a neighbourhood development plan made under section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.• Amends the time period that the principal council has to conclude the community governance review from 12 months starting on the day the review begins, to 12 months from the day of receipt of the petition or application.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Scottish Elections (Reduction of Voting Age) Act 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the franchise to 16- and 17-year-olds for local government and Scottish Parliamentary elections.
The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out afresh the provisions as to the conduct of elections for, and the return of members to, the Scottish Parliament, established by the Scotland Act 1998. The Order replaces provision made by the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2010. • Provides for candidates to use their commonly used names even if they don't differ from their given names. • Enables postal votes to be issued prior to 5pm on the eleventh day before a poll. • Enables the earlier issue of replacement postal ballot packs, where they have been lost or the voter has not received them. • Requires 100% checking of postal vote identifiers. • Provides for emergency proxy votes in specified circumstances.
The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision which requires the Electoral Commission to include on the form of application for registration space for the applicant to provide information as to whether they are the only person aged 16 or over resident at the address in respect of which the application is made. • Amends the requirements for an attestation in that they are no longer required to be registered in the same local authority as the applicant but must be registered in a local authority area in England or Wales.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes the requirement on the registration officer to send an annual canvass form where the registration officer has received an application with information to indicate that the applicant is the only person over 16 resident at the address in respect of which the application has been made. Enables EROs to give invitations to apply for registration by electronic means and, where they elect to do so, removing the requirement that the invitation is accompanied by an application form and a pre-addressed reply envelope.
The Greater London Authority Elections (Amendment) Rules 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the election timetable so that the deadline for the delivery of nominations and withdrawal of candidature are the same – 4pm on 24 day before the date of poll. Allows for a voter who is in a queue at the polling station at the close of poll for the purpose of voting or returning a postal vote to vote.
The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) Order 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for the combination of police and crime commissioner elections with elections for the National Assembly for Wales. Provides that where a police and crime commissioner and National Assembly for Wales election are combined the voting area is no longer the local authority area but the assembly constituency.
The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) (Amendment) Regulations 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribes a date by which a referendum must be held as the date 56 days from the day after a local planning authority publishes their decision that a referendum must be held. A longer period of 84 days is allowed where a business referendum is also required to be held, where the referendum area



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>comprises any part of the area of two or more relevant councils, or where the relevant council is not the local planning authority.</p>
<p>The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for the conduct of elections for directly-elected mayors of combined authorities, including setting nomination arrangements, deposits and spending limits for candidates, and rules relating to the conduct of the poll itself, for example, polling stations and provisions for counting votes.
<p>The Combined Authorities (Mayors) (Filling of Vacancies) Order 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the rules by which vacancies are to be declared in the office of Mayor, and the procedure by which these are to be filled through by-elections.
<p>The Representation of the People (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the removal of electors from the register based on single source of evidence that the elector has died. • Extends what constitutes a valid court order in relation to anonymous registration and extends the list of qualifying officers who can attest an application to include police officers above the rank of inspector, registered doctor, nurse or midwife, and any refuge manager.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<u>The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2018</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduces a home address form for principal council elections in England, allowing a candidate to have the area in which their address is situated instead of their address shown on the ballot paper and statement of persons nominated.• Provides for the inspection of the home address form between normal office hours from the day after the close of nominations to before the date of poll by another candidate, their election agent or where the candidate is acting as their own agent a person nominated by them.• Requirement for the Returning Officer to destroy home address forms on the next day following the 35th day after the declaration of result.
<u>The Combined Authorities (Mayoral Elections) (Amendment) Order 2019</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduces a home address form for combined authority mayoral elections, allowing a candidate to have the relevant local government area in which their address is situated instead of their address shown on the ballot paper and statement of persons nominated.• Requirement for the Combined Authority Returning Officer to destroy home address forms on the next day following the 35th day after the declaration of result.
<u>The Greater London Authority Elections (Amendment) Rules 2019</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduces a home address form for London Constituency Members, London Members and Mayor of London elections, allowing a candidate to have the area in which their address is situated instead of their address shown on the ballot paper and statement of persons nominated.• Provides for the inspection of the home address form between normal office hours from the day after the close of nominations to before the date of poll by another candidate, their election agent or where the candidate is acting as their



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>own agent a person nominated by them. For London Member this also includes the nominating officer of the registered party and person authorised to do by that nominating officer. For London mayoral it includes no more than two person who subscribed a nomination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement for the Returning Officer to destroy home address forms on the next day following the 35th day after the declaration of result.
<p>The Representation of the People (Election Expenses Exclusion) (Amendment) Order 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the exclusion of expenses incurred that are reasonably attributable to a candidate's disability.
<p>The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the reform of the annual canvass process with the introduction of a national data match process at the start of the process followed by new matched or unmatched property routes that an ERO must follow based in the results of their data match step. • Provides for an alternative process for certain properties that are less suited to traditional canvassing methods e.g. student halls of residence, care homes where the ERO is able to identify a responsible person at the property to provide information. • Provision for the Electoral Commission to provide 3 forms – canvass communication A for matched properties, canvass communication B for unmatched properties and a canvass form again for unmatched properties.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2020	
The Police and Crime Commissioner Elections (Amendment) Order 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the exclusion of expenses incurred that are reasonably attributable to a candidate's disability. • Provides for a police, fire and crime commissioner for areas where the police and crime commissioner is also the first and rescue authority for the area.
Coronavirus Act 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponement of elections and referendums scheduled for 7 May 2020 to 6 May 2021
The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponement of any by-elections in England that would be held to fill vacancies in the office of councillor, parish councillor, local authority mayor, combined authority mayor, police and crime commissioner, mayor of London and constituency members of the Greater London Assembly until 6 May 2021 (councillor and parish councillor only apply to England). • Postponement of local advisory polls, neighbourhood planning referendums and referendum on local authority change of governance until 6 May 2021.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

Wales) Regulations 2020	
The Representation of the People (Electoral Registers Publication Date) Regulations 2020 The Representation of the People (Electoral Registers Publication Date) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for the revised register for 2020 to be published by 1 February 2021 to take into account the coronavirus pandemic.
Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the franchise for Senedd elections to 16- and 17-year-olds and qualifying foreign citizens. •
Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Act 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extends the franchise for local government elections in Scotland to citizens of all countries who have leave to remain in the UK. • Enables qualifying foreign nationals to stand for election and hold office for Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extends the franchise in Scottish Parliament and local government elections to some convicted persons (sentenced to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 12 months).
The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment Order 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequential changes as a result of the enfranchisement of foreign nationals in Scottish Parliament elections.
The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excludes expenses relating to a candidate's disability, providing security at election events and translating election materials into other languages from their spending limits. Removes the need to publish a notice of the time and place at which candidates returns can be inspected in not less than two newspapers, instead providing the RO to publicise the opportunity in a manner they see fit. Provides for a prisoners poll card to be sent to their prison address instead of their registered address. Establishes a minimum as to the number of counting agents per individual candidate and party – not less than the number obtained by dividing the number of clerks by number of candidates. Provides for individuals shielding or self-isolating following Scottish Government or medical advice to apply for an emergency proxy which is already in place for local government by-elections that have and continue to take place. The Electoral Commission have produced a template application to vote by



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>emergency proxy in Scotland based on COVID-19 and is available on their website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardises the time for reissuing lost and spoilt postal ballot papers to 10pm on polling day. • Requires party names on the regional ballot paper to appear in capitals.
<p>The Scottish Local Government Elections Amendment Order 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes the requirement for the home address of a candidate at a Scottish local government election to appear on the nomination paper. It introduces the new "home address form" which must accompany a nomination paper. The candidate may state on the home address form that they require their home address to be made public for the purposes of the nomination. If they do not do so, the home address form must state the relevant area or, as the case may be, the country outside the United Kingdom, in which the candidate's home address is located. • Removes the requirement for the address of the person who witnesses the candidate's subscription to the nomination paper to appear on the nomination paper. • Provision allowing the returning officer to correct minor errors in the home address form and to provide for their inspection.
<p>The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description where Registered Party Name is being used- If the registered party name does not include 'Welsh' or 'Cymru', then the registered party name may be supplemented with 'Welsh' or 'Cymru' in the description box on the nomination paper. • Home Address Form – Candidates at Senedd elections can now require that their home address is not published on the statement of persons nominated or the



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<p>ballot paper. Where they choose not to have their home address published they must provide the name of the Senedd constituency (or UK Parliamentary constituency if they live outside of Wales) in which their home address is situated or the Country in which their home address is situated if they live outside the UK. In addition, where a candidate is acting as their own election agent and has requested on a home address form that their address is not to be made public (and their office address is their home address), only the constituency or country must be included on the notice of election agents.</p>
<p>Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement for each Boundary Commission to submit a report to Speaker of the House of Commons before 1 July 2023 and subsequently before 1 October 2031 and before 1 October every eight year after that. • Provision for 650 constituencies for UK Parliamentary elections. • Use of the register that has effect on 2 March 2020 to be used as the electorate figures for constituencies. • Repeal of the requirement to review reduction in number of constituencies to 600.
<p>The Parish and Community Meetings (Coronavirus) (Polls) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the postponement of a poll demanded at a parish meeting in England which could otherwise take place before 6 May 2021 to now take place not earlier than 6 May 2021, or the fourteenth day after the day on which the poll was demanded (whichever is later) and not later than 11 June 2021.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide that a petition for a referendum on a change of local authority governance presented during the period from 16 March 2020 to 8 February 2021 is to be treated as having been presented on 9th February 2021 but that, for the purposes of establishing the validity of the petition, the local authority must use the version of the electoral register which had effect on the day on which the petition was actually presented to the authority.
<p>Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Act 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brings forward the deadline for postal vote applications from day -11 to day -21 and provides for a Ministerial report on uptake in postal voting. • Power for the Scottish Ministers to make regulations to provide for an all-postal election and polling over multiple days.
<p>The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables an elector to apply to change the proxy appointed to vote for them where their existing proxy cannot reasonably attend a polling station at an election for reasons related to coronavirus and is not a proxy voter who votes by post. Provision is also made for review of the need for these applications and for them to cease on 10 December 2022.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

<p>Welsh Elections (Coronavirus) Act 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations to provide for additional polling days and postpone the 2021 Senedd election. • Candidates can deliver their respective consent to nomination either in writing at the place for delivery of those papers or electronically to an electronic address for that purpose. • Nomination papers can be delivered between 9am to 5pm. • Provision to apply for an emergency proxy application where a person is unable to attend a polling station as a result of following relevant legislation, guidance or medical advice in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. Where a person already has a proxy appointed to vote for them, but the proxy is then affected by COVID-19, there is also the ability to make an alternative proxy arrangement •
<p>The Local and Greater London Authority Elections (Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) (England) Rules 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the number of subscribing electors that are required on a candidate nomination form respectively for local elections (from 10 to 2) and for the London mayoral elections (from 330 to 66). • Provides for the expiry of these amendments at the end of 28 February 2022, except in respect of elections which have been commenced (by the issuing of the notice of election) on or before that date but where the poll for that election will take place on or after that date.
<p>The Mayor and Police and Crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the number of subscribing electors that are required on a candidate nomination form for Police and Crime Commissioner (from 100 to number of



The Association of Electoral Administrators

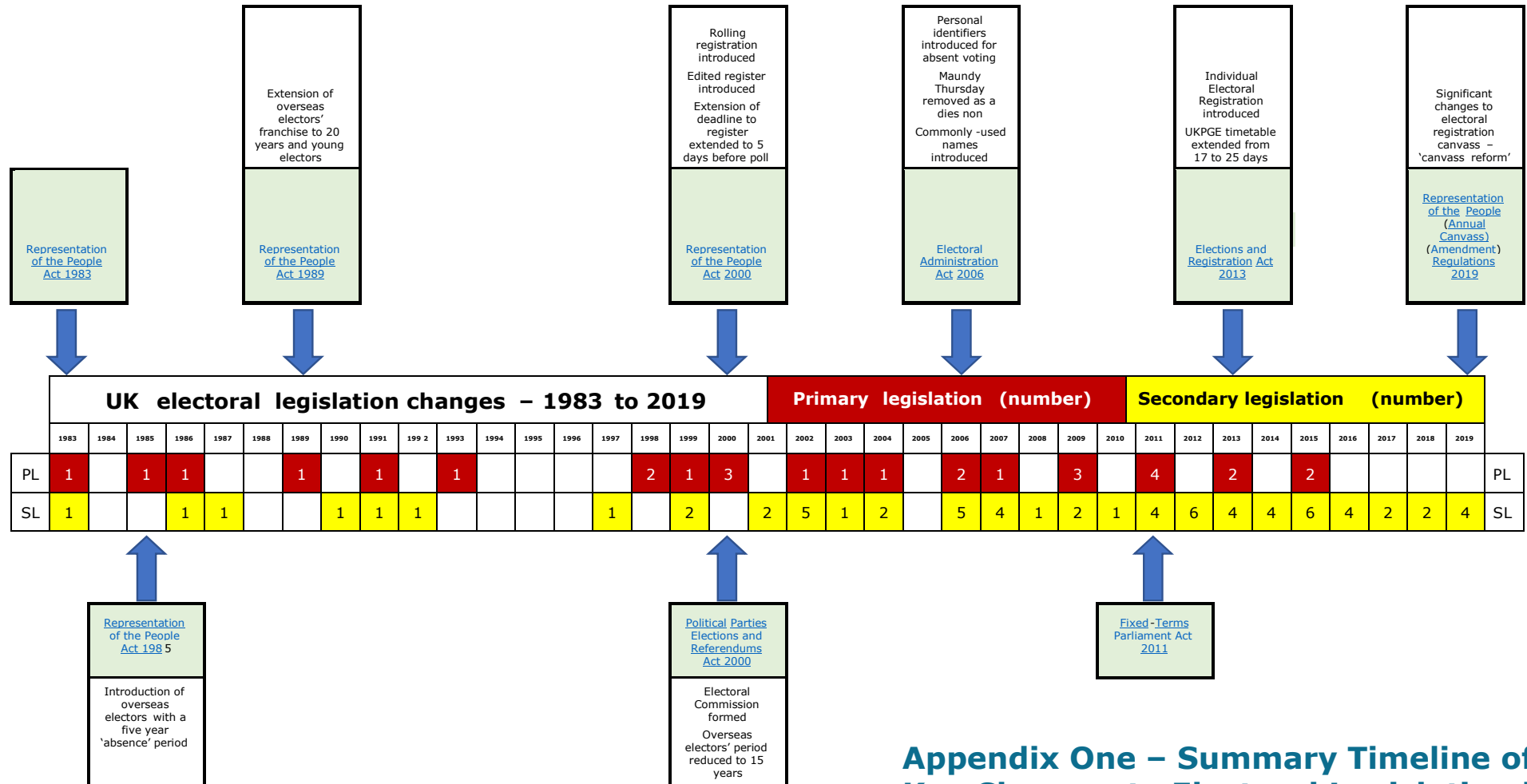
Commissioner Elections (Coronavirus, Nomination of Candidates) (Amendment) Order 2021	<p>local authorities in police area x 2), Combined Authority Mayoral (from 100 to 2 from each constituent council area within combined authority) and Local Authority Mayoral elections (from 10 to 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the expiry of these amendments at the end of 28 February 2022, except in respect of elections which have been commenced (by the issuing of the notice of election) on or before but not concluded on that date.
The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further postpone local government by-elections that were to be held between 1 February 2021 to 16 April 2021 to now take place between 1 March 2021 and 6 May 2021.
The Representation of the People (Proxy Vote Applications) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions which provide for electors to appoint a proxy to vote for them and will expand the eligibility to apply for a proxy vote up to and including polling day, where electors are affected by Covid-19, or where a person they have already appointed to be their proxy is similarly affected by Covid-19 and removes the requirement for a medical attestation. Removes the cut off date (after 5pm 6 days before polling) of when a person began having to self-isolate or learned they have covid-19.



The Association of Electoral Administrators

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments will cease to apply at the end of 28 February 2022, except for elections where the notice of election has already been published on or before that date but the poll takes place after that date.
<u>The Senedd Cymru (Representation of the People) (Amendment) Order 2021</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reverts the deadline for the delivery of nominations for Senedd elections back to 4pm on day -19;• Amends the home address form to include a UK Parliamentary constituency where the candidate lives outside of Wales.
<u>Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extension of the franchise for local government elections to 16- and 17-year-olds and qualifying foreign citizens.• Provision for a principal council to change the voting system for local government elections from FPTP to STV and vice versa.• Changes to the electoral cycle for local government elections to every 5 years.• Provides the power for an alternative method to register local government electors without application but would need to be enacted in regulations by Welsh Ministers

The Association of Electoral Administrators



Appendix One – Summary Timeline of Key Changes to Electoral Legislation in the UK since 1983