

YOU CAN SHAPE WELSH POLITICS – AND YOUR FUTURE IN WALES!

Democratic Engagement Project

BEFORE WE START - THE BORING BIT!

Please can you register your attendance for the workshop via the QR code below.

This project is made possible by the Welsh Government's Democratic engagement fund and we are required to report our impact.

The form takes only a few minutes!



A BRIEF HISTORY

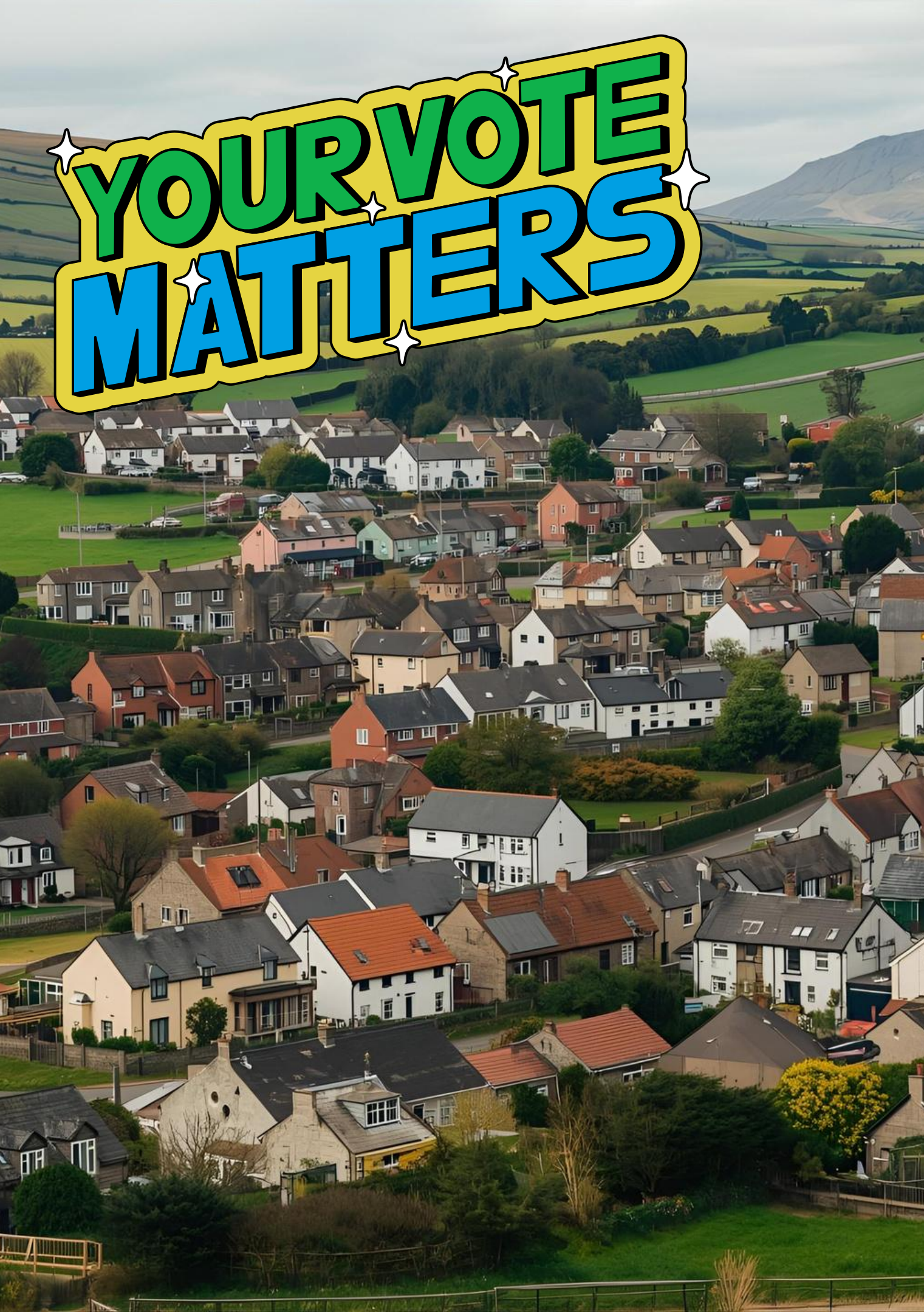
The Welsh Parliament, which is called the Senedd, was created to give the people of Wales a stronger voice in decisions about their daily lives.

In 1999, the National Assembly for Wales was set up after a referendum.

In 2020, it became the Welsh Parliament (Senedd Cymru).

Today, the Senedd makes laws and decisions on many issues that directly affect communities in Wales.





YOUR VOTE MATTERS

WHO CAN VOTE IN THE SENEDD ELECTIONS ON 7 MAY 2026?

You can vote if you are:

- ✓ Registered to vote
- ✓ 16 or over on the day of the election ('polling day')
- ✓ Live in Wales
- ✓ Not be legally excluded from voting
- ✓ If you're a British citizen, Irish citizen or a citizen of an EU country.
- ✓ You can also vote if you're a citizen of another country and have permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, or you do not need permission.

WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

The Senedd decides on key issues that affect you, your family and your community, including:

**Health
and NHS**

Education

Housing

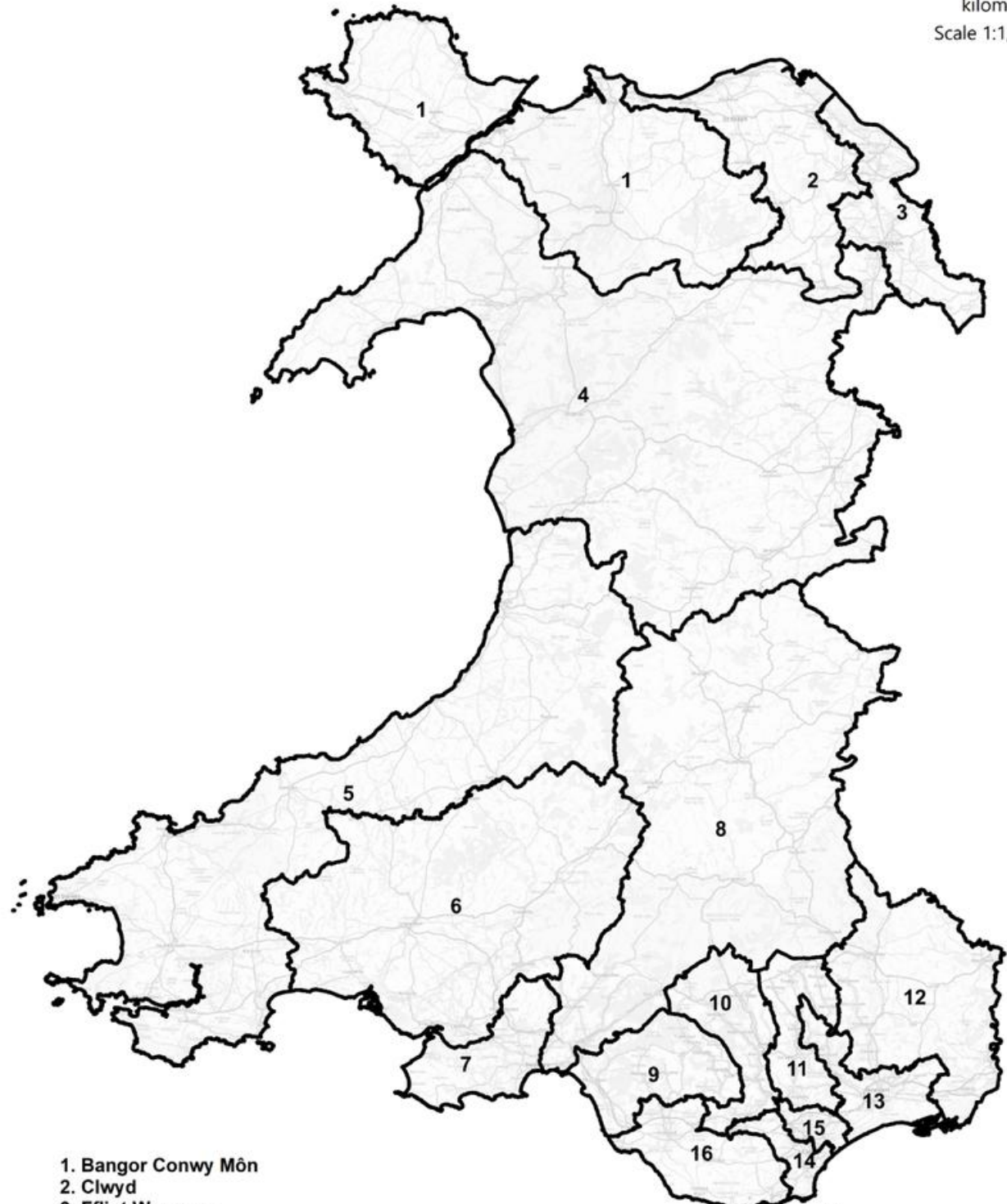
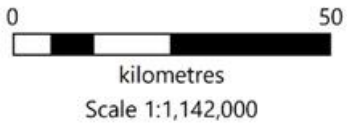
Examples of devolved policies unique to Wales:

- Free NHS prescriptions for everyone in Wales (not available in England).
- Free school meals for all primary school children
- Lower tuition fees and financial support for Welsh students compared to England.

These are everyday issues that impact your life. Your vote helps shape these decisions.



FINAL DETERMINATIONS



- 1. Bangor Conwy Môn
- 2. Clwyd
- 3. Fflint Wrecsam
- 4. Gwynedd Maldwyn
- 5. Ceredigion Penfro
- 6. Sir Gaerfyrddin
- 7. Gŵyr Abertawe
- 8. Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd
- 9. Afan Ogwr Rhondda
- 10. Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr
- 11. Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni
- 12. Sir Fynwy Torfaen
- 13. Casnewydd Islwyn
- 14. Caerdydd Penarth
- 15. Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf
- 16. Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg

A NEW VOTING SYSTEM IN 2026

The next election will be different – every vote will count more than ever.

- ✓ Wales is introducing Proportional Representation – the number of seats a party wins will reflect the percentage of votes they receive.
- ✓ The Senedd is also increasing from 60 to 96 members.

This means:

- ◆ More choice
- ◆ Fairer results
- ◆ A stronger democracy

WHY THE 2026 ELECTION IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT

This election is historic – especially for refugees and ethnic minority communities.

Your vote can influence policies that affect:

- Access to language support
- Welsh asylum and move on support
- Community cohesion support
- Education opportunities

Policies that support sanctuary seekers and refugees in Wales, will only continue if people use their democratic voice.



HOW TO CONTACT MY ELECTED OFFICIAL?

Know Who Represents You

- Use tools like Find my Senedd member or your local government website to find your representative.
- Identify which level of government covers your issue (local, regional, national).

Choose How to Reach Out

✉ Email or letter — best for formal communication and a written record.

👥 In-person meeting or community forum — impactful for relationship building.

💬 Social media — useful for visibility, but be respectful and concise.

Craft Your Message

- Start with who you are and where you live (they prioritise constituents).
- Explain the issue clearly and briefly.
- Share why it matters to you — personal stories resonate.
- Ask for something specific (e.g., “Will you support X policy?”)

The screenshot shows the 'Find a Member of the Senedd' website. At the top, there's a header with the title 'Find a Member of the Senedd' and links for 'Share', 'Print', and 'Feedback'. Below the header, there's a search section titled 'Find your member of the Senedd' with two input fields: one for a postcode (with a hint 'Please enter a valid postcode, e.g. ZZ99 9ZZ') and one for a name (with a hint 'or type name here'). Below these are links for 'All Members of the Senedd', 'All Commissioners', and 'All Ministers'. There are also two dropdown menus: 'SELECT REGION AND CONSTITUENCY' and 'FIND BY POLITICAL PARTY OR GROUP'. To the right of the search section are two maps of Wales: 'Senedd Regions' and 'Senedd Constituencies'. At the bottom, there's a section titled 'ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE SENEDD' with the text 'We are the Welsh Parliament, made up of 60 Members'.

FIND YOUR MEMBER HERE



TOP TIPS

1. Be polite and professional — even if you disagree.
2. Keep it short: 2–3 paragraphs is ideal.
3. Work with others — a shared message from multiple constituents has more impact

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN WALES

**YOUR VOTE
HAS POWER**



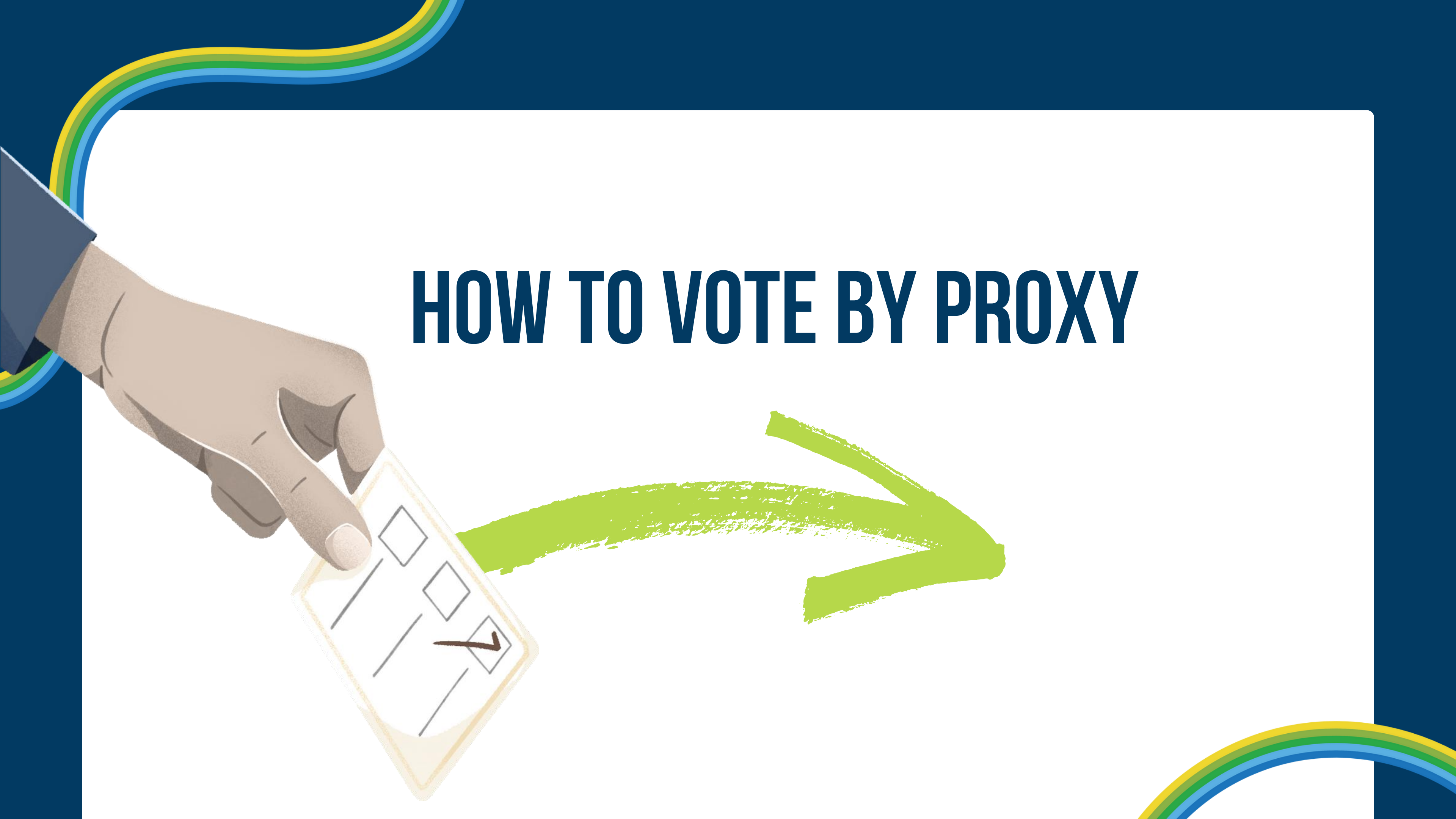
HOW TO VOTE AT A POLLING STATION



HOW TO VOTE BY POST



HOW TO VOTE BY PROXY



DO YOUR RESEARCH

Before you vote, explore what different parties are saying and decide what matters most to you and your family.

Two of the best ways to do this is:

Read Party Manifestos – each political party releases a manifesto outlining its policies before the election. These can often be dense, but charities and media outlets sometimes produce simplified guides.

Local candidates' events – hustings or Q&A sessions (sometimes run by community groups or churches) allow people to hear directly from candidates.

Questions you should think about:

- Which policies affect me and my community most?
- What are the party's positions on housing, jobs, education, healthcare, immigration, and equality?
- Does the party's record match its promises?

REMEMBER:
IT'S YOUR DECISION,
YOUR VOICE,
YOUR VOTE.



LET'S REGISTER TOGETHER!

Using your phone's scan the QR code below and together we will register to vote.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the process as we go along.

You will need your National insurance number to register.



HOW DID WE DO?

Please can you complete the feedback form here.

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THANK
YOU

