

UK parliamentary by-elections | Electoral Commission Search

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location. First published: 8 June 2023 Last updated: 3 August 2023 UK parliamentary
by-elections A UK parliamentary by-election happens when a seat in the House of
Commons becomes vacant between general elections. A seat can become vacant when an
MP: resigns or dies is declared bankrupt takes a seat in the House of Lords is
convicted of a serious criminal offence is recalled by their constituents following a
successful recall petition A by-election does not have to take place if an MP changes
political party. Who can vote in these elections To vote at a UK parliamentary by-
election you must be registered to vote and: be 18 years of age or over on polling
day be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen be resident at an address
in the UK (or a UK citizen living abroad who has been registered to vote in the UK in
the last 15 years) not be legally excluded from voting The following people cannot
vote in a UK Parliament election: members of the House of Lords EU citizens (other
than the Republic of Ireland, Cyprus and Malta) resident in the UK anyone other than
British, Irish and qualifying Commonwealth citizens convicted persons detained in
pursuance of their sentences, excluding contempt of court (though remand prisoners,
unconvicted prisoners and civil prisoners can vote if they are on the electoral
register) anyone found guilty within the previous five years of corrupt or illegal
practices in connection with an election information about who is eligible to vote.
Voting in these elections UK parliamentary by-elections use the first past the post
system. You will only be able to vote for one candidate, by putting a cross [X] in
the box next to your choice. MPs usually sit for a five-year term. However, when a MP
is elected through a by-election, they will serve for the remainder of the original
term. For example, if a by-election takes place one year after a general election,
the MP who is elected will serve for four years until the next general election. Your
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