

Home Elections Act On this page Changes Our role First published: 5 July 2021 Last updated: 2 February 2023 Summary From May 2023, there are changes which aim to provide greater flexibility and choice in how disabled voters are supported to vote at polling stations. These changes apply to local elections in England, Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales, and general elections in the UK including recall petitions. The changes were applied for the first time at the local elections taking place in 230 areas of England in May 2023. Changes Disabled voters will be able to choose anyone who is over 18 to accompany them in the polling station to help them vote, including carers who may not themselves be eligible to vote at the election. There will also be changes to the assistance available at polling stations. From May 2023, Returning Officers will need to take all reasonable steps to provide support for disabled voters at polling stations. This will improve the range and quality of support available and speed up the process of providing additional support where needed. Our role We have consulted organisations that represent disabled people, electoral administrators, and the Government to update our guidance for electoral administrators. Our guidance will recommend what Returning Officers should make available in polling stations for disabled voters, so that they receive the service they are entitled to. Working alongside partners, we will tell disabled voters about the changes and how to contact the electoral services team at their local council if they need support. Related content Elections Act about the UK Government's Elections Act and what it means for voting and campaigning About the Elections Act about the Elections Bill, including the measures it contains and which elections it applies to. Changes to proxy voting about the proposed changes to voting by proxy, where someone you trust votes on your behalf. Preventing undue influence Read about the proposals to simplify and clarify the offence of undue influence (when someone uses, or threatens to use, force or violence to make someone vote a certain way).