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On this page Changes Our role First published: 5 July 2021 Last updated: 2 February 2023 Summary From October 2023 there will be a limit to how many people a voter can act as a proxy for. It will also be possible to apply for some types of proxy vote online. Voters will not be able to apply online if their application needs attesting or if applying for an emergency proxy vote. These changes will apply to local elections in England, Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales, and general elections in the UK including recall petitions. Changes If someone is unable to get to their polling station, they can ask someone they trust to vote on their behalf. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting the vote is referred to as a proxy. Currently, a person can act as a proxy for an unlimited number of close relatives and two other people. Under the new rules, voters would be limited to acting as a proxy for two people, regardless of their relationship. Anyone voting on behalf of UK voters who live overseas could act as a proxy for up to four people. Voters will be able to apply online for some types of proxy vote, and their identity will need to be checked as part of the process. Voters will not be able to apply online if their application needs attesting or if applying for an emergency proxy vote. Both online and paper application will require ID verification (except for emergency proxy votes). Our role We will provide updated guidance and support to electoral administrators to help them understand and deliver the changes. We will also support local authorities to communicate these changes to voters who want to apply for a proxy vote, including highlighting to them the option to apply for a proxy vote online where it exists. We will tell political parties and campaigners about the proxy vote changes. 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 postal voting The UK Government has proposed a number of changes to postal voting. . Improving the accessibility of elections Read about the proposals to make it easier for people with disabilities to vote.