

Reforming electoral law You are in the section Home Overview Electoral law is out of date. Some of the laws that govern our democracy go back as far as 1872 and don't work for a digital age. These laws are at the heart of trust and confidence in politics. It's vital they're right today and the future. We're calling on the UK's governments to reform electoral law and make it simpler, up-to-date and future proof.

Outdated laws There are currently over 100 pieces of electoral legislation. Every type of election has its own legislation. We have to write hundreds of pages of guidance to explain the rules to candidates, political parties, electoral administrators, and voters. People who run elections may have to refer to multiple documents to make sure they're following the law. This is costly and time consuming. Electoral law doesn't allow many simple processes to be done online, despite this being what people expect. Latest developments The Elections Act 2022 and its associated secondary legislation have substantially increased the size of the UK's body of electoral law. The UK's Law Commissions have already provided a blueprint for reform of electoral law that's widely supported by people who run, regulate and campaign at elections. The House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee (PACAC) also highlighted the clear need for electoral law to be consolidated and simplified. The Committee on Standards in Public Life also support the case for consolidating and simplifying electoral law. The UK's governments should now prioritise the time and resources needed to create meaningful improvement.

Changes we want to see It's time for governments to take this seriously and commit to significant change. We want the UK's governments to modernise these laws. Electoral law that's fit for today and the future will make sure that: elections can be run better and more efficiently candidates, political parties, and voters can easily understand and follow the rules simple actions can be done online, improving services for voters and campaigners and reducing waste it's easy to update as things change we have stronger powers and the right tools to adapt to changes, like regulating spending on new channels

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