

Public attitudes towards voting in Wales in the context of COVID-19 | Electoral Commission Search Public attitudes towards voting in Wales in the context of COVID-19 You are in the Public attitudes towards voting in the context of COVID-19 section Home Our research Public attitudes towards voting in the context of COVID-19 On this page Introduction Key findings Polling station voting Postal voting Other findings First published: 20 January 2021 Last updated: 19 March 2021

Introduction In February 2021, we asked a representative sample of eligible voters in Wales about their attitudes towards voting during the pandemic. The questions covered attitudes towards postal voting and other options for the safe running of the election in 2021. This is a repeat of the work carried out in December 2020. This page provides a summary of findings from the latest of these studies, makes comparison with December. **Key findings** There was an increase, between December and February, in the proportion of people who said they would vote in person if an election were held now. Voting in a polling place is the preferred option amongst a majority of voters but, compared with how people normally vote, the findings suggest a likely increase in the proportion of voters opting to use a postal vote. **Polling station voting** There was a large increase in the proportion of people who said they would vote in a polling station. In December, 44% said they would vote in a polling station if an election were held now, this rose to 56% in February. When we explain the planned Covid safety measures for polling stations, based on Electoral Commission guidance, the proportion who say it's safe to vote in a polling station rises from 73% to 81% (or 86% of people who usually vote in person). Over 4/5 (82%) of those who say its unsafe think that there is no measure that could be taken at polling stations that would make them feel safe. While we are not able, from this research, to report specifically on BAME respondents in in Wales we can report for Great Britain as a whole. 61% of BAME respondents said voting in person was safe compared to 75% of White respondents. Once told about the Electoral Commission guidance around safety measures 73% of BAME respondents feel safe voting in person compared with 84% of White respondents. **Postal voting** 19% of those who say they usually vote in person said they would vote by post although this has declined significantly from the 27% who indicated this in December. While this should not be taken as a reliable indicator of the number of people who will vote by post it does indicate that there could be an uplift in May. **Other findings** There has been an increase in the willingness to vote if an election were to take place now. 85% said they would vote in February compared to 75% in November. While the most common preferred method for holding the poll remained using the same voting methods as usual (37%) there was an increase in the number of people who wanted the polling stations to be open more than one day. In December 23% of people wanted the polling station to be open more than one day, by February this had risen to 32%. This is potentially a result of the increased discussion and coverage of this approach. Just under a third (32%) of those people who intend to vote in person said that if their household had to isolate due to Covid-19 then they would not know someone able to vote for them. Just over half (53%) said they would. There was no change since December in the proportion of people (52%) who said they would apply for a postal vote if encouraged to do so. **Background notes** Background notes All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from work done for the Commission by YouGov Plc. February 2021: Total sample size was 508. Fieldwork was undertaken between 29 January- 20th February 2021. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in Wales (aged 16+). December 2020: Total sample size was 1,031 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7 - 11 December 2020. The survey was carried out online. The figures have

been weighted and are representative of all adults in Wales (aged 16+). Full tables
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