

# Approving a pull request with required reviews


If your repository requires reviews, pull requests must have a specific number of approving reviews from people with *write* or *admin* permissions in the repository before they can be merged.

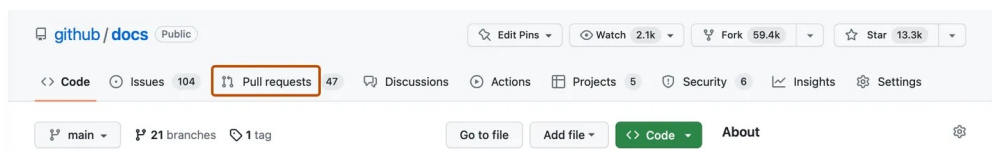
For more information about required reviews, see "[About protected branches](#)."

You can comment on a pull request, approve the changes, or request improvements before approving. For more information, see "[Reviewing proposed changes in a pull request](#)."

You can find a pull request where you or a team you're a member of is requested for review with the search qualifier `review-requested:[USERNAME]` or `team-review-requested:[TEAMNAME]`. For more information, see "[Searching issues and pull requests](#)."

**Tip:** If a pull request you approved has changed significantly, you can dismiss your review. The pull request will need a new review before it can be merged. For more information, see "[Dismissing a pull request review](#)."

- 1 Under your repository name, click  **Pull requests**.



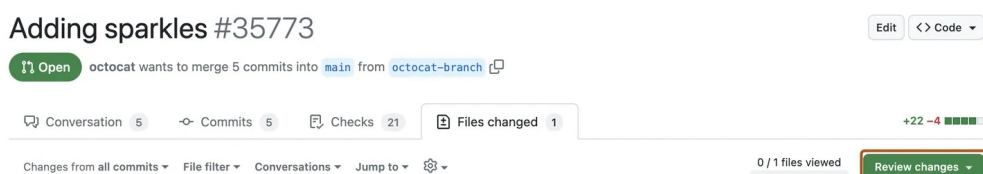
- 2 In the list of pull requests, click the pull request you'd like to review.

- 3 On the pull request, click  **Files changed**.



- 4 Review the changes in the pull request, and optionally, comment on specific lines or files. For more information, see "[Reviewing proposed changes in a pull request](#)."

- 5 Above the changed code, click **Review changes**.



- 6 Type a comment summarizing your feedback on the proposed changes.
- 7 Select **Approve** to approve merging the changes proposed in the pull request.
- 8 Click **Submit review**.

#### Tips:

- If a collaborator with `admin`, `owner`, or `write` access to the repository submits a review requesting changes, the pull request cannot be merged until the same collaborator submits another review approving the changes in the pull request.
- Repository owners and administrators can merge a pull request even if it hasn't received an approving review, or if a reviewer who requested changes has left the organization or is unavailable.
- If both required reviews and stale review dismissal are enabled and a code-modifying commit is pushed to the branch of an approved pull request, the approval is dismissed. The pull request must be reviewed and approved again before it can be merged.
- When several open pull requests each have a head branch pointing to the same commit, you won't be able to merge them if one or both have a pending or rejected review.
- If your repository requires approving reviews from people with write or admin permissions, then any approvals from people with these permissions are denoted with a green check mark, and approvals from people without these permissions have a gray check mark. Approvals with a gray check mark do not affect whether the pull request can be merged.
- Pull request authors cannot approve their own pull requests.

## Further reading

- "[Reviewing proposed changes in a pull request](#)"
- "[Commenting on a pull request](#)"

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