

GLOSSARY

Ballot box: A secure box where all the ballot papers are kept until they are counted.

Ballot paper: A piece of paper which lists the candidates or parties that you can vote for. You vote by marking your ballot paper with an X or a number depending on the election.

Campaign: A planned activity or action to achieve a goal.

Candidate: Someone who has put themselves forward to be elected in your area.

Citizens: The people (you!).

Civil Society: Sometimes the term civil society is used in the more general sense of the elements such as freedom of speech, an independent judiciary, etc. that make up a democratic society.

Civic Society: In the UK, a civic society is a voluntary body or society which aims to represent the needs of a local community.

Coalition: A coalition government is a government formed jointly by more than one political party.

Committee: A group of people chosen to research and report on a matter.

Community: A group of people living/working in the same area, or a group of people who share a common interest.

Consensus: An agreement.

Constituency: MPs and Members of Devolved Parliaments represent people who live in an official geographic area called a Constituency which is a bigger local area than a ward/district.

Councillors: Elected by Ward/District to represent you at local government level.

Democracy: From ancient Greek that means people and rule. The people of a country have a voice and their voice is heard. People, or citizens, should have a role in their government through elected representatives.

Debate: A formal discussion. Opposing arguments can be heard and a decision is voted upon.

Devolution: The transfer of power by a central government to local or regional administrations.

Elected Representative: These are individuals chosen by citizens to represent them. This could be Members of Parliament (MPs) or Members of the Senedd (MS).

Electoral register/Electoral roll: An official list of names and addresses of all the people who can vote in local and national elections. This is sometimes called the full register.

First Past The Post: In a general or local election, voters put a cross (X) next to their preferred candidate on a ballot paper. Ballot papers are counted. The candidate with the most votes wins and represents that constituency in Parliament or ward at the local Council.

Government: The group of people who are officially responsible for governing (running) the country or political part of the country.

Legislature: An institution that has the power to make or change laws.

Manifesto: Political parties publish documents outlining all their policies. You can use a manifesto to find out what a political party stands for.

Mayor: Most local authorities opt for the 'leader and cabinet' model where the council leader is selected from the councillors, but in some areas a 'mayor and cabinet' model has been adopted, where a directly elected mayor is established to replace the council leader.

Media: Communication: Radio, TV, Newspaper (print), Online and social media.

Members of devolved parliaments (MS, MSP, MLA): Elected by Constituency & Region. Elected to represent you in devolved parliaments if you live in Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland.

Open Register: A list with the same name and address information as the electoral register. It is not used for elections and information can be sold to third parties. You can choose to opt out of the open register.

Parliament: Parliament is where MPs debate and decide laws which affect the UK.

Petition: A formal written request signed by many people.

Politics: Activities associated with government. Politics impacts everything around you.

Poll: An Election.

Polling booth: A private screened area where you vote by marking your ballot paper.

Polling place: The building where you go to cast your vote. There can be more than one polling station at a polling place.

Proportional Representation: In Welsh/Scottish Parliament Elections all the votes cast for each political party in a Region are counted so that the % of votes cast for each party decides the number of regional members each party has in parliament to represent all those who voted in that region.

Protest: A complaint or objection against something.

Register: Sign up for something.

Rule of Law: The law should apply to everyone and the law treats all citizens equally.

Senedd: The Welsh Parliament (Senedd Cymru!) makes laws for Wales. MSs represent Welsh people's voices and views.

Volunteer: Someone who freely offers to take part in a task.

Vote: To make an official choice usually at a meeting, debate or election.

Ward/District: Councillors represent electoral areas called Divisions, Wards, Districts, or Unitary Authority Electoral Division (UTE).