

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can register to vote?

- You can register to vote if you are:
- Aged 18 and over
- Aged 16 or 17 years old (so that you are eligible to vote as soon as you turn 18)
- British, Irish, or qualifying Commonwealth or European Union citizen

For more details call Electoral Services on 01642 729771

I'm paying Council Tax - I should be on the register!

It doesn't follow that because you are paying council tax you are also on the register of electors. The two systems are kept separate by law, not least to protect the integrity of the register of electors. Even so, our council tax section sends out home-mover packs whenever someone calls them to set up a new account for their new home, and that pack includes a voter registration form.

Why cant I get credit? A bank or credit agency has told me I'm not on the register

This is because the Electoral Register is often used for credit referencing purposes to counteract fraud. Credit reference agencies are allowed to buy a copy of the full register to use for credit checking. They also buy copies of the monthly updates. If a bank or credit agency has told you that you are not on the register, you should contact us. Firstly, we will check the register ourselves, and, if need be, we will send you a voter registration form.

I am 16/17 years old. Can I register to vote?

You can, and you will be entitled to vote when you are 18. If your 18th birthday is just before an election it's a good idea to register now so that you are able to vote on Election Day.

Has your name changed?

You may have changed the name you are known by, by marriage, by deed poll or by reversion to a former name. We can alter the register if you contact us with the information by letter, email or fax. We will write to you when the change has been made.

Has someone moved out of your property?

Someone may have left your address, or a member of your household may have died. Again, we will amend the register if you contact us with the information by letter, email or fax. We receive a weekly report from the Registrar of Births and Deaths of all the deaths that take place within the borough, and we alter the register on the basis of that information.

What is the 'Full' and 'Edited' version of the Electoral Register?

The Full Register lists everyone who has registered to vote. Certain people and organisations can have copies of the full register and they can only use it for electoral purposes, the prevention and detection of crime and checking

your identity when you have applied for credit. It is a criminal offence for them to pass this information on to anyone else or to use it for any other purpose.

The Edited Register can be sold to anyone and used for any purpose – usually companies who wish to use it for commercial reasons such as sending mail shots or “junk mail”. You can choose to have your name removed from this register by ticking the relevant column on the registration form. **This will not affect your right to vote or your credit rating.**

How to get in touch with us

By Letter

Electoral Services
Middlesbrough Council
PO Box 99A
Town Hall
Middlesbrough
TS1 2QQ

Personal Visit

Main Reception (Ground Floor), Town Hall
Ask the receptionist to contact the Electoral Services Team

Office Opening Hours

The office is open between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm (Monday to Thursday)
8.30am and 4.30pm (Friday)

By Telephone

Ring the Helpline on 01642 729771

By Fax

The Fax number for the Electoral Services Team is 01642 729887

By Email

For any issues relating to the Electoral Register or issues relating to elections:
elections@middlesbrough.gov.uk