



Representation of the People Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 2

PART I

PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE AND ITS EXERCISE

Conduct of local government elections in England and Wales

37 Ordinary day of local elections in England ^{F1}...

[^{F2}(1)] In every year the ordinary day of election of councillors is the same for all local government areas in England ^{F3}... and is—

- (a) the first Thursday in May;
- (b) such other day as may be fixed by the Secretary of State by order made not later than 1st February in the year preceding [^{F4}the year (or, in the case of an order affecting more than one year, the first year)] in which the order is to take effect.

[^{F5}(2) As respects Authority elections, the power conferred by subsection (1)(b) above shall include power to make an order fixing a day other than the first Thursday in May as the day on which the poll is to be held at an ordinary election other than the first.]

^{F6}(2A)

[^{F7}(3)] The power to make an order under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 37 heading omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(16)(a)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), [reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- F2** [S. 37](#) renumbered as s. 37(1) (14.12.1999) by [1999 c. 29](#), s. 17, **Sch. 3 para. 5(2)** (with [Sch. 12 para. 9\(1\)](#)); [S.I. 1999/3376](#), **art. 2**
- F3** Words in s. 37(1) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(16)(a)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), [reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- F4** Words substituted by [Representation of the People Act 1985 \(c. 50, SIF 42\)](#), **s. 18(2)**

Changes to legislation: Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 October 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- F5** S. 37(2) inserted (14.12.1999) by 1999 c. 29, s. 17, **Sch. 3 para. 5(5)** (with Sch. 12 para. 9(1)); S.I. 1999/3376, **art. 2**
- F6** S. 37(2A) repealed (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#) (S.I. 2018/1310), **reg. 1, Sch. 1 Pt. 1** (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, **regs. 1, 2(2)**)
- F7** Words in s. 37 renumbered as s. 37(3) (14.12.1999) by 1999 c. 29, s. 17, **Sch. 3 para. 5(4)** (with Sch. 12 para. 9(1)); S.I. 1999/3376, **art. 2**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 37 excluded (6.2.2004) by [The Local Government \(Ordinary Day of Election\) \(Wales\) Order 2004](#) (S.I. 2004/218), **art. 2(1)**
 S. 37 excluded (13.3.2004) by [The Local Elections \(Ordinary Day of Election 2004\) Order 2004](#) (S.I. 2004/222), **art. 2(1)**

Changes to legislation:

Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 October 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act Representation of the People Acts amended by [1985 c. 50 Sch. 1 para. 24](#)
- Act applied by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 11 para. 1\(3\)](#)
- Act applied by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 11 para. 4\(3\)](#)
- Act power to amend conferred by [2009 c. 12 s. 34\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Blanket amendment words substituted by [S.I. 2011/1043 art. 34](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 9(2A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(2\)](#)
- s. 9E(1A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(4\)](#)
- s. 9ZA inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(3\)](#)
- s. 10(4C)(4D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(3\)\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 10A(1C)(1D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(5\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 10ZE(2A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 10ZE(4A) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 10ZE(5A)-(5C) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(5\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 13A(1)(zc) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(6\)](#)
- s. 13A(2C)(2D) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(6\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 16(1)(e) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(5\)](#)
- s. 16(1)(e) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(6\)](#)
- s. 49(5)(b)(iia) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(8\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 56(1)(azaa) inserted by [2021 asc 1 s. 18\(9\)](#)
- s. 61(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 61(3B) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 62C inserted by [2023 c. 12 s. 1](#)
- s. 63(3)(ba) inserted by [2006 c. 22 s. 7](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 7 repealed (2.4.2013) without ever being in force by 2013 c. 6, s. 23; S.I. 2013/702, art. 3(e))
- s. 66(3A)-(3F) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 66(4A)(4B) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 7\(3\)](#)
- s. 66(6A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 7\(5\)](#)
- s. 81(4A)(4B) inserted by [2006 asp 14 s. 19\(2\)](#)
- s. 112A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 37](#)

- s. 112A inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 113(7)(b)(c) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 15\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 114(4) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 16](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 114A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 38](#)
- s. 114A inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 8\(1\)](#)
- s. 115(3) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 17](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 139(6A) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 19\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 160(4B)(4C) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 165(3A) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 20](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- s. 168(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 1 para. 2\(3\)](#)
- s. 173(2A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 4\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 173(7A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- s. 173(9A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 5 para. 4\(3\)\(f\)](#)
- s. 176(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 32 Sch. 1 para. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 201(2B) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(9\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- s. 203A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(3\)](#)
- s. 203A203B applied by 1989 c. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 9\(4\)](#)
- s. 203A203B inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(11\)](#)
- s. 203B applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 19B applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 39](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 37 applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 42](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 53B applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 6 para. 44](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 37A inserted by [2011 c. 1 s. 9\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 9 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(a))
- Sch. 1 rule 45A45B inserted by [2011 c. 1 s. 9\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 9 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(a))
- Sch. 1 rule 46(3) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(3A)(3B) inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(4\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 32(1)(ba) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 45(1B)(e) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 45(2)(c) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#)

- Sch. 1 rule 31(1A) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 7\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 6(6) inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 11\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 29(3)(f) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 1 para. 15\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 53B and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 1 para. 26](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1)(c) inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 40(1B)(a) repealed by [2006 c. 22 Sch. 2](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 18 substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(d) substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(5\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(c) substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 62 substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 11\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 45(2)(a) substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 6(2A) substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 10\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(aa)(b) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(b) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(2)-(2E) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(2) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(3\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(aa)(b) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 47(4)(b) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 49A substituted for Sch. 1 rule 49 by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 7](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 50(1)(a)(aa)(ab)(b)(c) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 50(1)(a)-(c) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 8](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(a)(aa) substituted for Sch. 1 rule 61(2)(a) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 46(1)(1A) substituted for rule 46(1) by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 45(1B)(d) word inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 45(2)(b) word inserted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1)(b) word inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 45(1B)(c) word omitted by [2022 c. 37 s. 5\(4\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1)(a) word omitted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 46(2) words inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 5\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47 heading words inserted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 12(2)(c) words inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 10 para. 4](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1) table words omitted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(6\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 29(5) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 3](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))

- Sch. 1 rule 44(5) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 4](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 47(1)(d) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 53(4) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 9](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 61(1) words substituted by [2011 c. 1 Sch. 10 para. 10\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 10 repealed (8.7.2011) without ever being in force by S.I. 2011/1702, arts. 1, 2(b))
- Sch. 1 rule 31(1)(a) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 7\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 14(2A) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 10\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 14(2A) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 10\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 6(5)(b) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 s. 11\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1) table words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(1) table words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(5\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 35(2) words substituted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 4\(7\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 1(4ZA)-(4ZC) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(10\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Sch. 2 para. 1(6A) inserted by [2009 c. 12 s. 33\(10\)\(e\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Ss. 30-34 repealed (10.6.2014 for E.W., 15.9.2014 for N.I., 19.9.2014 for S.) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), s. 27(1), Sch. 4 para. 24(b) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2014/414, art. 5(m); S.I. 2014/2439, art. 2(l))
- Sch. 2 para. 5C inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 4 para. 5](#)
- Sch. 6A applied (with modifications) by S.I. 2001/2599, Sch. 1 table (as inserted) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 11\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6A applied by 1989 c. 3, Sch. 1 Pt. 1 (as amended) by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 9\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6A inserted by [2022 c. 37 Sch. 8 para. 1\(12\)](#)