

Electoral information for members of the Armed Forces

If you're a member of the Armed Forces, or the husband, wife or civil partner of someone in the Armed Forces, you can register to vote either as a Service Voter or as an ordinary voter. The way you choose to register to vote is up to you and will depend on your personal circumstances.

- If you're based overseas, or expect to be posted abroad in the next year, it makes sense to register as a Service Voter. This allows you to be registered at a fixed address in the UK even if you move around. A Service Voter registration also lasts for five years, so once you're registered, you shouldn't have to worry about it while you're busy overseas. To register as a service voter please contact the Elections Office on 01702 318187.
- If you're based in the UK and are unlikely to change address or be posted overseas in the next year, you can register as an ordinary voter. This is the type of registration where you'll receive an annual canvass registration form through the post at your address once a year between mid-August and November. Ordinary voters need to re-register every year. You don't need to wait for the annual canvass if you want to register as a service voter.

What methods of voting are available to me?

Service voters and their husbands, wives or civil partners can vote in person or can opt to vote by post or proxy.

Postal votes are only sent out a few weeks before election day. If you are serving abroad, it may be better to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf as there may not be enough time for your postal vote to reach you and be sent back before voting closes.

For more information contact:

Elections Office on 01702 318187 or elections@rochford.gov.uk