

Senedd Election 2026

What you need to know





Wales is Voting

If you're aged 16 or over on 7 May 2026 and live in Wales, you're eligible to vote in the upcoming Senedd election.

This booklet explores the election in more detail, but here are five key things you need to know:

- **Wales has its own parliament - the Senedd.** The Senedd passes laws about all sorts of things which affect your daily life in Wales.
- **Things like** hospitals and GPs, housing, schools and education, road and rail transport, farming, culture, the environment and the Welsh language are all decided by the Senedd.
- **On 7 May 2026 you'll have one vote** to choose the party or independent candidate you want to represent your area in the Senedd.
- **The Members of the Senedd you elect** in May 2026 have the power to make decisions that impact everyone in Wales.
- **It's a great time to get involved.** Make sure you're registered to vote by 20 April 2026.

Why is the election important?

Wales has its own parliament – the Senedd. It is the Senedd, not the UK Parliament, which passes laws about all sorts of things which affect your daily life in Wales.

The Senedd can make laws in areas including:

- hospitals and GPs
- schools
- road and rail transport
- farming and animals
- the environment
- the Welsh language

Welsh laws take account of circumstances in Wales, which might be different to other parts of the UK.

So the 96 Members of the Senedd you elect in May 2026 have the power to make decisions that impact everyone in Wales.



Did you know?

Wales was the first country in the UK to introduce charges for carrier bags 2011? Other laws passed by the Senedd which only apply to Wales include the 20mph speed limit, and presumed consent for organ donation.

Your vote matters

If you're aged 16 or over and live in Wales, you can vote in the 2026 Senedd election. But first you need to register.

Once you have registered you will be sent a polling card. This will tell you where you need to go to vote (your polling station) on the day of the election.

If you can't get to a polling station, you can register in advance to **vote by post**, or choose someone you trust to vote on your behalf (this is called a **proxy vote**).

You cannot vote online.

Don't miss out. Make sure you're registered to vote by 20 April 2026.



Before the election

- Political parties will prepare a 'party list' of up to eight candidates for each constituency. Independent candidates can also stand for election.
- Decide who you want to vote for. You will be able to see who is standing for election in your constituency on the Electoral Commission website after 9 April.

On election day

- At your polling station you will be given a ballot paper and will have one vote for the party or independent candidate you want to represent you in the Senedd.
- Your ballot paper will show everyone on the party lists, plus any independent candidates, so you can see everyone who is standing for election in your constituency.

How will Members of the Senedd be elected?

- If a party wins enough votes, they will win one or more seats in the Senedd. So, if a party wins three seats in a constituency, the top three people on their list will be elected Members for that area, in order.
- The new voting system is called a 'closed proportional list system'. So each Member will be elected based on the share of votes each party or independent candidate gets.
- So, if Party A gets 50% of the votes in a constituency, it is likely they will win three of the six seats. If Party B gets 30%, it is likely they will win two of the six seats.
- If an independent candidate has enough votes, they will also win a seat in the Senedd.

What do Members of the Senedd do?

From May 2026, the Senedd will have 96 Members.

Members of the Senedd are elected from all over Wales to represent you and your community in the Welsh Parliament.



In the Senedd

During term time, all Members of the Senedd meet twice a week in the Siambr – the debating chamber – for **Plenary**.

Plenary is where they speak on your behalf, question Welsh Government Ministers, debate and vote on important issues, and pass laws.

Most Members also sit on committees. **Committees** are made up of a small group of Members, from different parties, who look at specific topics or issues that affect the lives of people in Wales.

In your community

When they're not working in the Senedd, most Members have a local office in their constituency or region.

As well as being politicians, they're part of your community.

They hold drop-in sessions, called surgeries, so you can meet them and discuss local issues that concern you. You can also contact them online or over the telephone.

They will help if they can, and after hearing from you, your Member could raise your concern in the Senedd. They could ask a question or arrange a debate in Plenary.

Contacting your Members

You can contact any of your Members – in person, online, or by phone – no matter who you voted for. They all represent you equally.

What is my constituency?

At the 2026 Senedd election, Wales will be divided into 16 constituencies.

Each of these constituencies will have six Members, which means a total of 96 Members will be elected to the Parliament. Each new constituency has one name, to be used in both Welsh and English

1. Bangor Conwy Môn
2. Clwyd
3. Fflint Wrecsam
4. Gwynedd Maldwyn
5. Ceredigion Penfro
6. Sir Gaerfyrddin
7. Gŵyr Abertawe
8. Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd
9. Afan Ogwr Rhondda
10. Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr
11. Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymini
12. Sir Fynwy Torfaen
13. Casnewydd Islwyn

14. Caerdydd Penarth
15. Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf
16. Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg

You can find your new constituency by entering your postcode into our constituency finder map.



