

Your Senedd is Changing

What you need to know

From the election on 7 May 2026, you'll see some changes to the Senedd.

- ◆ **96 Members:** The Senedd will have 96 Members instead of 60.
- ◆ **New voting system:** Everyone 16+ will now have one vote, choosing a political party or independent candidate.
- ◆ **New constituencies:** Wales will have 16 constituencies. Each constituency will elect six Members.
- ◆ **New rules:** Anyone standing for election must live in Wales.



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

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Why is this important?

Wales has its own parliament – the Senedd. This means **the Senedd, not the UK Parliament**, makes laws for Wales in many areas including:

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

Welsh laws look at the situation in Wales, which might be different to other parts of the UK.

Laws passed by the Senedd, which apply to Wales but not England:

- ◆ The introduction of charges for single-use carrier bags (the first country in the UK to do so)
- ◆ The 20mph speed limit
- ◆ The smacking ban

This means the Members you elect in May 2026 have the power to make decisions about things that affect your daily life.

How many Members will the Senedd have?

Starting from the election on 7 May 2026, the Senedd will have 96 Members instead of 60.

For 25 years, the number of Members in the Senedd has stayed the same, even though it now has more responsibilities, like full law-making powers and the ability to change some taxes in Wales.

Having more Members will help the Senedd better review and challenge the **Welsh Government's** plans and spending on important issues like hospitals, education, and transport.

This will give your community a stronger voice in these decisions.

With 96 Members, the number of representatives you'll have in the Senedd comes in line with other countries of a similar size to Wales – like Scotland which has 129 Members and Northern Ireland which has 90.

What's new?

- ◆ Voters will elect 96 Members.
- ◆ You will have six Members representing you in the Senedd.
- ◆ Candidates standing for election must live in Wales.

How is the voting system changing?

In 2026, the way you vote will change.

If you're over the age of 16, you can vote in the 2026 Senedd Election.

You will get one vote to choose representatives for your community in the Senedd.

The new voting system is called a 'closed proportional list system'. This means you vote for a political party or an independent candidate, rather than individual people.

The ballot paper will show the full list of candidates in your constituency, so you can still see who you're voting for.

If a party wins enough votes, they will win one or more seats in the Senedd. If an independent candidate wins enough votes, they will win a seat in the Senedd.

Seats will reflect the percentage of votes each party or independent candidate gets.

Find out more: [**How will the new voting system work at the next Senedd election?**](#)

What's new?

- ◆ You will have a single vote and ballot paper to choose your representatives in the Senedd, instead of two separate ballots as in previous elections.
- ◆ When you vote, you choose the political party or independent candidate you want to represent you.
- ◆ From 2026, Senedd elections will happen every four years.

Who is eligible to vote?

To vote in the Senedd election on 7 May 2026 you must:

- ◆ be 16 years of age or over on the day of the election
- ◆ be **registered to vote**
- ◆ be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the European Union, or a qualifying foreign citizen
- ◆ live in Wales

Not sure if you're eligible?

The Electoral Commission has lots more information about registering to vote on their website:

[Register to vote | Electoral Commission](#)



How are constituencies changing?

Wales will have 16 constituencies instead of 40.

Each of these new constituencies will have six Members, making a total of 96 Members elected to the Senedd.

The [Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru](#) created the new areas by pairing the 32 UK Parliament constituencies for Wales. They also considered local boundaries, road and transport links, and natural features like rivers and mountains.

Senedd constituencies for the 2026 election:

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

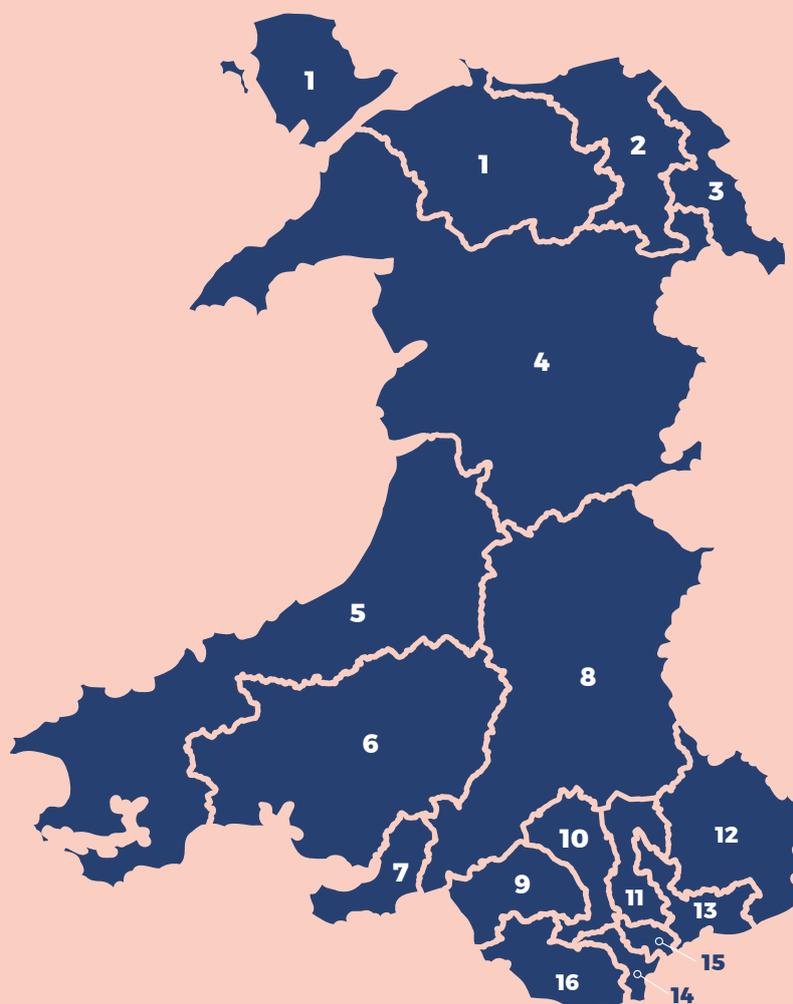
- 12. Sir Fynwy Torfaen
- 13. Casnewydd Islwyn
- 14. Caerdydd Penarth
- 15. Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf
- 16. Pen-y-bont Morgannwg

You can find your new constituency by entering your postcode into our new [**Constituency finder map.**](#)

What's new?

- ◆ Wales will have 16 constituencies.
- ◆ Each constituency will elect six Members of the Senedd.

All these changes mean stronger representation for you, your family and your community.



Common questions

When will the 2026 Senedd election be held?

7 May 2026.

Will the Senedd building need to change?

The Senedd's debating chamber, the Siambr, will be altered to accommodate all 96 Members. Work will start in April 2025 and be completed in Spring 2026.

[More common questions >](#)







Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

www.senedd.cymru | www.senedd.wales