

THE  POLITICS  
PROJECT

# #ELECTIONCOUNTDOWN

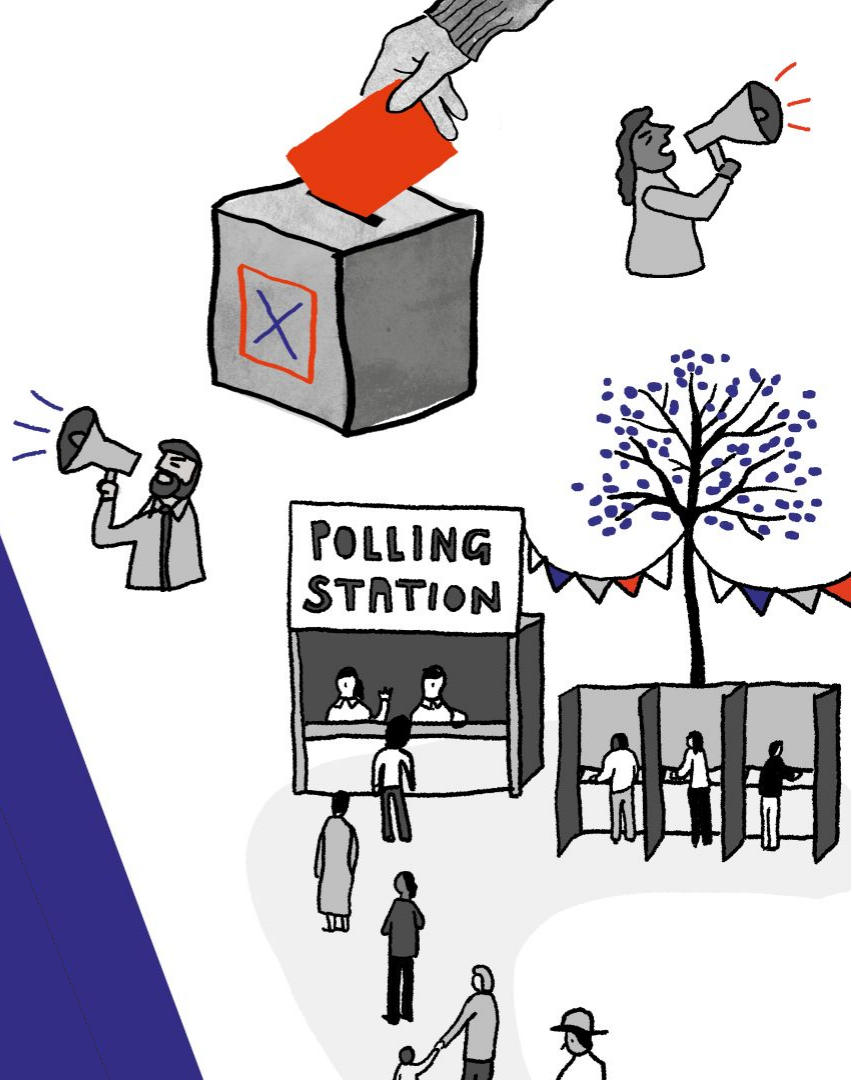
A Democracy Classroom Collaboration

Designed by The Politics Project

With contributions from:



The  
Electoral  
Commission





# ABOUT THESE RESOURCES

The #ElectionCountdown resources are designed to enable schools, colleges and youth groups to support young people to engage with and vote in elections.

These resources will be updated as we get closer to the General Election to include key dates and up to date materials, such as manifestos and candidate information.

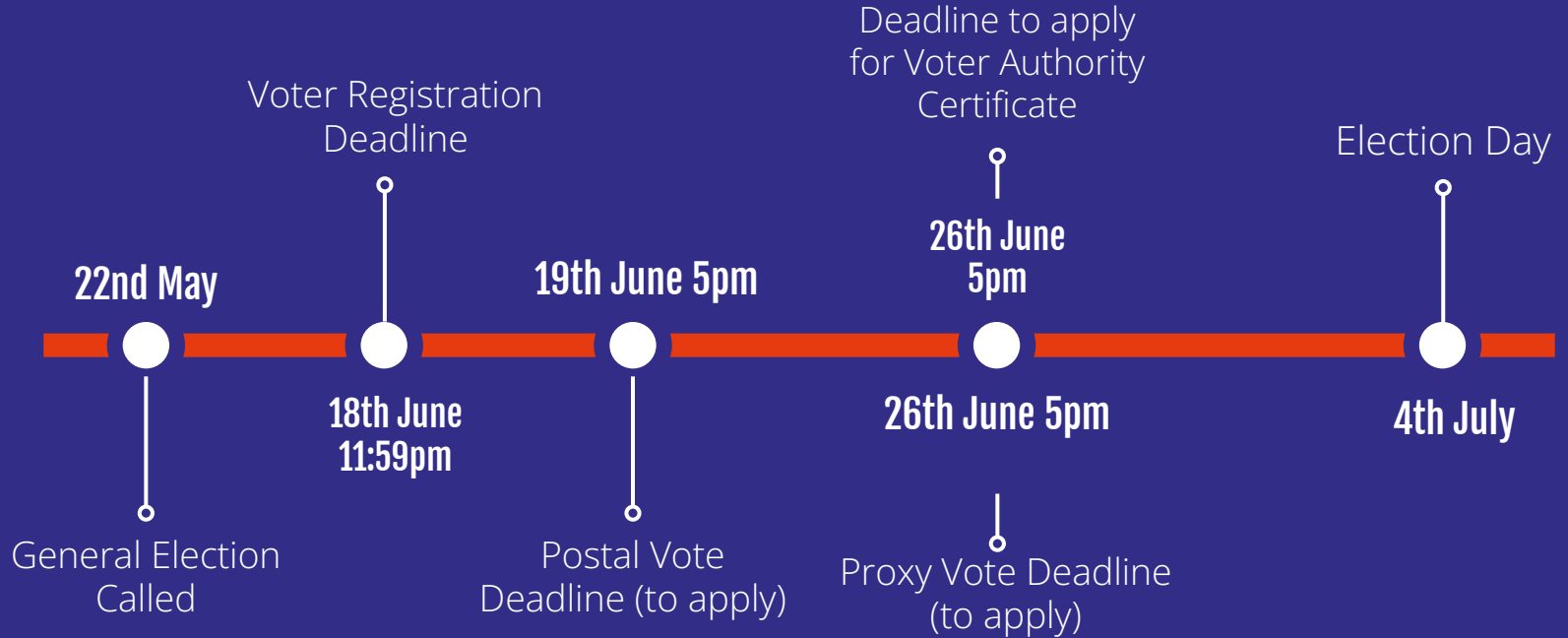
If you want to receive new versions of the resources and supporting materials as the election progresses then please [sign up here](#) for updates.

They are designed as a series of short sessions that can be delivered flexibly, see the next couple of slides for delivery ideas.

To access the full delivery guidance please [click here](#).



# KEY DATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION



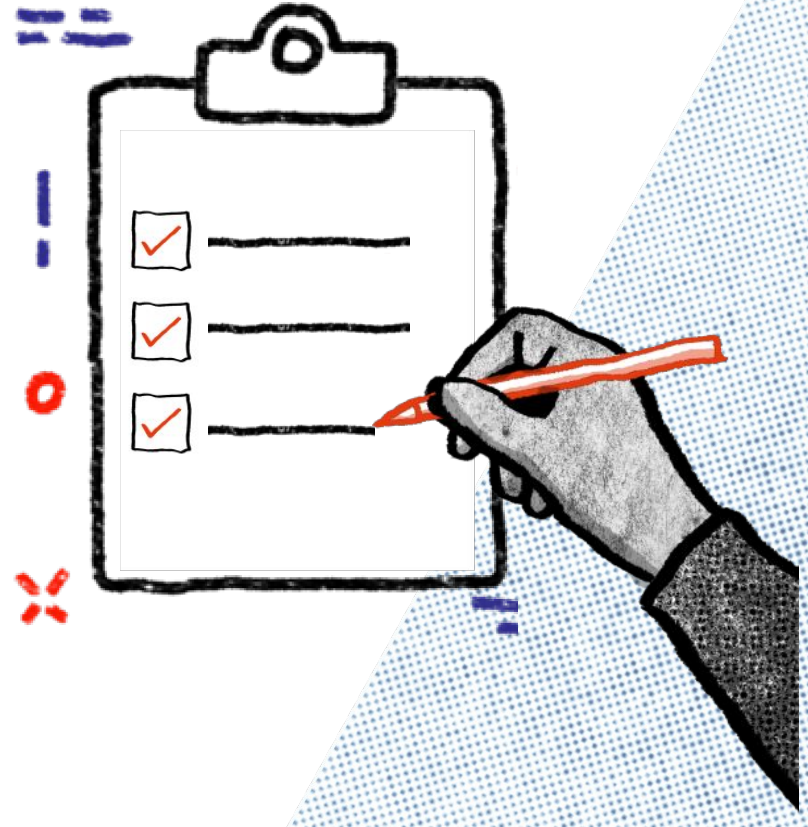
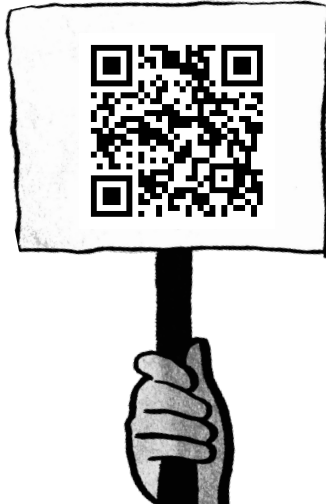
# EVALUATION

Please help us out by completing this quick form before you start using the resources.

 [Access the form here](#)



It just takes **2 minutes** (it is 10 quick questions) and it would really help us out!



# INTRODUCTION TO THE ELECTION

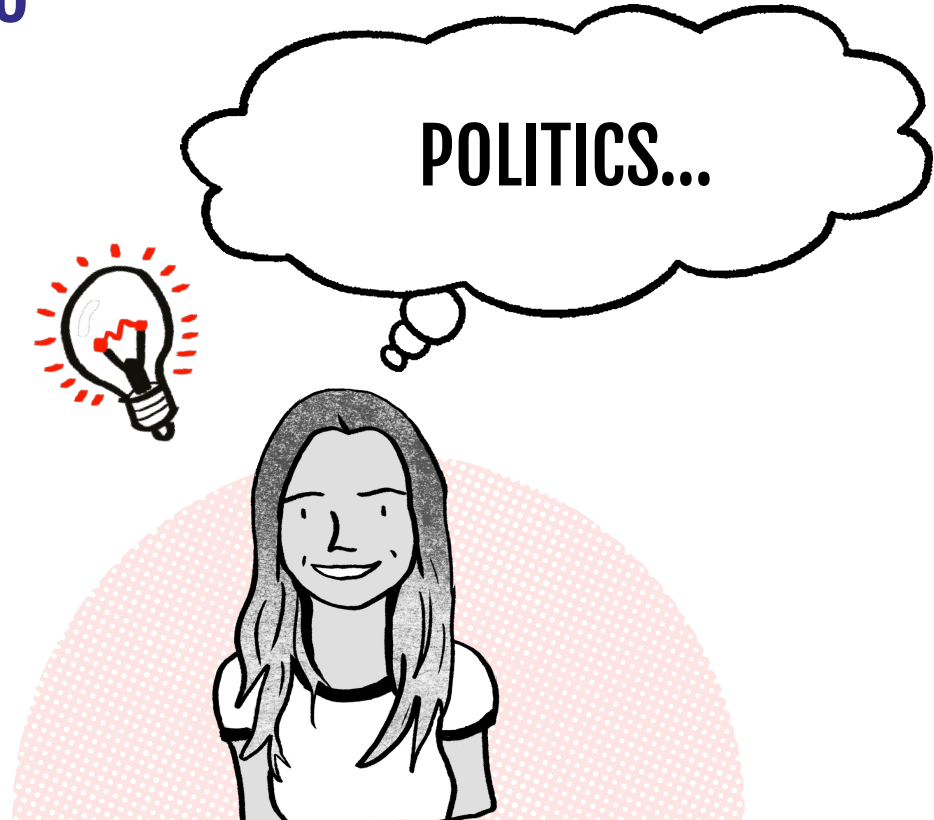
INTRODUCTION  
INTRODUCTION



How the 2024 elections work

# WHAT DO YOU THINK WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD “POLITICS”?

What is the first word that comes to your mind when you are thinking about politics?



# WHAT ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP?

**The next general election will take place on 4th July.**

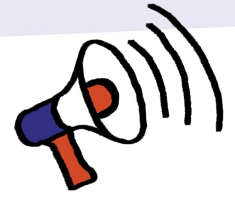
Voters across the UK will choose who they want to represent them as a Member of Parliament (MP) and who will run the country.

For this reason it is important you understand how the General Election works and how you can engage with it.

**ACTION** Add the election date to your calendar/planner

**FACT** Elections are almost always on Thursdays in the UK!

**FACT** The last General Election was held on Thursday 12th December 2019

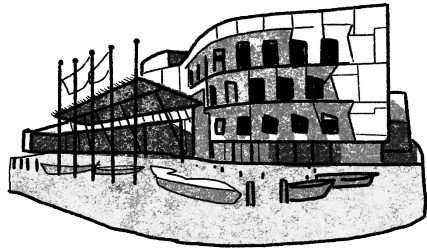


# WHAT ARE ELECTIONS FOR IN SCOTLAND?

Elections are a way you can have your voice heard on important issues.

In elections, people vote to choose the individuals or groups to represent them in political office.

Who represents **you**?



**Local Councillors**



If you live in a National Park in Scotland you can also vote for who sits on your National Park Authority Board.

**Members of the  
Scottish  
Parliament**

**Members of  
Parliament**





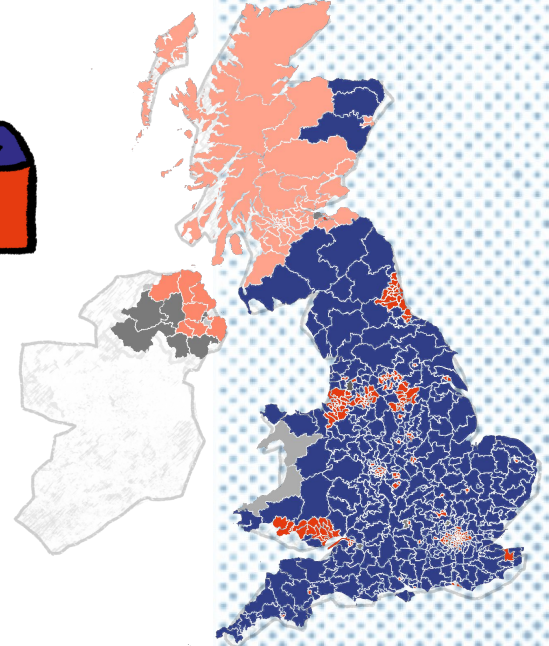
# UK GENERAL ELECTION

At a general election people in every part of the UK get to choose who represents them in Parliament.

There will be several candidates from different parties running in a constituency to become the MP. The candidate that receives most votes becomes the MP for that area and represents the area in the House of Commons.

## DISCUSSION

Do you know the name of your current MP?



To find out **what constituency you live in** you can visit this Sky News site [here](#) and type in your postcode.

# WHO CAN VOTE IN UK ELECTIONS?

You need to be **18 years old** to vote in a general election.

If you live in **Scotland or Wales** you can vote in some elections at 16, such as the local elections, but for the **UK general election** you need to be **18 years old to vote**.

You can **register to vote** from 16 years old in England and Northern Ireland, and from 14 years old in Scotland and Wales.



# WHO CAN VOTE IN UK ELECTIONS?


You can vote in a UK general election if you are a **British citizen, a resident Irish citizen or qualifying resident Commonwealth citizen.**

EU citizens and citizens of other countries are not able to vote in UK general elections.

Check which elections you can vote in using the '[Can I Vote?](#)' tool or for more information use the Electoral Commission's '[Which Elections Can I vote In?](#)' website.

For a list of Commonwealth countries see slide 18.



 If you're not eligible to vote you can still participate by directly contacting the politicians who represent the area you live in. Check out [writetothem.com](https://www.writetothem.com) to see who represents your area.

# WHY DOES YOUNG PEOPLE VOTING MATTER?



**Politics is about you and your voice. All votes matter.**

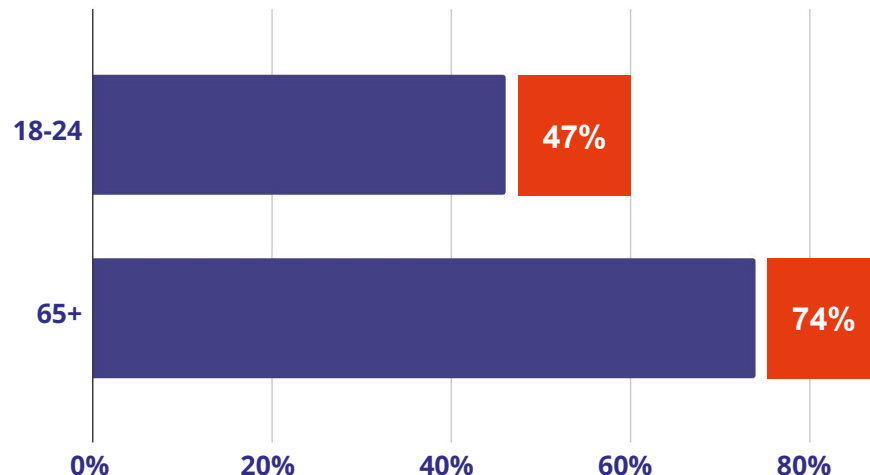
In the 2019 General Election, around 47% of those aged 18 - 24 voted.

In the same year, around 74% of those aged 65 and over voted.

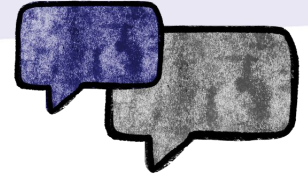
**If young people like you do not vote, your voice may not be heard when important decisions are made about issues that affect you.**

## DISCUSSION

Why do you think so many young people didn't vote in 2019?



**Percentage of Voters in 2019 General Election**



## DISCUSSION

Do you think it is worth voting in elections?

Does voting make a difference?



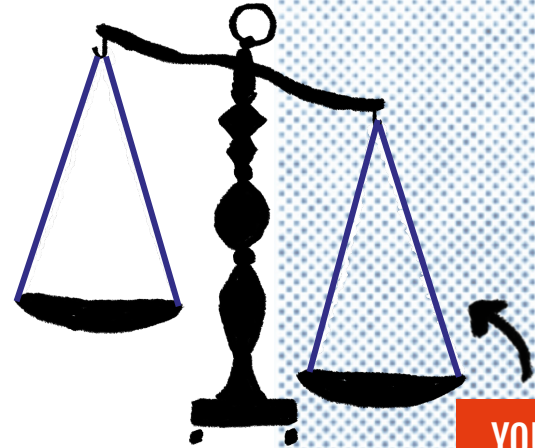
# DOES VOTING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Voting in elections can make a big difference.

When we vote in a general election we are voting for the person to represent our area, known as a constituency. There will be around 70,000 potential voters in a constituency. Turnout - the number of people who vote - can be as low as 50%.

That means that a small group of people can have a huge influence on the election.

Which candidate wins an election in a constituency can be **decided by around 100 votes** or fewer.



**YOUR VOTE**



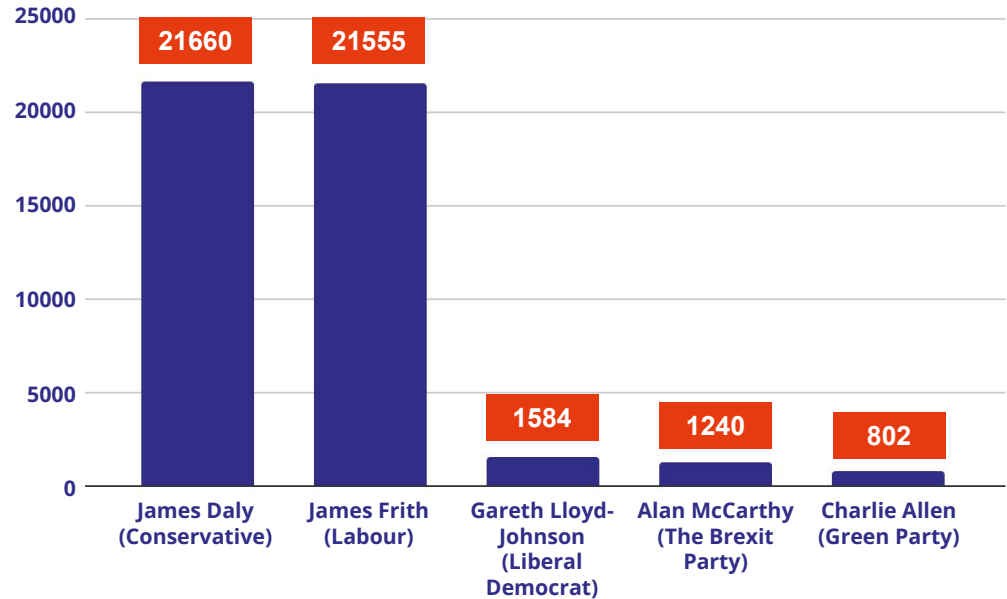
# DOES VOTING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

## Case study 1 - Bury North 2019

In UK Parliament elections, margins in individual constituencies can be very small.

In Bury North in 2019, the number of votes separating the winning candidate from the runner-up was just **105 votes**.

**Your vote makes a difference.**





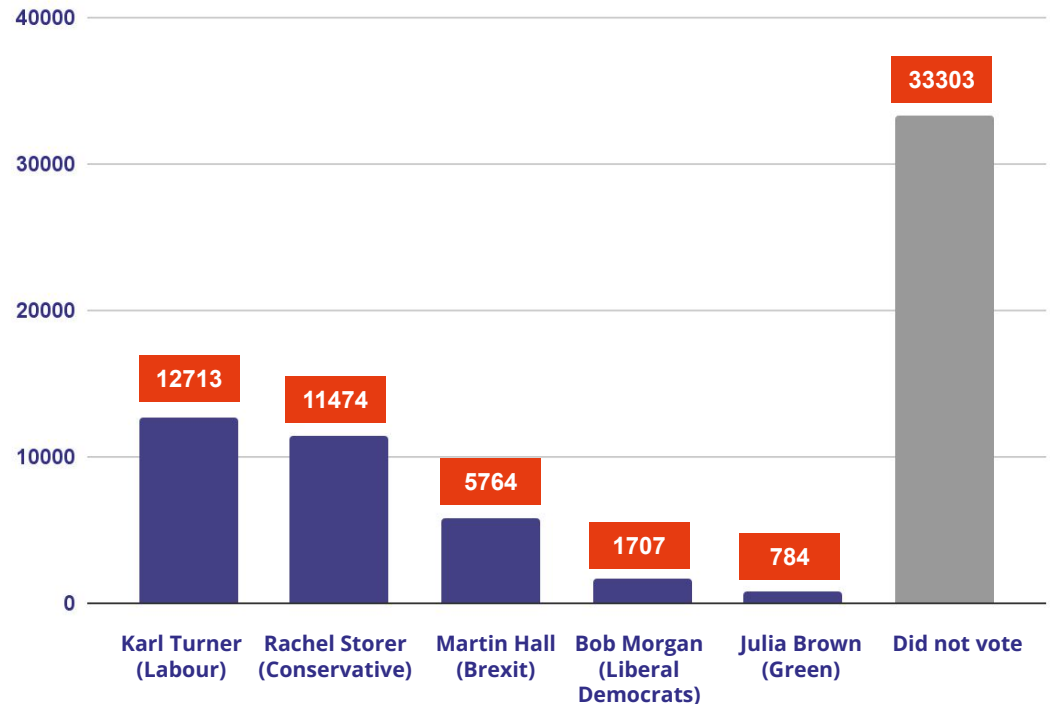
# DOES VOTING MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

## Case study 2 - Kingston upon Hull East 2019

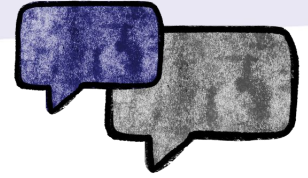
In many elections the number of people not voting can be more than the total number of people who voted. If just some of those who did not vote did so for a particular candidate, that candidate could win.

In Kingston upon Hull East just **49.3%** of the electorate voted in the 2019 General Election.

**Your vote makes a difference.**







## DISCUSSION

Are you planning to vote in the general election?

Why is voting in this election important?

If you are not planning to vote, why are you choosing not to?



# APPENDIX: LIST OF QUALIFYING COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Antigua and Barbuda	Cameroon	Ghana	Lesotho	Namibia	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Solomon Islands	Tonga
Australia	Canada	Grenada	Malawi	Nauru	Saint Lucia	South Africa	Trinidad and Tobago
Bangladesh	Cyprus*	Guyana	Malaysia	New Zealand	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Sri Lanka	Tuvalu
Barbados	Dominica	India	Maldives	Nigeria	Samoa	Tanzania	Uganda
Belize	Eswatini	Jamaica	Malta*	Pakistan	Seychelles	The Bahamas	United Kingdom
Botswana	Fiji	Kenya	Mauritius	Papua New Guinea	Sierra Leone	The Gambia	Vanuatu
Brunei	Gabon	Kiribati	Mozambique	Rwanda	Singapore	Togo	Zambia

\*Although also EU member states, citizens of Cyprus and Malta are eligible to be registered to vote in all elections held in the UK.