



Representation of the People Act 1985

1985 CHAPTER 50

Voting at parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom and local government elections in Great Britain

5 Manner of voting at parliamentary and local government elections

- (1) This section applies to determine the manner of voting of a person entitled to vote as an elector at a parliamentary or local government election.
- (2) He may vote in person at the polling station allotted to him under the appropriate rules, unless he is entitled as an elector to an absent vote at the election.
- (3) He may vote by post if he is entitled as an elector to vote by post at the election.
- (4) If he is entitled to vote by proxy at the election, he may so vote unless, before a ballot paper has been issued for him to vote by proxy, he applies at the polling station allotted to him under the appropriate rules for a ballot paper for the purpose of voting in person, in which case he may vote in person there.
- (5) If he is not entitled as an elector to an absent vote at the election but cannot reasonably be expected to go in person to the polling station allotted to him under the appropriate rules by reason of the particular circumstances of his employment, either as a constable or by the returning officer, on the date of the poll for a purpose connected with the election, he may vote in person at any polling station in the constituency or, as the case may be, electoral area.
- (6) For the purposes of the provisions of this and the principal Act, a person entitled to vote as an elector at a parliamentary or local government election is entitled as an elector to vote by post or entitled to vote by proxy at the election if he is shown in the absent voters list for the election as so entitled; and references in those provisions to entitlement as an elector to an absent vote at a parliamentary or local government election are references to entitlement as an elector to vote by post or entitlement to vote by proxy at the election.
- (7) In this section and sections 6 to 9 of this Act—
" appropriate rules " means—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) in the case of a parliamentary election, the parliamentary elections rules, and
- (b) in the case of a local government election, rules made (or having effect as if made) under section 36 or, as the case may be, 42 of the principal Act, and

" local government election" means a local government election in Great Britain.