
WELSH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2021 No. 1459 (W. 374)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WALES
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE, WALES**

The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021

Made - - - - 15 December 2021

Coming into force 17 December 2021

**THE LOCAL ELECTIONS (PRINCIPAL
AREAS) (WALES) RULES 2021**

1. Title and commencement
2. Transitional provision
3. Interpretation
4. Section 22(3)(a) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000: use of “Annibynnol”
5. Conduct of elections to the council of a principal area
Signature

SCHEDULES

- SCHEDULE Rules for conduct of an election of councillors for a principal area
1 where poll is not taken together with poll at another election
PART 1 — Provisions as to Time
1. Timetable
 2. Computation of time
- PART 2 — Notice of Election, Nomination and Method of Election

Notice of Election

3. Notice of election

Nomination

4. Duty of returning officer to supply forms of nomination etc.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

5. Nomination of candidates
6. Nomination papers: descriptions
7. Addition of “Wales”, “Welsh”, “Cymru” or “Cymreig”
8. Nomination papers: statements of party membership
9. Home address forms
10. Decisions as to validity of nomination papers
11. Nomination in more than one electoral ward
12. Withdrawal of candidates
13. Publication of statement of persons nominated
14. Use of commonly used names in statement of persons nominated
15. Names that are the same or similar
16. Correction of minor errors in nomination papers or home address forms
17. Inspection of nomination papers
18. Inspection of home address forms
19. Adjournment of nomination proceedings in the case of riot

Method of Election

20. Decision as to whether election is contested and declaration of result if uncontested

PART 3 — The Poll at Contested Elections

General Provisions

21. Poll to be taken by ballot
22. The ballot papers
23. Corresponding number list
24. The official mark
25. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
26. Use of schools and public rooms

Action to be taken before the poll

27. Notice of poll
28. Postal ballot papers
29. Provision of polling stations
30. Appointment of presiding officers and clerks
31. Issue of official poll cards
32. Equipment of polling stations
33. Appointment of polling and counting agents
34. Polling and counting agents: supplemental provision
35. Notification of requirement of secrecy
36. Return of postal ballot papers

The Poll

37. Admission to polling station
38. Keeping of order in station

39. Sealing of ballot boxes
 40. Questions that may be put to voters
 41. Challenge of voter
 42. Voting procedure
 43. Voters with a disability or unable to read: marking of votes by presiding officer
 44. Voters with a disability or unable to read: assistance of companions
 45. Voting with the assistance of a companion: supplemental provision
 46. Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available
 47. Duties of presiding officer in relation to tendered ballot papers
 48. Spoilt ballot papers
 49. Correction of errors on day of poll
 50. Adjournment of poll in case of riot
 51. Procedure on close of poll
- PART 4 — Counting of Votes and Declaration of Result at Contested Elections
52. Arrangements for the counting of votes
 53. Attendance at the counting of votes
 54. The count: steps
 55. The count: general
 56. The count: rejected ballot papers
 57. Re-count
 58. Equality of votes
 59. Decision on ballot papers
 60. Declaration of result
- PART 5 — Disposal of Documents
61. Sealing up of ballot papers at contested elections
 62. Delivery of documents to registration officer at contested elections
 63. Production etc. of documents
 64. Orders for the production etc. of documents: supplemental provision
 65. Retention and destruction of documents forwarded to registration officer
 66. Destruction of home address forms by returning officer
- PART 6 — Death of Candidate
67. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of a candidate

APPENDICES — Note: The forms contained in these Appendices may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

- SCHEDULE Rules for conduct of an election of councillors for a principal area
- 2 where poll is taken together with poll at a relevant election
- PART 1 — Provisions as to Time
1. Timetable
 2. Computation of time
- PART 2 — Notice of Election, Nomination and Method of Election

Notice of Election

3. Notice of election

Nomination

4. Duty of returning officer to supply forms of nomination etc.
5. Nomination of candidates

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

6. Nomination papers: descriptions
7. Addition of “Wales”, “Welsh”, “Cymru” or “Cymreig”
8. Nomination papers: statements of party membership
9. Home address forms
10. Decisions as to validity of nomination papers
11. Nomination in more than one electoral ward
12. Withdrawal of candidates
13. Publication of statement of persons nominated
14. Use of commonly used names in statement of persons nominated
15. Names that are the same or similar
16. Correction of minor errors in nomination papers or home address forms
17. Inspection of nomination papers
18. Inspection of home address forms
19. Adjournment of nomination proceedings in the case of riot

Method of Election

20. Decision as to whether election is contested and declaration of result if uncontested
- PART 3 — The Poll at Contested Elections

General Provisions

21. Poll to be taken by ballot
22. The ballot papers
23. Corresponding number list
24. The official mark
25. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
26. Use of schools and public rooms

Action to be taken before the poll

27. Notice of poll
28. Postal ballot papers
29. Provision of polling stations
30. Appointment of presiding officers and clerks
31. Issue of official poll cards
32. Equipment of polling stations
33. Appointment of polling and counting agents
34. Polling and counting agents: supplemental provision
35. Notification of requirement of secrecy
36. Return of postal ballot papers

The Poll

37. Admission to polling station
38. Keeping of order in station
39. Sealing of ballot boxes

40. Questions that may be put to voters
 41. Challenge of voter
 42. Voting procedure
 43. Voters with a disability or unable to read: marking of votes by presiding officer
 44. Voters with a disability or unable to read: assistance of companions
 45. Voting with the assistance of a companion: supplemental provision
 46. Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available
 47. Duties of presiding officer in relation to tendered ballot papers
 48. Spoilt ballot papers
 49. Correction of errors on day of poll
 50. Adjournment of poll in case of riot
 51. Procedure on close of poll
- PART 4 — Counting of Votes and Declaration of Result at Contested Elections
52. Overview of rules and interpretation
 53. Attendance at proceedings under this Part
 54. Preliminary and general duties where returning officer is co-ordinating returning officer
 55. Separation of ballot papers etc. where returning officer is co-ordinating returning officer
 56. Preliminary and general duties where returning officer is not the co-ordinating returning officer
 57. Opening of containers etc. where returning officer is not the co-ordinating returning officer
 58. Further provision about postal ballot papers
 59. The count: general
 60. The count: rejected ballot papers
 61. Re-count
 62. Equality of votes
 63. Decision on ballot papers
 64. Declaration of result
- PART 5 — Disposal of Documents
65. Sealing up of ballot papers at contested elections
 66. Delivery of documents to registration officer at contested elections
 67. Production etc. of documents
 68. Orders for the production etc. of documents: supplemental provision
 69. Retention and destruction of documents forwarded to registration officer
 70. Destruction of home address forms by returning officer
- PART 6 — Death of Candidate
71. Countermand or abandonment of poll on death of a candidate
- APPENDICES — Note: The forms contained in these Appendices may be adapted so far as circumstances require.
- Explanatory Note

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (Wales) Rules 2021. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 1 Pt. 4 heading substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 4\(1\)](#)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 4 heading substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 8\(1\)](#)
- rule 3(3) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 2\(b\)](#)
- rule 3(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 2\(a\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 1 rule 22(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 28(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 31(7)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 32(9A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 32(12) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(6\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Pt. 4A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 4\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 Appendix 2A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 1](#)
- Sch. 1 Appendix 4A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 2](#)
- Sch. 1 Appendix 5A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 3](#)
- Sch. 1 Appendix 6A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 4](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 21(2) substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 22(3) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 32(11) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 62(2)(c) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 5\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 62(2)(d) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 28(1)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 31(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 31(6)(a) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 rule 32(9) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 3\(6\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 22(3A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 28(1A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 31(8)(aa) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 32(11A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 32(13A) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(6\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 2 Pt. 4A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 8\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2 Appendix 2A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 5](#)
- Sch. 2 Appendix 4A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 6](#)
- Sch. 2 Appendix 5A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 7](#)
- Sch. 2 Appendix 6A inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 Sch. 8](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 21(2) substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 22(3) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 32(13) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(6\)\(c\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 66(2)(c) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 9\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 66(2)(d) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 9\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 28(1)(b) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 31(4) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(5\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 31(6)(a) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(5\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 2 rule 32(11) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 7\(6\)\(a\)](#)

– Sch. 2 rule 54(3) words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1064 rule 11](#)