

WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION RULES

2021

This document has been produced by the Senedd Commission for use in the 2021 election of Welsh Youth Parliament Members.



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1. NATIONAL WELSH YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTION

- 1.** The Welsh Youth Parliament will have places for 60 Welsh Youth Parliament Members.
- 2.** An electronic electoral process will be used to return 40 Welsh Youth Parliament Members through a first past the post system, returning one young person for each of the 40 electoral constituencies in Wales.
- 3.** The election system for electing the 40 constituency members for the 2021 election will be administered by MiVoice.
- 4.** For the purpose of the elections to the Welsh Youth Parliament, the 40 constituencies are defined as the 40 areas used as the constituencies for the 2021 election to the Senedd. Information on the 40 electoral constituencies can be found here: <https://senedd.wales/find-a-member-of-the-senedd/>
- 5.** The remaining 20 Welsh Youth Parliament Members will be returned through partner organisations who will run their own internal election to determine these Welsh Youth Parliament Members.
- 6.** The partner organisation elections do not have to run concurrently with the national election (although this would be preferable), but the details of all Welsh Youth Parliament Members returned by partner organisations must be given to the Senedd Commission by the end of the national election period which is the 22nd of November. If a partner organisation cannot put forward a candidate by this time, they should notify Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Project Manager on hello@youthparliament.wales or 0300 200 6565. Partner organisations must provide the Senedd Commission with the successful candidate's name, contact details, date of birth, candidate profile, top 3 issues and a photo of themselves.
- 7.** Partner organisations and successful candidates returned by partner organisations should not announce publicly who has been elected as a Welsh Youth Parliament Member until the Senedd Commission has made its member announcement on the 1st of December 2021.
- 8.** Partner organisations should have a reserve candidate.

2.ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION AND TO VOTE

2.1 Subject to paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6, any young person aged 11 – 17 who complies with paragraph 0 is eligible to stand for, and vote in, the Welsh Youth Parliament constituency election. For this purpose, a young person is defined as being no younger than 11 and no older than 17 on the final day of the national election period (22 November).

2.2 Any young person living or receiving education in Wales is eligible to stand as a candidate, and vote in the Welsh Youth Parliament constituency election. ‘Living in Wales’ is defined as permanently or ordinarily resident within Wales. ‘Receiving education in Wales’ is defined as a young person receiving the majority of their education within Wales.

2.3 Those young people who are eligible can stand as a candidate and vote either in the constituency where they live or receive their education (if they are different).

2.4 A young person who is serving a custodial sentence from which they will not be released prior to the election result being announced by the Senedd Commission (1 December) is not eligible to stand or vote as a candidate for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament.

2.5 A young person who has been convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order ** for a relevant offence*** will not automatically be eligible to stand as a candidate for election to the Welsh Youth Parliament. Confirming that you have a conviction, caution, or similar order for a relevant offence does not automatically exclude you from being eligible to stand. We will consider each nomination on an individual basis. In doing so, we will take into account our security, health, safety, well-being and safeguarding obligations to that young person, other members of the Welsh Youth Parliament, Senedd Commission staff and members of the public. Where necessary and proportionate we may also contact other agencies in order to assess the relevant risk and consider how to manage that risk. In doing so the Senedd Commission will notify the young person concerned and/or seek their permission as may be necessary. A final decision on eligibility is at the sole discretion of the Senedd Commission and its decision is final.

2.6 In the circumstances outlined in paragraph 2.5, any young person interested in putting themselves forward for nomination who has been convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order for a relevant offence will be contacted by the Youth Parliament Team following their application using the contact details provided to discuss their interest further. Anyone who has further queries about this procedure can contact Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Project Manager, at hello@youthparliament.wales or **0300 200 6565** for further information.

2.7 Further information about how the Senedd Commission handles and uses personal data relating to criminal convictions, cautions and relevant offences collected as part of your application to stand as a WYPM can be found in the Commission's Nominations privacy notice, which can be found here: [Nominations \(mi-nomination.com\)](https://www.mi-nomination.com).

2.8 Any young person who is 16 years or older and is successfully elected to the Welsh Youth Parliament, or who attains the age of 16 during the term of the Welsh Youth Parliament, will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check where they are undertaking regulated activity under the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons Act 2006. If the DBS Certificate confirms that you have a conviction, caution, or similar order for a relevant offence this does not automatically exclude you from being eligible as a member. The Senedd Commission will consider the contents of your DBS Certificate on an individual basis in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 3.5 above.

2.9 Any young person is requested to contact Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament Project Manager, at hello@youthparliament.wales, or **0300 200 6565** immediately should they be convicted, cautioned or made subject to a similar order for a relevant offence after their nomination has been accepted but prior to the election result being announced by the Senedd Commission.

** including but not limited to final warnings and violent offender orders

*** a relevant offence is an offence which exposes members of the Welsh Youth Parliament, Senedd Commission staff and members of the public to potential security, health, safety, well-being and safeguarding risk to include (but not limited to) :

a) a specified violent offence or a specified sexual offence within the meaning of the Criminal Justice Act 2003

b) offences involving firearms or arson

c) offences involving the unlawful supply of controlled drugs or substances where commercial drug dealing or trafficking is involve

d) offences involving terrorism or which are terrorism- related

3. CANDIDATES

3.1 The Senedd Commission (acting reasonably) reserves the right to refuse to accept an application for nomination.

3.2 All candidate nomination applications will be verified by the Senedd Commission.

3.3 To register to vote at the Welsh Youth Parliament election, eligible young people will need to submit the following information on the Mi-Voice platform:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Date of birth
- Home post code, or the post code for where they receive their education. The constituency for which the postcode provided lies within, will be the constituency that the young person registering to vote will be eligible to vote for.

3.4 This information will need to be verified by the young person registering before the registration is confirmed.

3.5 To submit a nomination to become a Welsh Youth Parliament Member, eligible young people must submit the following information on the Mi-Voice platform:

- First and last name
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Home postal address
- Date of birth
- The constituency they want to stand for election in (either the home post code or the post code for where they receive their education). Information on the 40 electoral constituencies can be found here <https://senedd.wales/en/memhome/Pages/memhome.aspx>

- The 3 key issues chosen to campaign for if elected - 5 word limit for each issue.
- Candidate statement (this should focus on the reasons they believe they would make a good Welsh Youth Parliament Member) – 200 word limit.
- An accurate photograph (optional) in JPEG format no larger than 4mb.

3.6 Candidates must also complete the relevant check boxes which state that they confirm the information they have provided is accurate, that they will comply with the election rules and parental permission will also be needed to complete the form.

3.7 Eligible young people can stand for election in a different constituency to which they vote should they wish. Young people seeking to register to vote and/or stand for election will be encouraged to select constituencies where they live or receive their education, which in some cases will be different.

4. CONSTITUENCIES

4.1 There will be one Welsh Youth Parliament Member elected for each constituency. The candidates elected will serve for a period of two years.

4.2 In the instance of a young person being elected both through the first past the post national election, and through the partner organisation, the decision on which seat they choose will be up to the young person. If they decide to be returned by a partner organisation, the constituency seat will be offered to the next young person with the most amount of votes. If the young person selects the constituency seat, the partner organisation must have a reserve.

4.3 In the instance of a young person being elected both through the first past the post national election and through the partner organisation - where the young person is the sole candidate for a constituency - the young person will automatically take up the constituency seat and the partner organisation will return a reserve.

5.ELECTION PRACTICE

5.1 Elections for Welsh Youth Parliament Members for the 2022-2023 term will take place in November 2021.

5.2 Constituency elections will be conducted using the 'First past the Post' system, using existing constituency boundaries. This means the candidate with the most number of votes wins. The constituency elections for Welsh Youth Parliament elections will be held online.

5.3 In the event of an uncontested constituency, the only candidate standing for election will be returned as the Welsh Youth Parliament Member for that constituency.

5.4 In the event of no candidates being nominated in a particular seat, nominations will be extended until the start of the election period.

5.5 In the event of a tie, where two or more candidates have the same amount of votes, the candidates would draw lots to determine the successful candidate.

5.6 In the event of a vacancy due to a Welsh Youth Parliament Member failing to complete their term in office:

5.6.1. If returned by a partner organisation, the partner organisation must return a reserve candidate.

5.6.2 If elected through the first past the post system, the seat will be offered to the young person with the second highest number of votes. If that person is no longer available, it is offered to the young person with the third highest number of votes and so on. If there are no young people who contested the election available, a by-election similar to the national election will be held.

5.6.3 Welsh Youth Parliament Members who fill seats vacated within a Welsh Youth Parliament term will serve for the remainder of the two year term, until the next national Welsh Youth Parliament election.

5.6.4 If a vacancy arises more than 18 months into the two year term, the seat will remain empty.

6. VOTERS AND VOTING

6.1 All eligible young people have the opportunity to vote in the election of their Welsh Youth Parliament Member.

6.2 Due to their age, young people eligible to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections are not all on the electoral roll, and therefore all young people wishing to take part in the Welsh Youth Parliament election must register to vote on the Mi-Voice platform <https://www.mi-nomination.com/wypnominate/>.

6.3 Those young people who registered to vote during the 2018 Welsh Youth Parliament election, and those who register to vote for the 2021 Welsh Youth Parliament election between May 2021 – and the 29th of October 2021 will receive an email on the 1st of November 2021, with a unique voting code and a link to the voting website.

6.4 Voter registration will remain open until the 12th of November. Any young person who registers to vote between the 1st of November and the 12th of November will receive an email on the 15th of November 2021, with a unique voting code and a link to the voting website.

6.5 Once this has been done a list of all candidates standing for election in their chosen constituency will appear and they can select who to vote for. A confirmation e-mail will be sent once voting has taken place.

6.6 Every young person who has registered to vote will only be able to vote once. The unique voting code will not work more than once.

6.7 Voters with specific requirements to enable them to vote should contact hello@youthparliament.wales should further assistance be required

7.ELECTION RESULTS

7.1 Once the election has closed at 12pm on the 22nd of November, votes will be automatically counted through the Mi-Voice platform and results will be available shortly afterwards.

7.2 The Senedd Commission will confidentially contact every successful candidate once the results are known to ensure the candidates are happy to become Welsh Youth Parliament Members. Successful candidates should not publicly inform anyone that they have been elected as a Welsh Youth Parliament Member until they have been notified of the announcement of formal election results and elected members December 2021.

7.3 Following the election, the Welsh Youth Parliament will produce a short report detailing the election process, including details of turnout figures and other key statistics about voter participation to enable effective monitoring and evaluation of the process.

8.RETENTION OF INFORMATION

8.1 The Senedd Commission has privacy information in place which outlines how it processes personal information, including how long it retains this information. This has been split into the following privacy notices:

- Information about how the Commission processes the personal data of those who register to vote in Welsh Youth Parliament elections can be in the Commission's Voter Registration privacy notice: [Nominations \(mi-nomination.com\)](https://www.youthparliament.wales/nominations-mi-nomination.com);
- Information about how the Commission processes the personal data of nominees can be found in its Nominations privacy notice: [Nominations \(mi-nomination.com\)](https://www.youthparliament.wales/nominations-mi-nomination.com);
- General information about how personal data is processed in relation to the Welsh Youth Parliament can be found in the main privacy notice: <https://youthparliament.senedd.wales/privacy-policy/>.

8.2 To summarise how long personal information is retained, the Senedd Commission will retain the details of all nominees and the voting results for the duration of the two year term.

8.3 Subject to paragraph 8.4, individuals who register to vote will remain registered following the results of the election, and their registration will be carried over to the next election.

8.4 The Senedd Commission will review the list of registered voters at the end of every term and remove any registered voters who will not be eligible for the next WYP election due to age. Registered voters can also request that their information is removed by contacting hello@youthparliament.com.

8.5 Once the results have been announced, all election nomination information that is collected as part of your application, other than some personal information relating to criminal convictions, cautions and relevant offences which it is not considered necessary to retain after six months, will be held by the Senedd Commission in a secure environment for the duration of the two year term. This is in case an election query is raised or a reserve candidate is needed. Following this, documentation relating to individuals who applied to become WYPMs will be deleted.

9.FURTHER INFORMATION

9.1 Whilst this document is intended to provide the parameters for the 2021 election, we understand that there may be additional questions which may arise; for further information and guidance, please contact the Senedd Commission using the details below:

- Senedd Cymru
Welsh Youth Parliament Team
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
- hello@youthparliament.wales
- 0300 200 6565