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Residents have until Monday (April 20) to register to vote in the upcoming council and parliamentary elections on Thursday 7 May.

The quickest and easiest way to register to vote is online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) (<http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5nb3YudWsvcmVnaXN0ZXItG8tdm90ZQ%3d%3d&r=4972217374&d=1149817&p=1&t=h&h=123b5105e1fb390264e69e4cc4d7c137>)

People can also come into the Town Hall on Bridge Street and bring supporting documents to verify their name and address with either a passport or driving licence, or a utility or council tax bill.

If you are not going to be able to cast your vote in person at your polling station you still have time to apply for a postal or a proxy vote.

New applications to vote by post, or cancel or change an existing postal vote must be made by Tuesday 21 April 2015 at 5pm. Applications to vote by proxy must be made by Tuesday 28 April at 5pm. To be able to vote by post or proxy you must first be registered to vote.

Postal vote application forms are available to download on the city council's website or by calling 01733 452249.

After completing the form, you'll need to print it, sign it, and send it back to Peterborough City Council, Electoral Registration Officer, Electoral Services, Bridge Street, Town Hall, Peterborough, PE1 1GF.

You need to sign your application form personally because the electoral registration office needs a copy of your signature for voting security reasons. This helps to ensure the security of your vote and is used to tackle electoral fraud.

Voting by proxy is another convenient way of voting if you are unable to get to the polling station. By proxy just means that you appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

Voting by proxy can be useful if you fall ill and are unable to get to the polling station on election day, or if you are abroad during an election. It can be particularly useful if you are overseas in a country too far away to send back a postal vote in time for the election (for instance, if you are in the Armed Forces and deployed overseas).

When you apply for a proxy vote you have to provide a reason. You can apply for a proxy vote if:

- > You are unable to go to the polling station for one particular election, for example, if you are away on holiday
- > You have a physical condition that means you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- > Your employment means that you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- > Your attendance on an educational course means that you cannot go to the polling station on election day
- > You are a British citizen living overseas
- > You are a crown servant or a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

With the exception of those who are registered blind, you may have to get someone to support your application to confirm that your reason for applying to vote by proxy is valid.

To vote by proxy, you'll need to fill in an application form which you can download from the council's website or call 01733 452249.

You'll need to print the form and complete it, then sign it, and return it to Peterborough City Council, Electoral Registration Officer,

Electoral Services, Bridge Street, Town Hall, Peterborough, PE1 1GF.

You need to sign your application form personally.

Twenty seats in 19 wards will be contested in Peterborough City Council elections on Thursday 7 May 2015. In addition, there will be parliamentary elections on the same date.