



Government of Wales Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

[^{F1}SENEDD CYMRU]

General elections

5 Extraordinary general elections

- (1) The [^{F1}Presiding Officer] must propose a day for the holding of a poll at an extraordinary general election if subsection (2) or (3) applies.
- (2) This subsection applies if—
 - (a) the [^{F2}Senedd] resolves that it should be dissolved, and
 - (b) the resolution of the [^{F2}Senedd] is passed on a vote in which the number of [^{F3}Members of the Senedd] voting in favour of it is not less than two-thirds of the total number of [^{F2}Senedd] seats.
- (3) This subsection applies if any period during which the [^{F2}Senedd] is required under section 47 to nominate [^{F4}a Member of the Senedd] for appointment as the First Minister ends without such a nomination being made.
- (4) If the [^{F5}Presiding Officer] proposes a day under subsection (1), Her Majesty may by [^{F6}proclamation under the Welsh Seal]—
 - (a) dissolve the [^{F2}Senedd] and require an extraordinary general election to be held,
 - (b) require the poll at the election to be held on the day proposed, and
 - (c) require the [^{F2}Senedd] to meet within the period of [^{F7}fourteen] days beginning immediately after the day of the poll.
- (5) If a poll is held under this section within the period of six months ending with the day on which the poll at the next ordinary general election would be held (disregarding section 4), that ordinary general election is not to be held.

Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Section 5 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (6) But subsection (5) does not affect the year in which the subsequent ordinary general election is to be held.
- (7) In calculating any period of days for the purposes of subsection (4)(c), the following days are to be disregarded—
- (a) Saturday and Sunday,
 - (b) Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Good Friday,
 - (c) any day which is a bank holiday in Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80), and
 - (d) any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 5(1) substituted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(13)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), [reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- F2** Words in Act substituted (6.5.2020) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), s. 42(2), **Sch. 1 para. 2(19)** (with [Sch. 1 para. 2\(11\)-\(14\)](#))
- F3** Words in Act substituted (6.5.2020) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), s. 42(2), **Sch. 1 para. 2(17)** (with [Sch. 1 para. 2\(11\)\(12\)\(14\)](#))
- F4** Words in Act substituted (6.5.2020) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), s. 42(2), **Sch. 1 para. 2(15)** (with [Sch. 1 para. 2\(11\)\(12\)\(14\)](#))
- F5** Words in s. 5(4) substituted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(14)(a)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), [reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- F6** Words in s. 5(4) substituted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(14)(b)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), [reg. 3\(b\)](#)
- F7** Word in s. 5(4)(c) substituted (coming into force in accordance with s. 42(5) of the amending Act) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), **s. 36(3)**

Commencement Information

- I1** Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

Changes to legislation:

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

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

- s. 155A inserted by [2014 c. 29 s. 10](#)
- Sch. 7A Section C15 para. 92 omitted by [2017 c. 4 s. 48\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 7A Section C15 para. 93 words omitted by [2017 c. 4 s. 48\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 10(2)(o) inserted by [2022 c. 30 s. 143](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 11(6)(b)(x) repealed by [2023 c. 54 Sch. 11 para. 1\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 11(6)(b)(x) word omitted by [2023 c. 54 s. 118\(c\)](#)