
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2012 No. 323

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENGLAND

**The Local Authorities (Conduct of
Referendums)(England) Regulations 2012**

Made - - - - 8th February 2012

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

**THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CONDUCT OF
REFERENDUMS)(ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012**

1. Citation and commencement
 2. Interpretation
 3. Question to be asked in a referendum
 4. Publicity and other information in connection with referendums
 5. Restriction on publication etc of promotional material
 6. General restriction on referendum expenses
 7. Notional referendum expenses
 8. Conduct of referendum: poll at referendum not taken together with poll at relevant election or referendum
 9. Counting officer
 10. Combination of polls: general
 11. Combination of referendum and election polls: conduct of referendum
 12. Combination of referendum and election polls: supplementary provisions relating to elections
 13. Combination of referendum polls: supplementary
 14. Result of referendum or further referendum
 15. Procedures for questioning referendum
 16. Immediate consequences of referendum petitions
 17. Determination of referendum petitions
 18. Time
 19. Advertisements
 20. Non-domestic rating: premises used for referendum purposes
 21. Revocations
- Signature

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums)(England) Regulations 2012. 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

SCHEDULE 1 — QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN A REFERENDUM

1. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...
2. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...
3. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...
4. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...
5. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...
6. How would you like [insert name of local authority] to...

SCHEDULE 2 — MATTERS RELEVANT TO REFERENDUM EXPENSES

1. Advertising of any nature (whatever the medium used). Expenses in...
2. Unsolicited material addressed to voters (whether addressed to them by...
3. Any material of a description referred to in regulation 5(1)....
4. Market research or canvassing conducted for the purposes of ascertaining...
5. The provision of any services or facilities in connection with...
6. Transport (by any means) of persons to any place or...
7. Rallies and other events, including public meetings organised so as...
8. Nothing in paragraphs 1 to 7 is to be taken...

SCHEDULE 3 — THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT REFERENDUMS RULES

PART 1 — Citation and Interpretation

1. Citation
2. Interpretation

PART 2 — Provisions as to Time

3. Timetable
4. Computation of time

PART 3 — General Provisions

5. Notice of referendum
6. Poll to be taken by ballot
7. The ballot papers
8. The corresponding number list
9. The official mark
10. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
11. Use of schools and public rooms

PART 4 — Action to be Taken Before the Poll

12. Notice of poll
13. Postal ballot papers
14. Provision of polling stations
15. Appointment of presiding officers and polling clerks
16. Issue of official poll cards
17. Equipment of polling stations
18. Appointment of polling observers and counting observers
19. Notification of requirement of secrecy
20. Return of postal ballot papers

PART 5 — The Poll

21. Admission to polling station
22. Keeping of order in station
23. Sealing of ballot boxes
24. Questions to be put to voters and proxies
25. Challenge of voter or proxy
26. Voting procedure
27. Votes marked by presiding officer

28. Voting by persons with disabilities
29. Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available
30. Tendered ballot papers: general provisions
- 30A Refusal to deliver ballot paper
31. Spoilt ballot papers
32. Correction of errors on day of poll
33. Adjournment of poll in case of riot
34. Procedure on close of poll
 - PART 6 — Counting of Votes
35. Attendance at counting of votes
36. The count
37. Re-count
38. Rejected ballot papers
39. Decisions on ballot papers
40. Equality of votes
 - PART 7 — Declaration of Result and Disposal of Documents
41. Declaration of result
42. Sealing up of ballot papers
43. Delivery of documents to relevant registration officer
44. Orders for production of documents
45. Retention of documents
 - PART 8 — Appendix of Forms

Note:—The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in...

Corresponding Number List L1

Corresponding Number List L2

Form of Postal Voting Statement

Official Poll Card (to be sent to a voter voting...

Official Postal Poll Card (to be sent to a voter...

Official Proxy Poll Card (to be sent to an appointed...

Official Proxy Postal Poll Card (to be sent to an...

Ballot Paper Refusal List

Form of directions for the guidance of the voters and...

Form of Certificate of Employment

Declaration to be made by the companion of a voter...

...

SCHEDULE 4 — Application, with modifications, of Acts and subordinate legislation

1. Interpretation

SCHEDULE 5 — The Local Government Act Referendums (Combination of Polls) Rules

PART 1 — Citation and Interpretation

1. Citation
2. Interpretation

PART 2 — Provisions as to Time

3. Timetable
4. Computation of time

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PART 3 — General Provisions

5. Notice of referendum
6. Poll to be taken by ballot
7. The ballot papers
8. The corresponding number list
9. The official mark
10. Prohibition of disclosure of vote
11. Use of schools and public rooms

PART 4 — Action to be taken Before the Poll

12. Notice of Poll
13. Postal ballot papers
14. Provision of polling stations
15. Appointment of presiding officers and clerks
16. Issue of official poll cards
17. Equipment of polling stations
18. Appointment of counting observers
19. Appointment of polling observers
20. Notification of requirement of secrecy in respect of polling stations
21. Notification of requirement of secrecy in respect of the count
22. Return of postal ballot papers

PART 5 — The Poll

23. Admission to the polling station
24. Keeping of order in station
25. Sealing of ballot boxes
26. Questions to be put to voters and proxies
27. Challenge of voter or proxy
28. Voting procedure
29. Votes marked by presiding officer
30. Voting by persons with disabilities
31. Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available
32. Tendered ballot papers: general provisions
33. Spoilt ballot papers
34. Correction of errors on day of poll
35. Adjournment of poll in case of riot
36. Procedure on close of poll

PART 6 — Counting of Votes

37. Attendance at counting of votes
38. The count
39. Re-count
40. Rejected ballot papers
41. Decisions on ballot papers
42. Equality of votes

PART 7 — Final Proceedings and Miscellaneous

43. Declaration of result
44. Sealing up of ballot papers
45. Delivery of documents to relevant registration officer
46. Orders for production of documents
47. Retention of documents
48. Countermand or abandonment of poll at election on death of candidate

PART 8 — Appendix of Forms

SCHEDULE 6 — Application, with further modifications, of the Representation of the People Act 1983 in relation to referendum petitions

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SCHEDULE 7 — Modifications of the Election Petition Rules 1960

Explanatory Note

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums)(England) Regulations 2012. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 forms substituted by [S.I. 2023/1225 Sch. 4 Pt. 1](#)
- Sch. 3 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 13\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 13\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147, Sch. 2 para. 13\(4\)\(5\) \(as inserted\) by \[S.I. 2024/99 reg. 2\\(4\\)\]\(#\)](#)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Forms substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 6 Pt. 1](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 word substituted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 word substituted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(vi\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 5\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(a\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 3 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(b\)\(i\)\(aa\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 3 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(v\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(vi\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(iv\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(v\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)\(bb\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1141 reg. 5\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 1 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(a\)\(ii\)\(aa\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 3 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(b\)\(i\)\(bb\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(iv\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(vii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(5\)\(c\)\(viii\)](#)
- Sch. 4 Table 6 words substituted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(3\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 8 forms substituted by [S.I. 2023/1225 Sch. 4 Pt. 2](#)
- Sch. 5 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 13\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 13\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 8 Forms modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147, Sch. 2 para. 13\(4\)\(5\) \(as inserted\) by \[S.I. 2024/99 reg. 2\\(4\\)\]\(#\)](#)
- Sch. 5 Pt. 8 Forms substituted by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 6 Pt. 2](#)

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. 3 rule 21(1)(ba) inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 36(3)(e) and word inserted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 24 modified (temp.) by [S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 11\(2\)\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 36(3)(c) word omitted by [S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(1)(b) words inserted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(3\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 3 rule 24 table words omitted by [S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)

- Sch. 3 rule 24 table words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(3)(b)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(2) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(3)(c)
- Sch. 5 rule 23(1)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6(4)(b)
- Sch. 5 rule 38(5)(e) and word inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6(4)(c)(ii)
- Sch. 5 rule 26 modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 11(2)(3)
- Sch. 5 rule 38(5)(c) word omitted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6(4)(c)(i)
- Sch. 5 rule 26(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(7)(a)
- Sch. 5 rule 26 table words omitted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(7)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 5 rule 26 table words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(7)(b)(i)
- Sch. 5 rule 26(2) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 15(7)(c)
- Sch. 5 rule 17(10) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 6(4)(a)