

## Postal Vote Opening

Postal Vote opening is being held at the Birmingham Midland Institute on Margaret Street.

It will start at 10am every working day between Thursday 30 April and Polling Day. There will be a final opening session on Polling Day after the close of poll, before the postal ballot papers are delivered to the Count Centre on Friday morning, ready for the start of the count.

On the first two days of postal vote opening, we will only be opening half of the wards. Please refer to the table below to see which day the first opening session for your ward will be held.

<b>THURSDAY 30 APRIL</b>	<b>FRIDAY 1 MAY</b>
Acocks Green	Nechells
Allens Cross	Newtown
Alum Rock	North Edgbaston
Aston	Northfield
Balsall Heath West	Oscott
Bartley Green	Perry Barr
Billesley	Perry Common
Birchfield	Pype Hayes
Bordesley & Highgate	Quinton
Bordesley Green	Rubery & Rednal
Bournbrook & Selly Park	Shard End
Bournville & Cotteridge	Sheldon
Brandwood & King's Heath	Small Heath
Bromford & Hodge Hill	Soho & Jewellery Quarter
Castle Vale	South Yardley
Druids Heath & Monyhull	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East
Edgbaston	Sparkhill
Erdington	Stirchley
Frankley Great Park	Stockland Green
Garretts Green	Sutton Four Oaks*
Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Sutton Mere Green*
Gravelly Hill	Sutton Reddicap*
Hall Green North	Sutton Roughley*
Hall Green South	Sutton Trinity*
Handsworth	Sutton Vesey*
Handsworth Wood	Sutton Walmley & Minworth*
Harborne	Sutton Wylde Green*
Heartlands	Tysley & Hay Mills
Highter's Heath	Ward End
Holyhead	Weoley & Selly Oak
King's Norton North	Yardley East
King's Norton South	Yardley West & Stechford
Kingstanding	
Ladywood	
Longbridge & West Heath	
Lozells	
Moseley	

\* As the Sutton postal votes are combined (both ballot papers included in the same postal vote pack) – the City Council and the Town Council wards will be opened at the same time.

Depending on the number of postal votes in the ward, it may not be possible to open all the postal votes received for your ward on the first day they are opened. Any remaining will be opened from Tuesday along with any others that are received.

Anyone attending the opening of postal votes is reminded of the requirement to maintain the secrecy of the ballot. Anyone attempting to breach this will be asked to leave the venue, and persistent rule breakers may be reported to the police.

## **NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY FOR PERSONS ATTENDING THE RECEIPT OF POSTAL VOTES.**

### **Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended)**

3A) No person may—

- (a) except for some purpose authorised by law, obtain or attempt to obtain information, or communicate at any time to any other person any information, as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of a ballot paper sent to a person for voting by post at a relevant election;
- (b) except for some purpose authorised by law, obtain or attempt to obtain information, or communicate at any time to any other person any information, as to the official mark on a ballot paper sent to a person for voting by post at a relevant election;
- (c) obtain or attempt to obtain information, in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (3B), as to the candidate for whom a person voting by post at a relevant election ("V") is about to vote or has voted;
- (d) communicate at any time to any other person information obtained in contravention of paragraph (c).

(3B) The circumstances referred to in subsection (3A)(c) are where V is about to mark, is in the process of marking, or has just marked, a ballot paper sent to V for voting by post at the election.

(3C) But—

- (a) a person ("E") who is voting by proxy does not contravene subsection (3A) by obtaining or attempting to obtain from the person appointed as E's proxy information as to a matter mentioned in paragraph (a) or (c) of that subsection that relates to E's vote, and
- (b) a person who is appointed as proxy for an elector does not contravene subsection (3A) by communicating to that elector information as to a matter mentioned in paragraph (a) or (c) of that subsection that relates to that elector's vote.

(3D) Subsection (3A)(c) and (d) does not apply where the purpose (or main purpose) for which the information is sought or communicated is its use for the purposes of—

- (a) a published statement relating to the way in which voters intend to vote or have voted at the relevant election, or
- (b) a published forecast as to the result of that election which is based on information given by voters.

3E) In subsection (3D) —

- (a) "forecast" includes estimate;
- (b) "published" means made available to the public at large or to any section of the public, in whatever form and by whatever means;
- (c) the reference to the result of the relevant election is a reference to the result of the election either as a whole or so far as any particular candidate or candidates at the election is or are concerned.

(4) Every person attending the proceedings in connection with the issue or the receipt of ballot papers for persons voting by post shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting and shall not —

- (a) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate, before the poll is closed, to any person any information obtained at those proceedings as to the official mark; or
- (b) except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person at any time any information obtained at those proceedings as to the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of the ballot paper sent to any person; or
- (c) except for some purpose authorised by law, attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of ballot papers the number or other unique identifying mark on the back of any ballot paper; or
- (d) attempt to ascertain at the proceedings in connection with the receipt of the ballot papers the candidate for whom any vote is given in any particular ballot paper or communicate any information with respect thereto obtain at those proceedings.

[ ... ]

(6) If a person acts in contravention of this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.