



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**



The Senedd election in 2026

What you need to know

Senedd election 2026



On **7 May 2026** there will be an election in Wales.

You can vote if you:

- ✓ are 16 years old or more
- ✓ live in Wales



This booklet tells you more about:

- the election
- how to vote



Important things to know



The Senedd is the name for parliament in Wales. The Senedd passes laws that affect your life in Wales.



For example, laws about:



- hospitals and GPs



- education



- road and rail transport



- farming

- culture

- the Welsh language

What happens on 7 May 2026



On **7 May 2026** you need to choose the party or person you want to represent your area in the Senedd.

You can only vote once.



The Senedd members elected have the power to make big decisions in Wales.

Make sure you register to vote in time.



You need to do register by **20 April 2026**.

It is important that you vote.

Why the election is important

The Senedd only passes laws about Wales.



They know about what happens in Wales more than other parts of the UK.



There will be **96 members** in the Senedd.

The members represent all parts of Wales.

They are elected to represent:

- ✓ you
- ✓ your community



The Senedd meets twice a week in a debating room called **the Siambwr**.

What do Senedd Members do?



Senedd Members meet in a plenary meeting to:

✓ speak out for you



✓ ask **Welsh Government ministers** important questions

✓ talk together in a **debate** and vote on issues



✓ pass laws

The Members sit on groups called committees.



They look at different issues that affect people who live in Wales.

What Senedd Members do in the community

Members work in a local office when they are not working in the Senedd.



The Members are politicians but also part of your community.

You can meet them in a drop-in session at their local office.



You can also get in touch online or by telephone.

They might take your issue to a debate.



It doesn't matter who you voted for. They all represent you equally.

How voting will work



A Senedd election is when people in Wales decide who they want to represent their local area in the Welsh Parliament.



Wales is divided into 16 areas called **constituencies**.

Each area has **6 seats** in the Senedd. This means **6 members** are elected in each area.



The **Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru** has made **16 new Senedd constituencies**.



You can see all **16 areas** on the map on the next page.

16 voting areas in Wales





Constituencies for the 2026 election

Each new constituency has one name, to be used in both Welsh and English.

1. **Bangor Conwy Môn**
2. **Clwyd**
3. **Fflint Wrecsam**
4. **Gwynedd Maldwyn**
5. **Ceredigion Penfro**
6. **Sir Gaerfyrddin**
7. **Gŵyr Abertawe**
8. **Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd**



Constituencies for the 2026 election

Each new constituency has one name, to be used in both Welsh and English.

9. Afan Ogwr Rhondda

10. Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr

11. Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni

12. Sir Fynwy Torfaen

13. Casnewydd Islwyn

14. Caerdydd Penarth

15. Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf

16. Pen-y-bont Morgannwg

Constituencies



The constituencies were created by looking at:

- ✓ the number of UK Parliament constituencies
- ✓ local government boundaries
- ✓ rivers and mountains
- ✓ local ties – for example where people use the Welsh Language



The Commission also asked people what they thought about the new plan.

The new areas were made after listening to local people.

A new voting system



Political parties will make a list of up to **8 candidates** for each area.

People who are not in a political party can stand for election as an **independent** person.



Each Member is elected based on the share of votes each party or independent person gets.



If an independent candidate has enough votes, they will also win a seat in the Senedd.

What happens in the election?



If a party wins enough votes, they will win one or more seats in the Senedd.



If a party **wins 3 seats** in a constituency, the top **3 people** on their list will be elected to those seats, in order.

If an independent candidate has enough votes, they will also win a seat in the Senedd.



How to vote



Your ballot paper shows the full list of candidates in your constituency.

You don't need to bring your ID with you to vote.



You will have one vote to choose the party or person you want to represent your area in the Senedd.

If a party wins enough votes, they will win one or more seats in the Senedd.



Find out more about the Senedd and the election:

<https://senedd.wales/senedd-election-2026/>