



# The UK Electoral System in Plain English

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## The system continues.

Elections produce a result even when turnout is low. This keeps government, councils, and public services running without interruption.

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## There is no minimum turnout (no quorum).

UK elections do not need a minimum number of votes to be valid. This prevents the system being paralysed if many people stay home and means councils and Parliament can keep working.

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## The result applies to everyone.

Choosing not to vote does not remove you from the outcome. If you don't vote, the result is simply decided without your input.

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## Your representatives have a job to do

MPs and councillors represent everyone in their area, but they are not legally bound to follow each individual request. They must balance competing views and use their judgement to make decisions.

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## It's part of everyday life.

The public system touches almost everything: education, health, tax, housing, transport, pensions and local services all sit within it. Even if you're not voting, you rely on it every day.

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## The gap.

The system functions, but when participation falls very low, the connection between authority and the public becomes weaker.

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## What the Participation-Sensitive Mandate Framework (PSMF) proposes.

The PSMF does not cancel elections or force anyone to vote. All results stand and elected representatives take office. However, if turnout in a ward or constituency falls exceptionally low (for example, below 25%), the mandate is classified as provisional. A one-time *confirmation poll* would be held within two years.

- If voters say yes, the mandate becomes full and final.
- If voters say no, a by-election is triggered. This gives very low participation a clear consequence without disrupting stability.

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## The message.

The system continues because continuity matters. But when the public withdraws, the public voice weakens.



**We inherited a voice. We should not hand the next generation a weaker one.**