

ANNUAL CANVASS AUTUMN 2009

Background

Every Autumn each authority producing an Electoral Register has a duty to make sure the details they are holding are up to date. This is done by sending a Canvass form to every residential property.

If we do not receive a form back a reminder will be sent out.

By late October if we still have not received a form, householders will receive a personal visit.

The qualifying date for information is 15 October. You need to complete the form for the property you are living in on that day.

The revised Register will be published on 1 December 2009.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why have you sent me this form ?

Every Autumn we send a form to each household in the North Hertfordshire District area to collect information to help us produce the Register of Electors for the following year. This register will then be used for any elections held that year.

2) I pay my Council Tax you have my details already, do I need to fill in this form ?

Yes, Council Tax and Electoral Registration are separate databases. The form is used to compile the Register of Electors only.

3) My name is not on the form, what should I do ?

Complete the form by adding your details and any one else's in the house who is eligible to Register.

4) The people on the form don't live here any more, what should I do ?

Cross out their details and enter your own if you are eligible to Register.

5) My Son / Daughter is 16 / 17, do I need to put them on the form ?

Yes, put their details on the form and include their date of birth, However they will not be able to vote until they are 18.

6) The qualifying date for information on the form is 15 October 2009, should I wait until then to return my form ?

No, please return your form as quickly as possible to help the council save money. We will not then have to send you a reminder.

7) I will be away from home on the 15 October, should I still put my details on this form ?

Yes, if you are away from your home temporarily and the address on the form is your main residence, you must still put your details on the form.

8) I am not British, do I need to Register ?

See attached list of Commonwealth and European Countries for those entitled to Register. If you are in doubt fill in the form stating your Nationality and we will advise you.

9) I only rent my property, do I need to Register.?

Yes, you can complete the form. If you do not Register you will not be able to Vote.

10) I am moving out of the property on or before 15 October, what should I do ?

Leave the form at the property for the new people to fill in. There should be a form in your new home. If not contact Electoral Services on 01462 474205 who will arrange for a form to be sent to you.

11) I have lost / destroyed my form, can I have another one ?

Yes , Please contact Electoral Services on 01462 474205 and they will arrange for another form to be sent out.

12) I have used the Telephone / Internet / SMS services to confirm my details but I now need to make a change, what should I do ?

If you still have the form, make the amendments on the form and return it to us, we will override the telephone / internet registration. If you do not have the form anymore contact Electoral Services who can arrange for a replacement form to be sent to you.

13) I have just moved but I completed the form at my old property, do I need to complete this one at my new address ?

The crucial date is the 15 October. If you moved into the new property on or before this date then complete the form at your new property. If you moved after the 15 October then leave the old occupiers names on the form and return it to us, requesting a Rolling Registration form for your new property.

Once this is completed and returned you will be on the Register for 4 January 2010.

14) I have two properties, one here and one in another area. Can I complete both Canvass forms ?

Yes, if you spend an equal amount of time in both you can register to vote in the District Elections in both areas. You can not however vote in both places during a Parliamentary Election.....this is illegal.

15) I don't vote, so why do I have to Register ?

It is a legal requirement to Register. A copy of the Register is used by the Police and Crime fighting agencies. The Credit Referencing agencies also use it to prove residency when conducting Credit checks... You do not however have to vote.

16) Why do I have to tell you if I am 70 Years of age or over?

This information is required by the Jury Summoning Service. Once you reach 70yrs of age you are not summoned for Jury service.

17) Once I have completed my form what do I do with it ?

If you do not have any changes to make to the details on the form, you can confirm your registration using the Internet / Telephone or SMS registration service. The details are on the Canvass form. Alternatively, sign the form and return it to us in the envelope provided. If you need to amend the details on the form, please do so and return the form to us, you will not be able to amend any details using the Telephone / Internet or SMS services.

18) Can I contact you for advice ?

Yes, you may contact our Electoral Services on 01462 474205

Or email: elections@north-herts.gov.uk

Or visit the Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, Herts, SG6 3HN.