

Possible changes to the voting system for electing County Councillors

Cyngor Gwynedd has decided to hold a public consultation on changing the voting system for electing Gwynedd Councillors.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (Section 5), gives councils the right to choose between two voting systems. Both systems are explained below:

Simple Majority System

1. An elector chooses one candidate (or more in some Wards) from the ballot paper by putting a cross in the box.
2. One candidate (or more in some Wards) is elected Councillor for the Ward.
3. The candidate who receives the most votes is elected.
4. This is the system currently used for Cyngor Gwynedd elections.

Single Transferable Vote System

1. Voters rank candidates on the ballot paper in order of preference, using numbers – their favourite as number 1, their second favourite as number 2 and so on. A voter can number all candidates on the ballot paper, just a few or only one.
2. This system operates on a larger Ward basis with between 3 and 6 Councillors representing each Ward.
3. Candidates are elected by reaching a certain quota of votes which is determined by dividing the total number of votes cast in the Ward with the number of seats available.
4. Candidates who reach or pass the quota will be elected. If there are seats left, surplus votes from the successful candidates and the votes of those candidates at the bottom of the results list are re-distributed to other candidates (using the elector's order of preference), until all seats are filled.

More information

More information is available by visiting www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/PSD



How is Cyngor Gwynedd going to decide what to do?

If Cyngor Gwynedd wants to move to a Single Transferable Vote System for the next Council Election in 2027, a decision must be made before 15 November 2024.

The Full Council will make a final decision at a special meeting in October 2024.

Before deciding to keep the current system (Simple Majority System) or change to a new system (Single Transferable Vote), we are consulting with the electorate of Gwynedd to see what you think.

How can I give my opinion?

Complete this questionnaire and return it to us in the freepost envelope or you can complete it online by going to **www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/PSD**

If you need the questionnaire in another format or language, please contact us by calling 01766 771000.

All responses must be returned by the deadline on 15 September 2024.

All responses from Gwynedd voters will be analysed, and the results presented as part of a report to the Full Council on 24 October 2024, to help Councillors make their decision.



Possible changes to the voting system for electing County Councillors

Fill in this short questionnaire in order to give your opinion about possible changes to the voting system for electing County Councillors.

Your response will be treated strictly confidentially in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018). Three months after the closing date of the consultation, we will delete the names of respondents to this questionnaire.

We will need your name and postcode in order to check that you are on the Electoral Register as we are consulting specifically with residents who are registered to vote in Gwynedd, in accordance with the requirements of Section 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 .

We will only use this information for checking the Electoral Register. It will not be used when analyzing the responses.



Your details

We will only use your name and postcode for checking the Electoral Register. We will not use them when analyzing the responses.

Full name

Postcode

Your opinion



What voting system would you want Cyngor Gwynedd to use to elect Councillors?

Choose one of the following

Simple Majority System (first past the post)

Single Transferable Vote System (proportional representation)

No opinion

Explain why



What is your opinion on the effect the voting method you have chosen would have on the Welsh language, specifically:

opportunities for people to use the Welsh language

Choose one of the following answers

Positive impact

Little positive impact

No impact

Little negative impact

Negative impact

not to treat Welsh less favourably than English

Choose one of the following answers

Positive impact

Little positive impact

No impact

Little negative impact

Negative impact



Provide any comments



What is your opinion on the impact that the voting method you have chosen would have on people who face socio-economic disadvantage?

Socio-economic disadvantage means poverty of all kinds – financial poverty, digital poverty, living far from services etc.

Positive impact

Little positive impact

No impact

Little negative impact

Negative impact

Provide any comments



About you

Answering the following questions will help us see if we have collected the views of a variety of people and given everyone from all backgrounds a chance to take part. You do not have to answer them.

Any information you provide is strictly confidential. The information will only be used for statistical analysis.

If you are completing this survey on behalf of an organisation, do not complete this section.

Sex

Choose one of the following answers

- Man / Male
- Woman / Female
- I identify in a different way
- I prefer not to say

Note your age group

Choose one of the following answers

- 15 years old or younger
- 16 - 24 years old
- 25 - 34 years old
- 35 - 44 years old
- 45 - 54 years old
- 55 - 64 years old
- 65 - 74 years old
- 75 - 84 years old
- 85+ years old
- I prefer not to say



How would you describe your skills in Welsh?

Check all that apply

- Speak, read and write fluently
- Speak, read and write, but not very confidently
- Speak, read and write – I'm learning
- Speak, but can't read or write
- Can't speak or understand Welsh
- I prefer not to say

Other

Nationality or national identity?

Choose one of the following answers

- Welsh
- English
- Scottish
- Northern Irish
- British
- I prefer not to say

Other



What is your race?

Choose one of the following answers

White

Black / African / Caribbean

Asian

Gypsy / Irish Traveller

Mixed / several ethnic groups

I prefer not to say

Other

What is your religion?

Choose one of the following answers

No religion

Christian

Muslim

Buddhist

Hindu

Jewish

Sikh

I prefer not to say

Other



Which of these best describes you?

(You do not need to answer this question if you are under 16)

Heterosexual / Straight

Gay man

Gay woman / lesbian

Bisexual

I prefer not to say

Other

Has your gender identification changed from that assigned to you at birth? (for example are you trans or transgender etc)

(You do not need to answer this question if you are under 16 years old)

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

Section 6 (1) of the Equality Act 2010 states that a person is disabled if:

- a. The person has a physical or mental impairment,**
- b. and the impairment has a substantial and long-term effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.**

Using this definition, do you consider yourself a disabled person?

Choose one of the following answers

Yes

No

I prefer not to say