

# **2026 Senedd Election**

## **Toolkit for Single Parents**





## Welcome!

Hello and welcome to your Senedd Election 2026 toolkit!

This toolkit is designed to support single parents taking part in the 2026 Welsh Election and raise awareness of the challenges facing single-parent families, so you can vote, have your say, and make sure the voices of single parents are heard.

## This toolkit includes:

- Background information and why this election matters.
  - Summary of our current policy asks at Gingerbread.
  - How to get involved.
- 

## About the Election

On Thursday 7 May, voters will head to the polls in Wales, Scotland and England.

For Wales, this is a historic election, with changes to the electoral system and a potential political shift in Welsh politics.

It is a crucial opportunity to make your voice heard and vote for representatives who will take decisions on devolved issues such as childcare, education, health and transport.

### **This year, this election will look different.**

Across Wales, for the first time, voters will choose a political party or an independent candidate rather than individual constituency candidates. The new system is called a 'closed proportional list system.'

Seats in the Senedd will be allocated based on each party's share of the vote in each region, a system already used widely across Europe.

The electoral map is also being redrawn. Wales will now be divided into 16 larger constituencies, each electing 6 Members of the Senedd. Overall, the number of Members will increase from 60 to 96, meaning more representatives for Wales' communities and regions.

The new system is designed to make representation fairer and more accurately reflect how people vote across Wales.



## Why this election matters for single parents

Decisions made in the Senedd affect many aspects of daily life for single parents and their children, including childcare, schools, health services, housing and transport.

That's why it's important that single parents use their voice in this election.

### Policy and campaigning at Gingerbread

Single parents continue to face challenges every day - barriers to work, inadequate childcare and a social security system that can make it difficult to balance work and caring responsibilities.

At Gingerbread, we're campaigning to change this. We campaign against the inequalities and injustices that single parents face every single day, and we challenge the stigma and negative perceptions around being a single parent.

#### Our current policy priorities include:

- Reforming the Child Maintenance Service (CMS)
- Securing flexible working
- Making childcare work
- Tackling poverty and improving social security support
- Ensuring all policy reflects the needs of single parents

### What this means for you as a single parent

The Senedd has influence over key devolved areas, such as childcare and education. This means the people elected will help shape the policies that affect single-parent families across Wales.

---

## Voting as a single parent

As a single parent, voting can sometimes feel challenging with balancing childcare and work responsibilities, but there are ways to make it easier:

- You can vote in person on 7 May, or choose to vote by post or proxy.
- You can vote at polling stations any time between 7am and 10pm on 7 May.
- You can bring your child with you to the polling station on 7 May.
- Every voice matters and every vote counts - you don't have to be an expert in politics!





## Help us amplify the voices of single parents

Taking part in this election doesn't have to stop with voting.

There are other simple ways you can use your voice and help raise awareness of the challenges single parents face.

### How to get involved:

- Register to vote before 11:59pm on 20 April 2026.
- Decide now how and when you'll vote (in person, by post or by proxy).
- Vote on Thursday 7 May!
- **Take a photo outside your polling station (with your child, if you like) and share the photo with us on 7 May so we can post it on our social media channels on election day. Please email your photo to [campaign@gingerbread.org.uk](mailto:campaign@gingerbread.org.uk) with your permission to share the photo.**
- Start a conversation: talk to other single parents, friends, family or colleagues about the election and why it matters to you.
- Help amplify single parents' voices: [sign-up to Gingerbread's campaigns mailing list](#), take actions and help raise awareness of the challenges single-parent families face.



**Together, we can make sure decision-makers listen and push for change for single parents and their children.**

