

## Key dates in voting

1535: Legislation provides for Welsh representatives in the House of Commons

1707: Acts of Union passed in the Parliaments of England and Scotland unite the two countries. Scotland allocated 45 seats in the House of Commons

1729: Bribery Act passed to address corruption in elections

1801: Act of Union joins Ireland and Great Britain. Ireland allocated 100 seats in the House of Commons

1832: Representation of the People Act (the first Reform Act) extends vote to men meeting property qualification, reduces rotten boroughs and redistributes Parliamentary seats to better represent urban areas

1838: The People's Charter drawn up for the London Working Men's Association 1839 - First Chartist petition presented to House of Commons

1842: Second Chartist petition presented to House of Commons

1848: Third Chartist petition presented to House of Commons

1867: Representation of the People Act (the second Reform Act) extends vote to urban working men meeting property qualification

1872: Ballot Act introduces the secret ballot at elections

1883: Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act 1883 effectively ends serious corruption in British elections

1884: Representation of the People Act (the third Reform Act) addresses imbalance between men's votes in boroughs and counties

1885: Redistribution Act boundaries redrawn to produce equal electoral districts. Single member seats become the norm

1918: Representation of the People Act extends vote to all men over 21 and most women over 30

1920: Government of Ireland Act 1920 and the Irish Free State Agreement Act 1922 creates the Irish Free State and reduces the number of seats for Irish constituencies at Westminster from 105 to 13 constituencies in Northern Ireland.

1928: Representation of the People Act extends vote to all women over 21

1944: House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act established four permanent boundary commissions for the UK and a regular system for reviewing constituency boundaries.

1969: Representation of the People Act extends vote to men and women over 18

2008: Voting Age (Reduction) Bill - a Private Members' Bill - to reduce voting age to 16 and over. Bill does not become law.

Source: <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/chartists/keydates/>