

Gefördert durch:



What is the city council?

The city council is elected by the people living in Wuppertal. It advocates the interests of the residents of the municipality. The city council works together with the municipal administration. The city council forms resolutions. The municipal administration checks whether the resolutions are in accordance with German law. The resolutions will be implemented if the municipal administration confirms them. This means that the municipal council has a direct influence on the people who live in Wuppertal. The Integration Committee represents the residents of Wuppertal who have a history of immigration.

What does "secrecy of the ballot" mean?

Elections in Germany are free, anonymous and you do not have to pay money to participate. **You do not have to tell anybody** who you have voted for. If you are asked by anyone who you have voted for you do not have to answer them if you do not want to.

You can also choose freely who you want to vote for. For example: Angela Merkel, despite being in the CDU party, does not have to vote for the CDU. If she wanted to, she could vote for another party.

How can I vote?

Everyone who is eligible to vote on September 13 will receive notification by post. This will be in the first or second week of August. It will be sent to the address you are registered under at the residents' registration office (*Einwohnermeldeamt*).

On the notification will be an address where you can vote on the day of the election. In order to vote, you have to take your ID with you.

On the day of the election, there will be people at the address who will hand you your ballot paper and an envelope. You have to register with them in order to get your ballot paper (*Stimmzettel*). If you are unsure what to do you can ask them for help.

On the ballot paper is a list with all of the candidates.

You then go into a voting booth where you can make your vote anonymously. You have only **one** vote. This means you can only make a cross next to one candidate's name. You are not allowed to write anything else on your ballot paper or make more than one cross. Otherwise your vote will be invalid.

After you have voted, you put your ballot paper into the envelope. You then put the envelope into the ballot box (*Wahlurne*). This is normally a large metal box.

Another option for voting is postal voting.

Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Katholische Kirche
in Wuppertal



What is the postal vote? How does it work?

When you have been sent your notification you can request postal voting. In that case you do not have to go out to vote on September 13. Instead, you send in your ballot paper by post.

There are instructions on the notification. There are different options as to how you can apply for a postal vote. For example, you can send in an e-mail or use a QR-code. The documents necessary for the postal vote are then sent to an address of your choice. This means you can have them sent to your home or to another address. This way of voting is convenient if, for example, you do not expect to be in Wuppertal on the day of the election. You can also request postal voting via this website: <https://www.briefwahl-beantragen.de/Nordrhein-Westfalen/Wuppertal>

The documents will be sent to the address you chose before September 23. Please note: The deadline for requesting a postal vote is before September 13.

The documents that will be sent to you are the same as the documents you would get if you went to vote at your polling (voting) station on Election Day. Together with these documents, you will also be sent instructions about postal voting.

This means you will receive the same envelope and ballot paper on which to make your vote. After you have made your vote, you put the ballot paper into the envelope.

You will also receive a second, larger envelope and a form. You have to put down your name and signature on the form. Then you put the signed form, as well as your closed envelope containing the ballot paper, into the larger envelope. You then send off the larger envelope by post. It is already stamped and addressed to the voting office.

The postal vote is also anonymous. The signed form is in order to register that you have voted. Who you have voted for remains a secret.

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
des Innern, für Bau
und Heimat

aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Katholische Kirche
in Wuppertal



Local Election

What does the municipal parliament do?

The municipal parliament governs the tasks regarding the municipality. This is done in cooperation with the municipal administration. They decide things like: Where should residential areas be? How is the water supply secured? Will the fire brigade get a new fire station? They also decide where new schools and nurseries are to be built, how traffic should be structured, and a lot more.

Election of the municipal council

The municipal representatives are elected. The election follows democratic election principles. This means they are free, anonymous, inclusive, immediate, and equal.

(Source: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung: <https://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/lexika/das-junge-politik-lexikon/161317/kommunalwahl>)

You are eligible to vote if

- you have German citizenship
- or you have the citizenship of a different EU member state
- you are at least 16 years old
- you have been registered as resident (or if you have several residences, then as having your main residence) in Wuppertal for at least 16 days prior to Election Day (28.08.).

(Source: Stadt Wuppertal: <https://www.wuppertal.de/rathaus-buergerservice/verwaltung/wahlen/kw.php>)