

ukie

 **GetInTheGame2019**
REGISTER TO VOTE @ www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

European Elections Mini-guide 2019

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About #GetInTheGame2019

Ukie is launching a new campaign calling upon all game players to register to vote.

The next major election will be on May 23rd, where UK voters will be able to elect Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to represent their views on the European stage.

However, a report this week showed that nearly 8 million people in the UK are not registered to vote in the upcoming European elections. On top of this, the Electoral Commission frequently finds that younger people (those under 35) are one of the least likely groups to be registered to vote in general. With 85% of British adults under 35 stating that they frequently play games, there is a real possibility here that the voice of video game players is not being included in the democratic process. As a result, they are missing out on influencing the development of policies which could affect them in the future, both domestically and in Europe whilst we remain members of the EU.

That's why we've launched #GetInTheGame2019 to encourage players and fans to register to vote - and we think games companies with access to their communities could help spread the message.

If you'd like to know how to register, where to vote, and what the upcoming European elections are even about, then we've compiled this quick guide for you. By registering to vote for the European elections you will also be registering for all eligible future elections.

How to Register

Registering to vote is easy and only takes a few minutes. Head to the Government's website [here](#). You must register by **Tuesday, 7th of May**.

You only require your National Insurance number, and if you are a British citizen living abroad, your passport. If you took part in the 2017 general election or this year's local elections, and haven't moved house, you won't need to register again.

If you want to vote by post, then you have to register for a postal ballot by **5pm on Wednesday the 8th of May**.

If you want to vote by proxy (where someone votes in your place), you must register to do so by **5pm on Wednesday the 15th of May**,

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you suddenly find you cannot vote, you can apply for an emergency proxy vote by **5pm on May the 23rd**.

Where to Vote

Once you have registered, your local Electoral Registration Office will send you a poll card telling you where and when to vote. Polling stations are usually located in public buildings like schools or local halls. **You can still vote without the card!**

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

You can find more information about voting [here](#).

European Elections

The upcoming European elections are to decide who will represent your views in the European Parliament by electing Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). MEPs review and vote on EU legislation, whilst lobbying the European Commission and Council. They will affect the direction of the EU.

MEPs represent, and are elected by, twelve regions of the UK. The total number of MEPs from each region sent to the European Parliament is determined by how big the population is of each region.

- Eastern Region - 7 MEPs
- East Midlands Region - 5 MEPs
- London Region - 8 MEPs
- North East Region - 3 MEPs
- North West Region - 8 MEPs
- Northern Ireland - 3 MEPs
- Scotland - 6 MEPs
- South East Region - 10 MEPs
- South West Region - 6 MEPs
- Wales - 4 MEPs
- West Midlands Region - 7 MEPs
- Yorkshire and the Humber - 6 MEPs

You can find out which region you belong to, and your region's current MEPs, [here](#).

MEPs are elected through proportional representation. This means that the number of seats each party wins in each region is proportional to the number of votes won by each party. This is in contrast to the UK's national general election system, where the party with an overall majority wins. This means each and every vote really does make a difference.

Key dates

Deadline for registering to vote:

Tuesday, 7th of May

Deadline for registering to vote by post:

5pm, Wednesday, 8th of May

Deadline for registering to vote by proxy:

5pm, Wednesday, 15th of May

Deadline for registering to vote by emergency proxy:

5pm, Thursday, May the 23rd

Polling day:

7am to 10pm, Thursday, May the 23rd.

Make sure to get involved in the campaign by using the hashtag #GetInTheGame2019