



# Your Vote Counts in the European Elections

**Use your vote to make a difference on 4 June 2009**

The European Parliamentary elections use a proportional voting system. This means that:

## Your Vote Counts

- every vote is important.
- you have a much higher likelihood of affecting the result, no matter where you live.

## Vote Your Values

- you can vote for the party you really believe in; for the agenda you want advanced in/by Europe.
- you have a higher chance of being represented by the party you voted for.

## Vote to reduce the chances of extremists being elected

- the higher the turnout, the harder it likely becomes for extremist parties to win seats.

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## Voting is Easy

The ballot paper is very straightforward. You have one vote, which is used to elect the four MEPs who will represent Wales. Simply vote for the party you prefer – put an X in the column next to that party's name. That's it!

To check if you are registered to vote, go to [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) The registration deadline is 19 May.

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## How PR works

Each electoral region has a certain number of MEPs dependent on its population size. Wales has four Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). Parties win seats roughly in proportion to their share of the vote. It works like this: the party with the highest vote gets one seat allotted in the first round. Its vote is then divided by two. The party with the highest vote in the second round then wins a seat and its vote is divided by two. If a party which has already won a seat wins another round then its percentage vote is divided by the number of seats it has won plus one. This continues until all the seats are allocated.

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## Why campaigning across Wales matters:

MEPs are elected by a form of proportional representation based on Wales-wide vote totals. This means it is worth competing everywhere – in wards where there is lots of political activity already as well as in wards which aren't normally targeted at election time and amongst people who don't usually feel part of the national political conversation. Whatever issues you want to promote, and whomever you support, you can organise, campaign and get out the vote, and make a difference to the result.

If you would like briefing materials or a visit from a speaker who can help your group understand more clearly how the voting system works and how best they can use their vote on 4 June, then get in contact with us.

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