The elections to the Vienna City Council/Vienna Provincial Parliament and to the 23 district councils will be held on Sunday, 11 October 2020. This guide gives an overview of the most important terms and facts concerning the elections in Vienna.

WHO IS ELECTED ON 11 OCTOBER 2020?

Vienna City Council/Vienna Provincial Parliament (Wiener Gemeinderat/Wiener Landtag)
The 100 members of the Vienna City Council and Vienna Provincial Parliament are elected in the elections to the City Council. The federal capital of Vienna is at the same time a province of Austria and a municipality in its own right. The 100 members of the Vienna City Council are responsible for all important decisions by the City Council (e.g. electing the Mayor, adopting the budget and urban development plans, etc.). The Vienna Provincial Parliament primarily adopts legislation for the Province of Vienna. The Mayor of the City of Vienna is at the same time the Governor of the Province of Vienna. She or he is elected by the members of the City Council and is the highest representative of the city. She or he also represents the Province of Vienna at federal level.

23 district councils
The District Council is responsible for many important matters at district level (e.g. maintenance of school buildings, building children's playgrounds, local traffic planning, etc.). Every vote cast in the elections to the district councils therefore directly affects daily life in the district you live in. The members of the District Council are called "Bezirksrätiinnen" or "Bezirksräte". Depending on the district's total population, the district councils have between 40 and 60 members. The members of the District Council elect the District Chairperson ("Bezirksvorsteherin" or "Bezirksvorsteher"). She or he supports the Mayor in all matters regarding the district and represents the district in important administrative matters (e.g. negotiations regarding the construction of new buildings, approval of business licences, etc.).

Comprehensive information on the elections 2020 in Vienna:
StadtService Wien: phone 01/4000 - 4001
Internet: wien.gv.at/wahlen
**Who is elected?**
City Council and 23 district councils

**Election day**
Sunday, 11 October 2020

**Opening hours of polling stations**
from 7:00 to 17:00

**WHO IS ENTITLED TO VOTE IN VIENNA** (wahlberechtigt)
1. Austrian citizens (in the elections to the City Council AND the district councils) and
2. non-Austrian EU citizens (only in the elections to the district councils),
who had their primary residence in Vienna on the qualifying date (14 July 2020) and
who have reached the age of 16 on Election Day.

**ELECTORAL REGISTER** (Wählerverzeichnis)
All persons entitled to vote are automatically recorded in the electoral register.
Voters do not need to register individually.

**OFFICIAL ELECTION INFORMATION** (Amtliche Wahlinformation)
The official election information is sent to every voter by post about two weeks before Election Day.
It is a short letter explaining
1. Where is my polling station (Wahllokal)?
2. Important information for voters.

**VOTING CARD** (Wahlkarte)
If you are not sure whether you can come to your allocated polling station on Election Day (for example for health reasons or because you will not be at home), you can apply for a voting card. With this voting card, you can cast your vote at any voting card polling station in Vienna or by postal vote from anywhere in Austria or abroad. There is a voting card polling station at every polling place in Vienna.

**WHERE AND WHEN TO APPLY FOR A VOTING CARD?**
At the electoral office (Wahlreferat) of your Municipal District Office
- by 7 October 2020 in writing (for example online at wien.gv.at/wahlen)
- by 9 October 2020, 12:00, in person (but not by phone!)

**Please note:** The electoral offices in districts 2, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 19 are not located in the Municipal District Offices. If you apply for your voting card in person from mid-September 2020 at the electoral office, you can cast your vote there promptly by postal vote, if you like. There are mobile polling booths and ballot boxes where you can drop off your postal vote.

**POSTAL VOTE** (Briefwahl)
If you have a voting card and choose to cast your vote by post, you must return the voting card **by 11 October 2020, 17:00,** at the latest by post, messenger or in person to the competent electoral commission. The address is already printed on the voting card. You can also return your voting card on Election Day at any polling station in Vienna during the opening hours of the polling station or at any electoral commission by 17:00.

Further information (in German) can be found on the voting card
A video about postal vote can be viewed at wien.gv.at/wahlen.
IF YOU ARE ILL OR BEDRIDDEN
If you are ill or confined to bed for other reasons, it is possible to arrange for a mobile election commission (Wahlkommission) to visit you. In this case you also need a voting card.

ON ELECTION DAY!
Make sure to bring a valid photo ID to the polling station, for example your passport, personal identity card, driving license, or student identity card.
If you have a voting card but want to cast your vote at a polling station anyway (including your allocated polling station), make sure to bring your voting card to the polling station.
Please note that specific coronavirus protection measures will be in place at polling stations on Election Day!

AT THE POLLING STATION AND IN THE POLLING BOOTH
Austrian citizens receive a blue ballot envelope (Wahlkuvert) and two ballot papers (Stimmzettel): a white ballot paper for the elections to the Vienna City Council and a yellow ballot paper for the elections to the district councils. Non-Austrian EU citizens receive a yellow ballot envelope and a yellow ballot paper for the elections to the district councils.
Vote by direct and secret ballot! Every voter enters the polling booth (Wahlzelle) alone!

PREFERENTIAL VOTES (Vorzugsstimmen)
In addition to voting for one of the political parties, every voter has the right to cast preferential votes for individual candidates of the same party. Lists of candidates can be found on the Internet at wien.gv.at/wahlen before Election Day or on Election Day in front of the polling station and in the polling booth.
Candidates who receive many preferential votes move up on the list of candidates drawn up by their party.

AFTER YOU HAVE CAST YOUR VOTE
Put the completed ballot paper into the ballot envelope before leaving the polling booth.
Place the envelope in the ballot box.