



# Government of Wales Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 32

### PART 1

#### [<sup>F1</sup>SENEDD CYMRU]

#### *General elections*

### 3 Ordinary general elections

- (1) The poll at an ordinary general election is to be held on the first Thursday in May in the [<sup>F1</sup>fifth] calendar year following that in which the previous ordinary general election was held, [<sup>F2</sup>unless—
- (a) subsection (1A) prevents the poll being held on that day, or
  - (b) the day of the poll is determined by a proclamation under section 4.]

[<sup>F3</sup>(1A) The poll is not to be held on the same date as the date of the poll at—

- (a) a parliamentary general election <sup>F4</sup> ..., <sup>F5</sup> ...
- <sup>F5</sup>(b) .....

(1B) Where subsection (1A) prevents the poll being held on the day specified in subsection (1), the poll is to be held on such day, subject to subsection (1A), as the Welsh Ministers may by order specify unless the day of the poll is determined by a proclamation under section 4(2) as modified by section 4(2A).]

- (2) If the poll is to be held on the first Thursday in May [<sup>F6</sup> or on the day specified by an order under subsection (1B) ], the [<sup>F7</sup>Senedd] —
- (a) is dissolved by virtue of this section at the beginning of the minimum period which ends with that day, and
  - (b) must meet within the period of [<sup>F8</sup>fourteen] days beginning immediately after the day of the poll.

(3) In subsection (2) “the minimum period” means the period determined in accordance with an order under section 13.

*Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

- (4) In calculating any period of days for the purposes of subsection (2)(b), the following days are to be disregarded—
- (a) Saturday and Sunday,
  - (b) any day which is a bank holiday in Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80), and
  - (c) any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

[<sup>F9</sup>(5) No order is to be made under subsection (1B) unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing it has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the [<sup>F7</sup>Senedd] .]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 3(1) substituted (17.2.2015) by [Wales Act 2014 \(c. 29\)](#), **ss. 1(1)**, 29(2)(a)
- F2** Words in s. 3(1) substituted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(2)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), reg. 3(b)
- F3** S. 3(1A)(1B) inserted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(3)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), reg. 3(b)
- F4** Words in s. 3(1A)(a) omitted (24.3.2022) by virtue of [Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 \(c. 11\)](#), s. 6(3), **Sch. para. 19**
- F5** S. 3(1A)(b) and word omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018 \(c. 16\)](#), s. 25(4), **Sch. 3 para. 28** (with s. 19, [Sch. 8 para. 37](#)); [S.I. 2020/1622](#), reg. 3(1) (with regs. 10, 22)
- F6** Words in s. 3(2) inserted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(4)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), reg. 3(b)
- F7** Words in Act substituted (6.5.2020) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), s. 42(2), **Sch. 1 para. 2(19)** (with [Sch. 1 para. 2\(11\)-\(14\)](#))
- F8** Word in s. 3(2)(b) substituted (coming into force in accordance with s. 42(5) of the amending Act) by [Senedd and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2020 \(anaw 1\)](#), s. **36(1)**
- F9** S. 3(5) inserted (1.4.2018) by [Wales Act 2017 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 6(5)**, 71(4) (with [Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6](#)); [S.I. 2017/1179](#), reg. 3(b)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 3(1) modified (15.9.2011) by [Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 \(c. 14\)](#), **ss. 5(2)**, 7(2) (with s. 6)
- C2** S. 3(1) modified (17.3.2021) by [Welsh Elections \(Coronavirus\) Act 2021 \(asc 2\)](#), **ss. 2(2)**, 6, 18 (with s. 13)
- C3** S. 3(2)-(4) excluded (17.3.2021) by [Welsh Elections \(Coronavirus\) Act 2021 \(asc 2\)](#), **ss. 2(1)**, 18 (with s. 13)

#### Commencement Information

- I1** Ss. 1-94, 97-106 in force immediately after "the 2007 election" by s. 161(1) (subject to s. 161(4)(5))

**Changes to legislation:**

Government of Wales Act 2006, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 155A inserted by [2014 c. 29 s. 10](#)
- Sch. 7A Section C15 para. 92 omitted by [2017 c. 4 s. 48\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- Sch. 7A Section C15 para. 93 words omitted by [2017 c. 4 s. 48\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 10(2)(o) inserted by [2022 c. 30 s. 143](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 11(6)(b)(x) repealed by [2023 c. 54 Sch. 11 para. 1\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 7B para. 11(6)(b)(x) word omitted by [2023 c. 54 s. 118\(c\)](#)