



Government of Wales Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 32

PART 1

[^{F1}SENEDD CYMRU]

General elections

4 Power to vary date of ordinary general election

[^{F1}(1) Subject to section 3(1A), the Presiding Officer may propose, for the holding of the poll at an ordinary general election, a day which is not more than one month earlier, nor more than one month later, than the first Thursday in May.]

[^{F1}(2) If the Presiding Officer proposes a day under subsection (1), Her Majesty may by proclamation under the Welsh Seal—

- (a) dissolve the [^{F2}Senedd],
- (b) require the poll at the election to be held on the day proposed, and
- (c) require the [^{F2}Senedd] to meet within the period of [^{F3}fourteen] days beginning immediately after the day of the poll.]

[^{F1}(2A) Where a day is specified by an order under section 3(1B), subsection (1) applies as if the reference to the first Thursday in May were a reference to that day.]

(3) In calculating any period of days for the purposes of provision made by virtue of subsection [^{F4}(2)(c)], the following days are to be disregarded—

- (a) Saturday and Sunday,
- (b) Good Friday,
- (c) any day which is a bank holiday in Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 (c. 80), and
- (d) any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

(4) [^{F5}The Welsh Ministers may by order] make provision for—

- (a) any provision of, or made under, the Representation of the People Acts, or

Changes to legislation: Government of Wales Act 2006, Section 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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

(b) any other enactment relating to the election of [^{F6}Members of the Senedd], to have effect with such modifications or exceptions as the [^{F7}Welsh Ministers consider] appropriate in connection with the alteration of the day of the poll [^{F8} under this section].

^{F9}(5)

(6) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of [^{F10}the [^{F2}Senedd]].

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 4(1)-(2A) substituted for s. 4(1)(2) (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(7), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F2** 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))
- F3** Word in s. 4(2)(c) 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(2)
- F4** Word in s. 4(3) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(8), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F5** Words in s. 4(4) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(9)(a), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F6** Words in Act substituted (6.5.2020) by Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 (anaw 1), s. 42(2), Sch. 1 para. 2(17) (with Sch. 1 para. 2(11)(12)(14))
- F7** Words in s. 4(4) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(9)(b), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F8** Words in s. 4(4) inserted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(9)(c), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F9** S. 4(5) omitted (1.4.2018) by virtue of Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(10), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)
- F10** Words in s. 4(6) substituted (1.4.2018) by Wales Act 2017 (c. 4), ss. 6(11), 71(4) (with Sch. 7 paras. 1, 6); S.I. 2017/1179, reg. 3(b)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 4(2)(c) excluded (17.3.2021) by Welsh Elections (Coronavirus) Act 2021 (asc 2), ss. 2(3), 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 4 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 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.

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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\(c\)](#)