

Summary of questions

Question 1

Although registration is compulsory in Wales, the penalties for non registration are hardly ever used. *An option to decline to vote should be included on ballot papers. I.E. THE RIGHT NOT TO VOTE.*
Should penalties be used and would this encourage more people to register?
No. The only way to encourage registration is through education of rights & responsibilities.

Question 2

What methods could be used to ensure that more people living with their parents, who have moved recently or are living in rented accommodation register? *As a canvasser, I believe the only way is to knock on doors and explain.*

Question 3

Will individual registration with personal identification help to increase registration? *No. People who vote do vote. Others will find a reason not to. I.D. cards are generally resented.*
Will it help to make voting more secure if the personal identification has to be produced before you can vote? *The Presiding officer has ways of cross referencing and therefore identifying voters.*

Question 4

Should there be some form of automatic registration as in other countries?
No. Education of rights and responsibilities are the answer.
If yes,

What sources of information could be used to ensure that everyone was automatically registered. *However Landlords & Estate agents should be compelled to notify local authorities of changes.*

Question 5

What methods could be used to encourage more Black and Ethnic Minority people to register? *Education of rights & responsibilities.*

Question 6

Would an all postal vote be workable in Wales? *No.*

Please give your reasons for your views. *Postal votes get lost ballot papers get left in kitchen draws. The duty of voters should be to attend polling.*

Question 7

What forms of electronic voting (e.g. internet, text, at polling stations) could be used in Wales? *None. A plain cross X next to a candidate is the simplest, least confusing method of democracy. Some things are best left manual (without technology)*

What could be the benefits/problems of using the methods you have suggested? *There is nothing wrong with a pencil in a booth.*

Question 8

Could alternative venues be used as polling stations? (e.g. supermarkets, post offices etc) *For years certain venues have been perfectly adequate. Why change the system we know works.*

Question 9

Why do so few young people in Wales vote? *complete apathy like in other countries.*

Please give any examples you have come across (leaving out any personal details) *Poor education of responsibilities is killing democracy.*

Question 10

Are young people given enough information in schools to make an informed decision about how they are going to vote? *No. Citizenship is obviously not taught. History lessons should include democracy.*

Question 11

Should party politics be taught in schools? *No let the parties take the strain.*

If so, how? *Constitution and democratic studies should be mandatory. Even in primary schools.*

Question 12

Should political parties be involved in informing young people about politics in schools and other youth groups? *certainly not. The job of the party is to offer choice through its own actions**

Question 13

Are there examples of good practice in informing young people about politics in your area? *Not that I've noticed.*

Please tell us about them (leaving out any personal details).

Question 14

Is there enough provision for people with disabilities to help with the registration process? *Yes. My dad is disabled and has never failed to vote.*

If not, what practical things could be done?

* Do you not think allowing parties into schools is open to abuse. Germany 1930's every teacher was forced to be a Nazi. The young didn't stand a chance

Question 15

Is there enough provision for people with disabilities to help with voting?

Yes. As question 14.
If not, what practical things could be done?

Question 16

Should there be statutory standards for the accessibility of registration and voting material and polling stations?

There is already legal provision to access polling stations

Question 17

What are your views on the use of mobile ballot boxes for people who have difficulty getting to polling stations?

one ballot box open to abuse. one presiding officer is enough.

Question 18

Should polling station managers be required to produce a report similar to that in the Netherlands?

I don't know what they do in NL. Presiding officers have opportunity to report in UK

Question 19

What are your views on the availability of help and advice available bilingually at elections in Wales?

Polling stations I have worked in have been bi-lingual.

Question 20

What could be done in terms of documents and advice to encourage more BME people to register and vote?

People will vote if they are educated in rights and responsibilities from primary school age.

Question 21

Do you consider the forms and information given about registration and voting to be straightforward and easily understandable?

Yes.

I have completed this questionnaire having served as a poll clerk and as a presiding officer at polling stations. I also work as a canvasser for the same area and therefore have formed the above opinions through personal experience. I can be contacted by E-mail on SBACH@TISCALI.CO.UK