

Voting made simple

On 9 June 2024 there will be two elections at the same time. 9 June is a Sunday. The elections will decide who governs in the Hamburg districts and who governs in Europe.

Many politicians from parties are standing for election. You can put a cross on the ballot sheet against the names of the people who should be elected.

We answer seven questions in this document:

- (1) When is the election?
- (2) Who can vote?
- (3) How does voting work?
- (4) Where do I vote?
- (5) How do postal votes work?
- (6) Why should I vote?
- (7) Who's standing for election?

If you need help or you have more questions, you can call the telephone number 115. Or visit the website of the Hamburg Returning Officer (Election Official):
<https://www.hamburg.de/europa-und-bezirksversammlungswahl/>

There is a booklet with information in plain language:
<https://www.hamburg.de/wahlen/18582324/barrierefreiheit/>

(1) When is the election?

The election is on 9 June 2024. That's a Sunday. You can vote at the polling station from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

You can find your polling station here:

<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/111119964/n0/>.

If you can't go to vote, you can vote beforehand by post.

You'll have to apply on the internet. You can find more information on postal votes here:

<https://briefwahl.hamburg.de>





(2) Who can vote?

There are two elections: the elections to the Hamburg District Assemblies and the European Elections. There are rules for both elections.

1. Hamburg District Elections:

- Are you from Germany **or** another country in the EU (European Union)?
- Will you be aged 16 or over on election day?
- Have you been living in Hamburg for at least three months?

If you answered “yes” to all three questions, you can vote in the **Hamburg District Elections**.

2. European Elections:

- Are you from Germany **or** another country in the EU (European Union)?
- Will you be aged 16 or over on election day?
- Have you been living in Germany or another country in the EU (European Union) for at least three months?

If you answered “yes” to all three questions, you can vote in the **European Elections**.

If you're from a country in the EU (European Union) but not from Germany, you'll have to decide:

- you can vote in your EU country by post
- or you can vote in Hamburg. Then you'll have to apply here in Hamburg.

You can find the application form here:

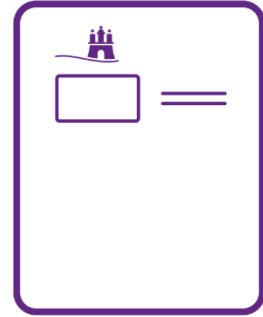
<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/111069452/n0/>

(3) How does voting work?

By 19 May 2024, you should get a letter with a polling card. All voters get a polling card. It tells you all the important things about the elections.

There are two options:

1. You can go to vote. The elections are on Sunday, 9 June 2024 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Come to the polling station with your polling card and a valid identity card or passport.** You will vote in a polling booth on a ballot paper. People at the polling station can help you if you need.



2. You can also vote by post. To get the documents, you need to fill out a form. The letter with your polling card tells you how to do it. The form is also on the internet. The documents show exactly how to do it.



Important: You alone decide who you vote for. **Your vote is secret.** No one is allowed to say who you voted for.



If you need help or you have more questions, you can call the telephone number 115. Or visit the website of the Hamburg Returning Officer (Election Official):

<https://www.hamburg.de/europa-und-bezirksversammlungswahl/>

There's a booklet with information in plain language:

<https://www.hamburg.de/wahlen/18582324/barrierefreiheit/>

1. How do I vote at the European Elections?

You have one vote at the European Elections. There's a **long white ballot paper** with the names of the parties. Choose one party to represent you in Europe and make a cross there.



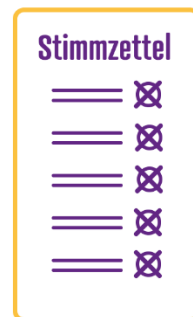
2. How do I vote at the Hamburg District Elections?

You'll get two ballot papers for the Hamburg District Elections:

- a yellow ballot paper with the lists of the candidates for your District Assembly
- a red ballot paper with the lists of the candidates for your voting district.

With the **yellow ballot paper** for the district lists you'll vote to decide

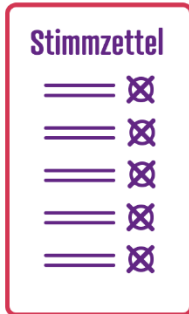
- which party gets how many seats in the District Assembly
- the order in which the candidates from the parties enter the Assembly.



You have 5 votes for the yellow ballot paper. You can give your 5 votes

- to a whole party list
- to one candidate
- to different candidates
- or spread your 5 votes between different candidates and different parties.

It's very important that you don't make more than 5 crosses on the ballot paper.

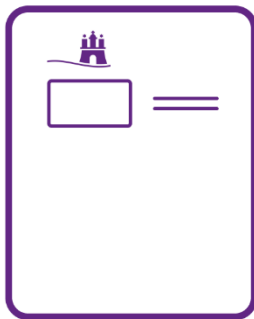


With the **red ballot paper** for your voting district you'll vote to decide which candidates represent your voting district in the District Assembly. Here you can only vote for people, not for parties. You have 5 votes for the red ballot paper. You can give your 5 votes

- to one candidate
- or spread them between different candidates.

It's very important that you don't make more than 5 crosses on the ballot paper.

You can find a sample ballot paper here: <https://www.hamburg.de/europa-und-bezirksversammlungswahl/12419070/muster-stimmzettel-2024>



(4) Where do I vote?

By 19 May 2024, you should get a letter with a polling card. All voters get a polling card. It tells you all the important things about the elections. Your voting district and your polling station will be on it. It's not a problem if you lose your polling card. Just take your identity card or your passport to the polling station. You can find your polling station on the internet with the polling station finder:

<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/111119964/n0/>.

Have you got more questions?

Then you can go to your local election office (Wahldienststelle). At the election office you can also vote before 9 June 2024 and get help.

You can find your election office on the internet or by calling the telephone number 115. Or you can go to the website of the Hamburg Returning Officer (Election Official):



<https://www.hamburg.de/europa-und-bezirksversammlungswahl/>

There's more in plain language (in German) about voting in a booklet by the Hamburg Returning Officer:

<https://www.hamburg.de/wahlen/18582324/barrierefreiheit/>



Haven't had your polling card?

It's after 19 Mai 2024, and you haven't had your polling card. Ask at your election office. You can find your election office on the internet or by calling the telephone number 115.

You can find your election office here:

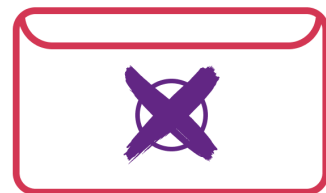
<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/111083676/n0/>

Your can find your polling station here:

<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/111119964/n0/>.

(5) How do postal votes work?

If you **can't go** to vote, you can **vote beforehand by post**. By 19 May 2024, you'll get a letter with a polling card.



This booklet on the internet explains how postal votes work (on the Hamburg Returning Officer's website):

<https://www.hamburg.de/wahlen/18582324/barrierefreiheit/>

There's also an application form on the internet. After you apply, you'll get another letter. The second letter will contain your voting papers.

Post these voting documents in an envelope without a stamp by **6 June 2024**. The envelope mustn't be late, otherwise your vote won't be valid. You can also put the envelope without a stamp in the letter box at your District Offices (Bezirksamt). The address is on the red envelope with your voting papers.



You can collect your voting papers yourself from your election office. You can also vote there right away. You can do this **until 9 June at 3 p.m.**

You can find your election office on the internet or by calling the telephone number 115.

You can find your election office here:

<https://www.hamburg.de/behoerdenfinder/info/11108367/6/n0/>

(6) Why should I vote?

In daily life you decide things yourself: That's what I'm going to do and that's how it should be. But when lots of people decide things together, it's harder.

Lots of people want lots of different things. At elections, what every single person wants is important. If you vote, you can be part of the decisions. That's what politicians are for. They represent you and stand up for you and what you want. At the elections you can decide who's going to make policy for you.

At the Hamburg District Elections it's about your district.

At the European Elections it's about Europe.



1. Hamburg District Elections



The seven Hamburg districts are called Hamburg-Mitte, Altona, Eimsbüttel, Hamburg-Nord, Wandsbek, Bergedorf and Harburg. Each of the districts is divided into voting districts. Politicians are elected from each voting district. So you get to decide in your voting district. At the election, you decide which candidates from your neighbourhood will represent you. The District Assembly makes decisions about transport, building works and measures for children and young people, for example.

2. European Elections

At the European Elections you vote to elect the European Parliament. The European Parliament is one of the most important institutions in the EU (European Union). The Parliament makes decisions for all people in the EU (European Union) – so for people in Germany, too. The European Parliament makes decisions on food quality, the climate and good working conditions, for example.

(7) Who's standing for election?

A party's manifesto tells you what the parties or people standing for election want. The manifestos are often available in plain language. There's information about the candidates and parties on the internet, on the radio and television, and in the newspapers.



1. Who's standing in the Hamburg District Elections?

You can find all the politicians standing for your voting district on the sample ballot paper. The parties and politicians are also on the internet. You can search for their websites. There are often party information stands. Members of the public can ask questions there and get information. You can find the sample ballot paper here:



<https://www.hamburg.de/europa-und-bezirksversammlungswahl/12419070/muster-stimmzettel-2024>

2. Who's standing in the European Elections?

You can find all the parties from Europe on the European Parliament website. You can find the European Parliament information page here:

<https://elections.europa.eu/en/>



The Wahl-O-Mat is a special help. The Wahl-O-Mat is always published a few weeks before an election. It asks you lots of questions. You choose the answer that's right for you. At the end, the Wahl-O-Mat shows you which parties fit your answers the best. You can find the Wahl-O-Mat here: <https://www.wahl-o-mat.de/>