



## Brussels - Local Elections are on 13 October 2024

### Why should I vote?

#### You have a vote, why waste it?

Government in Belgium has three levels: the federal level, the regional level (e.g. Brussels-Capital region), and the communes – the local level. Your commune looks after :

- **Your papers...**

- Identity cards and passports
- Driving licences
- Births, deaths and marriages

Effective services

- **Buildings**

- Crèches
- Schools
- Homes for the elderly

Upkeep of buildings?

Fighting poverty

- **Social well-being**

- Social housing
- CPAS (Centre public d'action sociale) a wide range of social services. The CPAS targets low-income families and is open to all legal residents of Belgium.

- **Public infrastructure**

- roads
- sewers
- lighting
- cleaning

Not another pothole! Fix my street!

- **Sport and leisure**

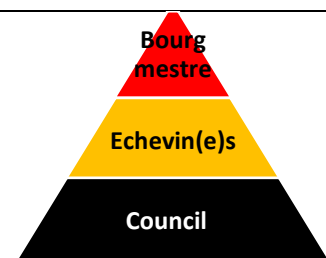
Where do the children play!



If you don't vote...don't complain!

### The local council – composition

**The maire** or the **bourgmestre** is the boss! He or she must be Belgian. **L'échevin** ou **l'échevine** or **wethouder** manages a specific domain of activity such as planning and mobility. Together, the bourgmestre and all the échevins compose the 'Collège'. Along with the 'Collège', the elected councillors compose the Conseil Communal.





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### Can I vote? Yes - but you must sign up before 31 July

In the Brussels region, all Belgian citizens over 18 must vote in local elections. If you are registered to vote and you do not vote, you may be fined! Citizens of the European Union (EU) and citizens from outside the EU (non-EU) can also vote in municipal elections, **but they are not obliged to vote.**

In order to vote in municipal elections, foreign citizens (EU and non-EU) must **first register as voters in municipal elections before 31 July 2024. All EU citizens can register – all you need is your Belgian national identity number. The same goes for non-EU citizens, but you will need to prove you have been in Belgium for five years or more!**

To register either go to [www.inscription.elections.fgov.be](http://www.inscription.elections.fgov.be) or go to your commune to complete a form – best to phone ahead and check opening times and take your identity papers – some communes may have this service online too.

### Where and when to vote – Sunday 13 October

You will receive a 'convocation' (an invitation to vote) with the address of the place to vote – the polling station. The polling station will be open between 08h00 until 14h00 if you vote by paper and open to 16h00 if the polling station uses electronic voting, which is the case in Brussels. So don't make plans to go away for the weekend!

### How to vote electronically

You go to your nominated polling station. You will receive a smart card which you put in a machine. A screen pops up and you can choose a list representing each party standing in your commune. You click on the list of your choice. You then arrive on a screen with all the candidates of the chosen list. At this level, you can choose to vote for the list as it presented - you vote for the party in general and you accept the order of the list. You can also choose to vote for one or more specific candidates (as many as you like or even all of them). This means that you vote for the chosen party giving specific support to your chosen candidates. You can also vote for none of the above, clicking then on «vote blanc», which corresponds then to a blank vote.

### More information

[Restless Brussels: Your Electoral Rights \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) – good video.

[Brussels British Community Association](https://www.brusselscommunityassociation.be/)

[Élections communales octobre | Elections communales 2024](https://www.elections.fgov.be/) (in FR or NL)

[Comment s'inscrire ? | Elections Belgique 2024 - SPF Intérieur - Direction des Elections \(fgov.be\)](https://www.elections.fgov.be/)

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