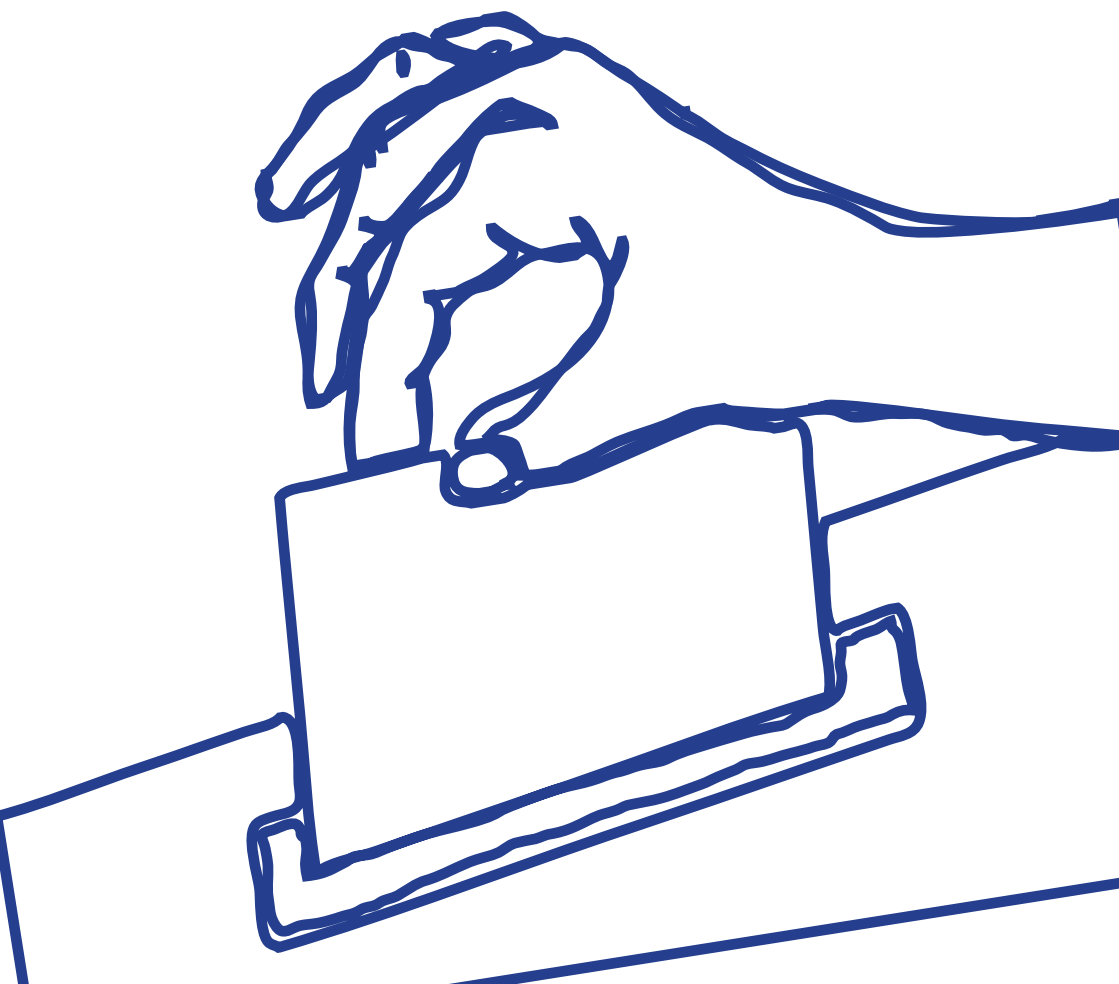


Berlin Elections 2026

A Quick Guide

BOOKLET IN ENGLISH



2	What's Happening in Berlin on September 20?
4	Election to the Berlin House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus)
6	The District Assembly Elections (BVV)
10	Voting With a Permanent Residence
12	Voting Without a Permanent Residence
14	Accessible Voting
16	Election Manifestos and Election Questionnaires
18	Upcoming Events
20	Symbolic Elections
22	My Personal Checklist
23	Notes

How do I open a QR code?

The easiest way to scan a QR code is with your smartphone's built-in camera app. Open the camera and point it steadily at the QR code for two to three seconds. When a pop-up with a link appears on your screen, tap it to open the website or content.





What is happening in Berlin on September 20?

On 20 September 2026, two elections will take place in Berlin. Voters will elect the **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus)** and the twelve **District Assemblies (Bezirksverordnetenversammlungen - BVV)**.

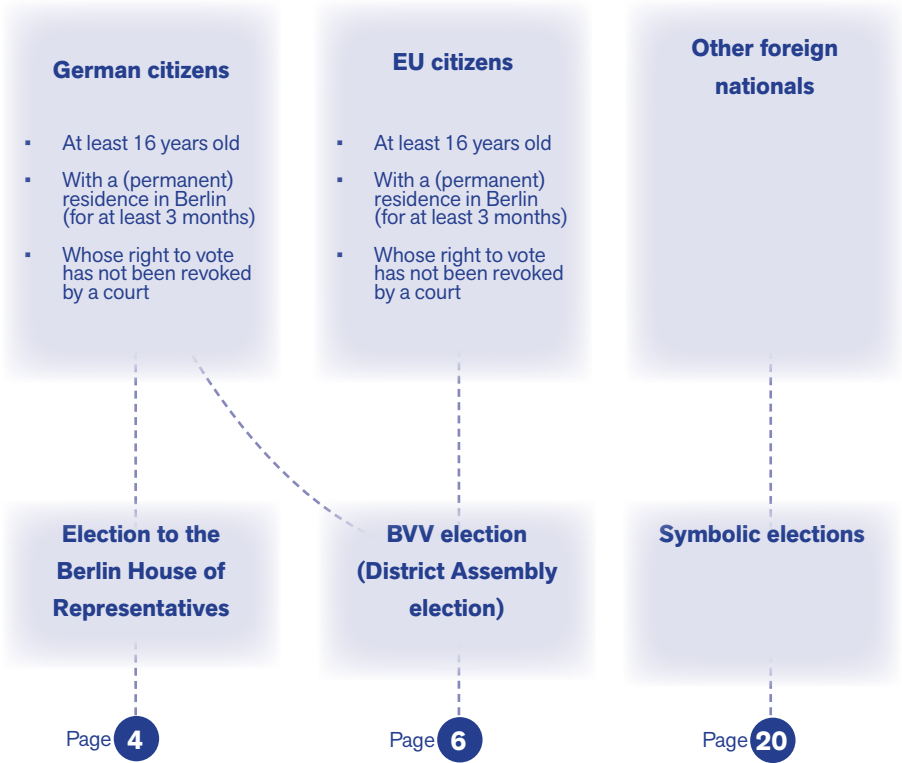
These parliaments make decisions that affect the lives of everyone in Berlin. At the same time, not everyone has the same opportunities to influence which parties are elected and which decisions are made. Around 30% of Berlin's residents are not eligible to vote. For example, in the election to the Abgeordnetenhaus, this includes people without German citizenship. People experiencing homelessness also face barriers when it comes to voting. Without a permanent address, it can be difficult to access information about the election or to prove eligibility to vote.

In the BVV elections, EU citizens who live in Berlin can also vote. This means that around 9% of EU citizens have voting rights at district level. The districts decide on many issues that directly affect people's everyday lives, such as the funding of support services, the use of public spaces, or services for people facing housing insecurity.

This booklet explains the requirements for casting your vote on September 20 and presents other ways to participate if you are unable to vote or can only vote with restrictions.



Who can vote in the elections to the Berlin House of Representatives and the District Assemblies (BVV)?



Election to the Berlin House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus)

As the state parliament, the Abgeordnetenhaus makes decisions concerning Berlin as both a federal state and a city.

What are the responsibilities of the Abgeordnetenhaus?

- ⊗ Political decision-making and legislation at state level
- ⊗ Setting the budget: the state budget law determines for which purposes and to what extent public funds are used
- ⊗ Election of the Governing Mayor of Berlin
- ⊗ Oversight of the Senate and Senate administrations

How does the election to the Abgeordnetenhaus work?

- ⊗ The election uses a mixed

electoral system with first and second votes

- ⊗ The first vote is used to elect the direct candidate in each constituency. Candidates who receive the most first votes in their constituency enter the Abgeordnetenhaus through a direct mandate
- ⊗ The second vote is used to vote for a party list. The second vote determines the overall distribution of seats in the Abgeordnetenhaus and therefore the balance of political power
- ⊗ A 5% electoral threshold applies. This means that a party must receive at least 5% of the valid votes in the election to gain seats in the Abgeordnetenhaus

Who is eligible to vote?

- ⊗ German citizens
- ⊗ who are at least 16 years old
- ⊗ who have had their main residence in Berlin for at least three months without interruption (for people who are not registered at any address in the population register, their actual place of residence is considered their place of residence)
- ⊗ who are not excluded from voting rights under Section 2 of the Berlin Election Act (WahlG BE)



Important: On election day, voters must be able to present an official identity document (identity card or passport).

Who is standing for election?

Lead candidates of the parties running for the Berlin House of Representatives:

- ⊗ CDU: Stefan Evers
Treptow-Köpenick constituency
- ⊗ SPD: Steffen Krach
Steglitz-Zehlendorf constituency
- ⊗ Die Linke: Elif Eralp
Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg constituency
- ⊗ Bündnis 90/Die Grünen: Werner Graf und Bettina Jarasch
Elected via the state party list
- ⊗ AfD: Kristin Brinker
Steglitz-Zehlendorf constituency
- ⊗ FDP: Christoph Meyer
Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf constituency
- ⊗ BSW: Alexander King
Tempelhof-Schöneberg constituency

Information about other parties running in the election can be found on the parties' websites. The website of the State Returning Officer lists all parties and state party lists that are running in the Abgeordnetenhaus election:





The District Assembly Elections (BVV)

The District Assembly (Bezirksverordnetenversammlung - BVV), together with the district administration (Bezirksamt), forms the self-government of each district. It sets the political priorities for the next five years, but it cannot change state or federal laws. The BVV election is therefore an important opportunity to influence politics in your own district.

What are the responsibilities of the District Assemblies?

- ⊗ Political decision-making and participation at district level
- ⊗ Setting the budget: administration and allocation of funds
- ⊗ Electing the district government: the district mayor (Bezirksbürgermeister*in) and district councillors (Bezirksstadträt*innen)

- ⊗ Oversight: monitoring the work of the district administration (Bezirksamt)

How do the District Assembly elections work?

- ⊗ All eligible voters have one vote
- ⊗ With this vote, a person can be elected from a party list in their district
- ⊗ The election uses a proportional representation system. This means that the number of votes a party receives determines how many seats it gets in the BVV
- ⊗ A 3% electoral threshold applies. This means that parties must receive at least 3% of the valid votes in a district to gain seats in the BVV



Who is eligible to vote?

- ⊗ German citizens and EU citizens
- ⊗ who are at least 16 years old
- ⊗ who have had their main residence in Berlin for at least three months without interruption (for people who are not registered at any address in the population register, their actual place of residence is considered their place of residence)
- ⊗ who are not excluded from voting rights under Section 2 of the Berlin Election Act (WahlG BE)



Important: On election day, voters must be able to present an official identity document (identity card or passport).

Who is standing for election?

- ⊗ Voters elect parties and the candidates they have nominated on their lists in Berlin's 12 districts
- ⊗ To find more information about candidates in your district, search on your smartphone using the terms: "BVV election", the name of your district, the party name, and "candidates".

Further information about the District Assembly elections can be found here:



Stimmzettel
für die Wahl zum Abgeordnetenhaus von Berlin am 26. September 2026
im Wahlkreiswahlkreis 110
Wahlkreis Nr.: 1

Sie haben 2 Stimmen

hier 1 Stimme
für die Wahl
einer oder eines Wahlkreisabgeordneten

hier 1 Stimme
für die Wahl
einer Bezirks- oder Landesliste (Partei)
- maßgebend für die Verteilung der Gesamtwahl der Sitze
auf die Parteien -

Erststimme		Zweitstimme	
1	Musterfrau, Anika Abstammung: A-Partei	A-Partei Rogert Müllerbach, Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	1
2	Musterfrau, Hanna Abstammung: B-Partei	B-Partei Erik Müllerbach, Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	2
3	Musterfrau, Lesse Abstammung: C-Partei	C-Partei Dr. Johannes Müllerbach, Dr. Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	3
4	Musterfrau, Stella Abstammung: D-Partei	D-Partei Dr. Anika Müllerbach, Dr. Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	4
5	Musterfrau, Jens-Hermann Abstammung: E-Partei	E-Partei Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	5
6	Musterfrau, Andreas Abstammung: F-Partei	F-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	6
7	Musterfrau, Eike Abstammung: G-Partei	G-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	7
8	Musterfrau, Martin Abstammung: H-Partei	H-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	8
9	Musterfrau, Omar Abstammung: I-Partei	I-Partei Dr. Anika Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	9
10	Musterfrau, Alexander Abstammung: J-Partei	J-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	10
		K-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	11
	Musterfrau, Ansegret Abstammung: L-Partei	L-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	12
		M-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	13
14	Musterfrau, Christoph Abstammung: N-Partei	N-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	14
15	Musterfrau, Johannes Abstammung: O-Partei	O-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	15
16	Musterfrau, Svenja Abstammung: P-Partei	P-Partei Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach, Karin Müllerbach	16
17	Musterfrau, Melanie Abstammung: Einzelbewerberin		

Sample ballot paper for the election to the Berlin House of Representatives

From the brochure: *Information in easy-to-understand language for the elections on 20 September 2026*



Stimmzettel für die Wahl zur Bezirksverordnetenversammlung am 29. September 2026 im Bezirk Mitte (01)		
		bitte einmal so ankreuzen und nach innen zusammenfallen
1	A-Partei Mustermann, Erika Mustermann, Anna Mustermann, Sascha und andere	A-Partei ☐
2	B-Partei Mustermann, Carsten Mustermann, Sebastian Mustermann, Daniela und andere	B-Partei ☐
3	C-Partei Mustermann, Laura Mustermann, Raphael Mustermann, Shiva und andere	C-Partei ☐
4	D-Partei Mustermann, Christoph Mustermann, Martha Mustermann, Jacqueline und andere	D-Partei ☐
5	E-Partei Mustermann, Sabine Mustermann, Carsten Mustermann, Kai und andere	E-Partei ☐
6	F-Partei Mustermann, Beatrix Mustermann, Johanna Mustermann, Joyda Gal und andere	F-Partei ☐
7	G-Partei Mustermann, Sabine Mustermann, Martin	G-Partei ☐
8	H-Partei Mustermann, Yvonne Mustermann, Karin Nicole Mustermann, Marie Charlotte und andere	H-Partei ☐
9	I-Partei Mustermann, Tineke Mustermann, Michael Mustermann, Petra	I-Partei ☐
19	J-Partei Mustermann, Daniel Mustermann, Roland	J-Partei ☐
21	K-Partei Mustermann, Ingo Mustermann, Jana Mustermann, Elena und andere	K-Partei ☐
25	L-Partei Mustermann, Gregory Mustermann, Malina Mustermann, Nadine	L-Partei ☐
31	M-Partei Mustermann, Nikolas Mustermann, Euphras Mustermann, Johannes Richard	M-Partei ☐

Sample ballot paper for the election to the District Assemblies

From the brochure: *Information in easy-to-understand language for the elections on 20 September 2026*





Voting with a Permanent Residence

1

Receiving the polling card
WHEN: 10-30 AUGUST 2026

If you are registered in the electoral roll, you will receive your polling card by post.

The polling card contains information about your polling station, opening hours and accessibility.

By postal vote

B



2 Vote

A



At the polling station on election day
WHEN: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026, 8 AM-6 PM

- You need:
- ☒ your polling card
 - ☒ an official photo ID

Your polling card contains information about your polling station, accessibility and a telephone number for questions.

DONE!



Apply for a postal ballot

DEADLINE: 15 SEPTEMBER 2026

You can apply for a postal ballot online through the district election office. The postal ballot application with a QR code is located on the back of your polling card.

or

DEADLINE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2026, 3 PM

You can submit your postal ballot application:

- ☒ in person at the postal voting office
- ☒ by email
- ☒ by post

You receive your postal voting documents

A few days later, you will receive the postal voting documents from the district election office.

The documents contain:

- ☒ a voting certificate
- ☒ the ballot papers for the election to the Berlin House of Representatives and/or the District Assembly (BVV)
- ☒ a white envelope for the ballot papers
- ☒ a red postal voting envelope
- ☒ an information sheet with instructions for postal voting

Fill out the voting documents

Fill in the ballot paper.

Make sure that nobody can see your vote.

The postal voting documents contain clear instructions. They explain how to fill out the ballot paper, use the envelopes and correctly prepare the postal voting envelope.

Submit the postal voting documents

DEADLINE: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026, 6 PM

Send the red postal voting envelope to the district election office in good time.

The address is already printed on the envelope.

You can submit it:

- ☒ in person at the postal voting office
- ☒ by post in good time

DONE!



Voting without a Permanent Residence

If you do not have your own accommodation and are not registered at any address in the population register, your actual place of stay is considered your place of residence.

The determining factor is the Berlin district where you stayed overnight on the **night of 15 to 16 August 2026**. The District Electoral Office responsible for that district can, upon application, enter you in the electoral register.

For example, if you spent the night of 15 to 16 August 2026 in Neukölln, the District Electoral Office of Neukölln is responsible for processing your application.

Registration in the electoral register is a prerequisite for being able to vote in the elections.

1 Register in the Electoral Register

A

In person at the responsible District Electoral Office

WHEN: 17-28 AUGUST 2026, 1 PM

You can submit your application directly at the District Electoral Office. The advantage is that you can receive assistance with completing the application.

Important: Bring an official photo ID.



Complete and send the application yourself

WHEN: 16-30 AUGUST 2026

Complete the application for registration in the electoral register.

Do you need help completing the application or with translation? If so, you can get support, for example, from the counselling centre of KLIK e. V. Send the completed application by post to the District Electoral Office responsible for you.

Important: Your application must be received by the District Electoral Office no later than 30 August.

B

2 Receive your polling notification

If you submit your application in person at the District Electoral Office, you will receive your polling notification immediately on site.

If you submit your application by post, your polling notification will be sent to the address provided on your application.

3 Vote

At the polling station on election day

WHEN: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026, 8 AM-6 PM

You will need:

☒ Your polling notification

☒ An official photo ID



The polling card contains information about your polling station, opening hours and accessibility.

DONE!



A

By postal vote



After receiving your polling notification at the District Electoral Office, you can vote immediately by postal vote on site.

You may also take the postal voting documents with you and vote by post at a later time.

See the information on postal voting on p. 11.

DONE!

B



Accessible Voting

For blind and visually impaired people

If you are blind or visually impaired, you can use a voting template (ballot guide).
You can request a voting template from the General Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired Berlin (ABSV).

Phone: +49 30 89588-0
Website: www.absv.de

Assistance with voting

If you need help voting, you can bring a person you trust to assist you.

For example, this person can:

- ⊗ hold the pen
- ⊗ read the ballot paper to you
- ⊗ help you mark the ballot

You can also ask a member of the election staff at the polling station for assistance. If you vote by mail, you can also receive help from another person. In this case, the assisting person must sign the required declaration on the postal voting certificate.



Important: Even if you receive assistance, your vote must remain secret. No one is allowed to know how you voted.





Barrierefreie Wahl-Lokale

Das Zeichen bedeutet:

Ihr Wahl-Lokal ist mit dem Rollstuhl zugänglich.

Stufen: keine

Höhe der Schwellen: höchstens 3 cm

Breite der Türen, Durchgänge, Wahl-Kabine: mindestens 90 cm

Wende-Bereich: 1,50 m x 1,50 m

Arbeits-Höhe in der Wahl-Kabine: 85 cm

Untere Reich-Weite: 40 cm

Rampen-Breite: 1 m

Rampen-Steigung: 4 bis 6 %

Bereich am Ende der Rampe: 1,50 m x 1,50 m

Höhe der Hand-Läufe an der Rampe: 90 cm

Aufzug: für 630 kg

Türbreite Aufzug: mindestens 90 cm

Fahrkorb Breite und Tiefe: 1,10 m x 1,40 m

Wahl-Lokale – barrierefrei mit Hilfs-Person

Das Zeichen bedeutet:

Ihr Wahl-Lokal ist mit dem Rollstuhl zugänglich,
wenn Sie von einer Hilfs-Person begleitet werden.



Es gibt folgende Unterschiede zu barrierefreien Wahl-Lokalen:

Stufen: Eine Stufe vorhanden

Wende-Bereich: 1,20 m x 1,50 m

Rampen-Steigung: 6 bis 8 %

Bereich am Ende der Rampe: 1,20 m x 1,50 m

Auf Ihrer Wahl-Benachrichtigung ist kein Zeichen?

Dann ist das Wahl-Lokal nicht für Rollstühle geeignet.

Bitte beachten Sie vor dem Gang ins Wahl-Lokal:

Nicht überall gibt es ein barrierefreies WC!



From the brochure: *Information in easy-to-understand language for the elections on 20 September 2026*

Election Manifestos and Election Questionnaires

Election manifestos of the major parties for the Berlin House of Representatives election on 20 September 2026

Die Linke The Left



SPD Social Democratic Party of Germany



Bündnis 90/Die Grünen The Greens



CDU Christian Democratic Union of Germany



AfD Alternative for Germany



Critical review of the parties' election manifestos

This overview presents a selection of topic-related election questions.



Strassenfeger

- ⊗ Information about the September 2026 elections
- ⊗ The positions of the individual parties based on interview conversations



Election questions of the Berliner Mieterverein (Berlin Tenants' Association)

- ⊗ Rent regulation and tenants' rights
- ⊗ Affordable housing and the common good
- ⊗ Misuse of housing and vacant properties
- ⊗ Climate protection and a socially fair heating transition
- ⊗ Urban development and public space
- ⊗ Federal Council initiatives
- ⊗ Three priorities for solving the housing crisis



Election questions of the Landesarmutskonferenz Berlin (Berlin State Anti-Poverty Conference)

- ⊗ Poverty and social participation
- ⊗ Preventing homelessness
- ⊗ Affordable housing and securing housing
- ⊗ Access to assistance and support



Upcoming Events

Wir kommen wählen

When: Monday, August 24 2026,
10 AM-12 PM

Where: Nachbarschaftshaus
Urbanstraße, Urbanstr. 21, 10961
Berlin

Another discussion and information event will take place on August 24. From 10 AM to 12 PM at the Urbanstraße Neighborhood Center, you can discuss the upcoming elections with politicians. You can ask questions, share your concerns, or simply listen.

Let's vote in Mitte – Let's vote in Berlin

When: Wednesday, August 26
2026, 6-8 PM

Where: Stadtwerkstatt,
Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 11,
10178 Berlin

On August 26, an information and discussion event on the BVV elections in the Mitte district will take place. The event is specifically aimed at EU citizens who are not German nationals.

Registration is requested; please see the information on the website. Further information can be found here:



WIR KOMMEN WÄHLEN!

What matters to you? Talk to your elected officials!

COME BY TO ASK QUESTIONS
AND LISTEN!



August 24, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Urbanstraße Community Center

Urbanstraße 21, 10961 Berlin

EINGELADEN SIND:

Max Kindler	CDU (Christian Democratic Union)
Taylan Kurt	Alliance 90/The Greens
Katina Schubert	Die Linke (The Left)
Lars Dürsterrhöft	SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany)

WHAT
CONCERNS
YOU?

WHAT ARE
YOU
MISSING?

WHAT NEEDS
TO CHANGE?

AN EVENT HOSTED BY:





Symbolic Elections

Where: e.g., KLIK e.V., Torstr. 210, 10115 Berlin
When: September 7-11 2026, Mon–Fri from 10 AM to 12 PM

Anyone who is not eligible to vote in the upcoming elections in September has the opportunity to cast a vote in the symbolic elections. There are various symbolic voting locations in the Mitte district (Moabit, Wedding, and the Mitte city center). The QR code below links to the website where the voting locations are listed.

Our counseling center, KLIK e.V., is participating in this year's symbolic elections in the Mitte district. During the week of September 7–11, you can cast a symbolic vote Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 12 PM at the counseling center located at Torstr. 210.

Important: Even if you are not currently in the Mitte district, or do not live or sleep there, you can still vote in the symbolic election at our counseling center.



Further information and addresses of symbolic polling places:





Symbolwahl

Berlin-Mitte





My Personal Checklist

Am I eligible to vote?

CITIZENSHIP?

- ☐ **German citizenship**
= eligible to vote in elections for the House of Representatives and BVV elections
- ☐ **EU citizen**
= eligible to vote in BVV elections
- ☐ **Other foreign citizenship**
= ineligible to vote; may only cast a symbolic vote



AGE ON ELECTION DAY?

- ☐ **16 years of age or older**
= eligible to vote
- ☐ **Under 16 years of age**
= not eligible to vote

HABITUAL RESIDENCE IN BERLIN FOR AT LEAST 3 MONTHS

- ☐ **yes**
= eligible to vote
- ☐ **no**
= not eligible to vote

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION OF RESIDENCE?

- ☐ **Yes, by June 20**
= registered to vote
- ☐ **Yes, as of June 21**
= not yet registered to vote*
- ☐ **no**
= not yet registered to vote*

* What if I'm not on the electoral register yet? See page 12 in this zine.

WHICH ELECTORAL DISTRICT IS RESPONSIBLE?

- ☐ **Registration of Residence**
= Electoral District*
- ☐ **No registration of residence**
= actual place of residence

*Exception: If you move shortly before the election, your previous electoral district remains valid.



☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Imprint

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENT

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Contact

KLIK e.V. - Rights and resources for people with housing and social difficulties

Torstraße 210

10115 Berlin

Tel: +49 30.235 97 97 0

Fax: +49 30.40 74 97 94

Mail: empfang@klik-berlin.de

Web: www.klik-berlin.de

Transport connections:

S-Bahn: Oranienburger Straße / Nordbahnhof (S1, S2)

U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor (U6)

Tram: Torstraße / U Oranienburger Tor (M1, M5); Nordbahnhof (M10, M8)



Das Projekt
wird gefördert von:



Das Projekt
wird koordiniert durch:

