



THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG VOTERS

#votepower

WHAT ARE THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS?

REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



IMPROVE EDUCATION



LOWER TUITION FEES



EXTEND LICENCING LAWS



NO MORE CUTS TO BENEFITS



MORE HELP TO BUY HOUSES



What are the European Elections?

The European elections are massive, with 400 million voters it's the second largest election in world.

In 2019 the UK will vote for new Members of the European Parliament. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) job is to check to make sure that the engine that is the European Commission, is doing its job properly, and to give the thumbs up (or not) to their budget.

To vote you need to be registered on the electoral roll- have a look at aboutmyvote.co.uk which will tell you how to register

So what does the European Parliament actually do?

The EU budget is over 140 Million Euros for 2015, and it's the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that ultimately decides how this money is spent. But it's your call who you send as your MEP.

In the last few years the EU Parliament has had its powers beefed with responsibilities for electing the European Commission. In 2014 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) decided who the boss of the European Commission was going to be. The Commission starts laws, and then makes sure they're put into action.

Here some of the things that have changed:

- Your mobile phone company can't sting you for roaming charges when you're on your holiday in Europe.
- If your European flight is delayed, you'll get compensation
- Sorting out the Horsemeat food scandal
- Stumping up cash to help countries deal with things like floods
- Workers rights- we get protections like a maximum number of working hours per week, so your boss can't take liberties, unless you agree to working more than 48 hours
- Qualifications in one EU country are generally recognized in another- so teachers can teach, nurses can nurse and lawyers can do legal things. You can also go and work in another EU country without all the stress, effort and cost of getting a visa.



The voting system

Each political party produces a list of candidates, you then vote for a party rather than a person. The number of Members of the European Parliament that each party gets will depend on the number of votes that party received in your region. The whole system is called Proportional Representation- closed list

Who am I voting for?

Between three and ten Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to represent your region.

The UK is divided into regions, one for each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and nine covering England. Each region is allocated a number of MEPs according to its population.

How to vote

There will be instructions on the ballot paper, but its pretty straightward- you put an X (a cross) next to the party or independent candidate that you wish to vote for. Job done.

If you make a mistake, don't stress, just ask your friendly polling staff to give you another ballot paper.

In some parts of the country there are other elections going on as well, so you might be voting for a few different elections in one go.

Who is elected?

So the voting bit is simple, but the working-out-whose-got-elected really isn't, but using this type of voting system is actually fairer than the usual 'whoever gets the most votes wins the seat' that is pretty standard in the UK. Here's how the election watchdog describes the maths bit:

In a given region the allocated seats are awarded using a quota system. The quota is the total number of votes received by a party or independent candidate divided by the number of seats already gained in that region +1.

So, for a party with no seats the number of votes received is divided by one, and so stays the same. If the party already has one seat then its number of votes is divided by two, if it has two seats it is divided by three, and so on.

This means that the more seats you have already won, the harder it is to gain extra seats, so the overall allocation of seats is more proportional to the number of votes received.

The first seat that a party wins goes to the first person on its list, the second seat to the second person, and so on, until the party has either not won any more seats or has run out of names on its list. An independent candidate is treated as though he or she were a party with only one name on its list.

See more at: http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/how_do_i_vote/voting_systems/european_parliament_elections.aspx#sthash.YYtbhodV.dpuf

