

Tynwald Timeline

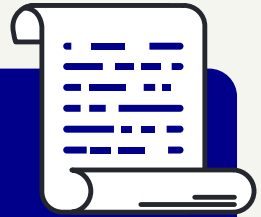
A Quick History

979



Norsemen first came to Mann around the year 800AD, and ruled the Island for four-and-a-half centuries before finally ceding it to the King of Scotland in 1266. By then they had firmly imposed their own administrative system, which continued even while the Island's ownership passed between Scotland and England.

1417



1417: 600 Years of the Customary Law Act

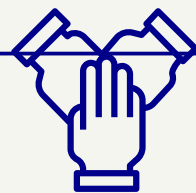
The annual outdoor sittings of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, date back to the Viking settlements which began in the eighth century of the first millennium AD. No other parliament in the world has such a long unbroken record.

1765



The Revestment Act or Isle of Man Purchase Act came into force upon the granting of Royal Assent on 10th May 1765; the Island was officially transferred from the control of the Atholl family to Britain. This purchase meant that the British government could bring the Island under the control of its customs system with the aim of eradicating the smuggling trade.

1867



Previously a self-elected body, following negotiations between Governor Loch and the UK authorities, reforming legislation was enacted in 1866, giving the vote to male landowners and allowing Tynwald some say over finance for the first time in a century. The first elections took place in early April 1867.

1881



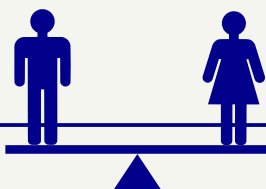
In 1881, Tynwald became the first national parliament to give women the vote in a general election. On 22nd March 1881, the first women cast their votes in an election to choose their representatives in the House of Keys.

1894



The Legislative Council and the House of Keys began to hold sittings in the Wedding Cake in 1881 but Tynwald Court continued to meet in the Douglas Courthouse due to space.

1919

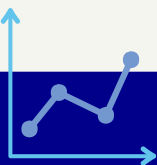


A Year of Constitutional Reform
In 1919, with the introduction of universal adult suffrage based on residency, women were able to stand for election.

1960's

Significant constitutional reform as the balance of power shifted from the Governor to the democratically elected Keys.

1980's



The 1980s and early 1990s proved a period of major change for both the political structure and economy of the Isle of Man. In 1986 a ministerial system of government replaced the traditional boards, concentrating executive power in the hands of a minority of Tynwald members.

1990



The Lieutenant Governor used to preside over sittings of the Legislative Council and Tynwald Court, but was replaced by the elected President of Tynwald in 1990

2006



Voting at 16
In 2006 the Isle of Man became the first jurisdiction in the British Isles to extend the right to vote in national elections to 16- and 17-year-olds.

2021

Ten women were elected to the Keys at the 2021 General Election. This is the highest number of women MHKs at any one time.

Five women were elected to the Legislative Council in 2018. This is the highest number of women MLCs at any one time.