Voting at the polling station with photo ID on 4 May | Electoral Commission Voting at the polling station with photo ID on 4 May On this page The process If you're registered to vote anonymously If you wear a face covering for any reason Name on your photo ID Address on your photo ID If your photo ID is refused If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID Reporting on the election Posted: 26 April 2023 Polling day on 4 May Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm across England on 4 May, for you to cast your vote in the local council elections. This will be the first time that you will need to take photo ID with you to vote at the polling station in England. Check the list of accepted forms of photo ID The process When you arrive at your polling station, you will need to tell the polling station staff your name, address and show them your photo ID. The polling station staff will: check that you're on the electoral register check that your photo ID is accepted, and that it looks like you cross your name off the register, and give you your ballot paper or papers (you might have more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day) about voting in person at the polling station. If you want to ask a question or raise a concern about the process in your local polling station, you will need to contact the Returning Officer at your local council. If you're registered to vote anonymously If you are registered to vote anonymously, you will be asked to show your poll card and Anonymous Elector's Document (AED). If you wear a face covering for any reason If you wear a face covering to the polling station, you will be asked to momentarily remove it so that polling station staff can check the ID looks like you. Face coverings can be worn for the rest of the voting process If you wear a face covering for any reason, you can find out more about the process of having your ID checked. Name on your photo ID The name on your ID should be the same as the name you used to register to vote. If you recently got married and updated your name on the electoral register but haven't updated your photo ID yet, the Presiding Officer at the polling station should discuss the name difference with you. They may request additional evidence to help connect the photo ID and the name on the register, such as a marriage certificate, a birth certificate, or a utility bill. If the Presiding Officer is satisfied as to your identity, they will issue the ballot paper. If not, you'll be asked to return with a different form of photo ID where the names are the same. If you don't have a different form of photo ID, you won't be able to vote in the election on 4 May. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for the elections on 4 May has passed. You can still apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for use at future elections now, if you want to. Address on your photo ID The polling station staff will be checking that your photo ID has the right name on it, and that the photo looks like you. They will not be looking at the address on your photo ID. If your photo ID is refused If your photo is refused at the polling station and the polling station staff can't give you your ballot paper, you'll be able to go back later with a different form of photo ID. If you want to ask a question or raise a concern about your photo ID being refused, you will need to contact the Electoral Registration Officer at your local council. You can find the contact details for your local council by entering your postcode into our search. If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID Voters could apply for free photo ID, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, until 25 April. If your Voter Authority Certificate hasn't arrived If you applied for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline and it hasn't arrived, you should contact your local council. You can find their contact details by entering your postcode into our search . If you lost your ID after the Voter Authority Certificate application deadline If you lost your

only form of accepted photo ID after the Voter Authority Certificate application deadline, you can apply for an emergency proxy vote. The person you choose to vote on your behalf, also called your emergency proxy, will need to show their own ID (and not yours). about emergency proxy votes. If you don't have photo ID and didn't apply for a Voter Authority Certificate If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, and you didn't apply for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline, you won't be able to vote in the election on 4 May. The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for the elections on 4 May has passed. You can still apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for use at future elections now, if you want to. Reporting on the election We have a statutory duty to collect data and publish reports about elections that take place across the UK. We also choose to report on other elections. Find out about how we'll be reporting on the May 2023 elections. Related content Elections in your area Enter your postcode to find your electoral services team at your local council. You need to send your postal and proxy vote application forms to them. Find out about the new requirement to take photo ID to some elections in England, Scotland and Wales Voting in person Voting in person on polling day? Learn more about what to expect when you go to the polling station. Apply to vote by proxy Can't get to the polling station on polling day? Ask a trusted person to vote on your behalf and apply for a proxy vote.