May 2019 voter identification pilot schemes   You are in the Voter identification pilots section Home Our research Voter identification pilots In this section 1. Our findings 2. Impact on voters: experience 3. Impact on voters: confidence 4. Impact on security 5. Impact on administration of the polls 6. Background to our evaluation Summary At the local elections, people in ten areas had to show proof of who they were (ID) before they could vote in a polling station. We looked at what happened in these areas and have explained what we found. What we found We found that a large majority of people already have access to the forms of ID used in these pilots. We also found indications that some groups of people can find it harder than others to show ID. There were no significant issues in any pilot area with the administration of the election. The experience of taking part in the pilot scheme appears to have had a positive impact on people's perception of the security of the polling station process. The pilots have provided further evidence, but they do not allow for definitive conclusions to be drawn in all areas; several important questions remain about how an ID requirement would work in practice, particularly at a national poll with higher levels of turnout. Before introducing a requirement for elections in Great Britain, the Government and Parliament should consider carefully the available evidence about the impact and proportionality of different approaches on the accessibility and security of polling station voting. This evaluation Voters at polling stations in Great Britain do not need to show ID to vote. At the May 2019 local elections, the UK Government asked for volunteers amongst Returning Officers, to run pilots to test requiring people to show ID at polling stations. Ten areas agreed to run pilots: in two areas, people had to show a specified form of photo ID; in five areas, they could choose to show either a specified form of photo ID or two pieces of specified non-photo ID; and in three areas people could show either their poll card or a specified form of photo ID. This is the Electoral Commission's independent evaluation of the 2019 pilot scheme. It explains what we found to be the impact of asking people to show ID in these elections. Our evaluation follows a smaller scale voluntary pilot scheme at the 2018 local elections, which we also evaluated , and the existence of a photo ID requirement for voters at polling stations in Northern Ireland since 2003. Supporting research Supporting research Evidence Pilot areas by numbers and equality: feedback from local and national organisations Confidence assessment: findings and recommendations Reports 2019 - Local elections pre-poll public opinion research report (PDF) 2019 - Local elections post-poll research report (PDF) 2019 - Local elections post-poll technical report (PDF) 2019 - Participating pilot areas post-poll research report (PDF) Data tables 2019 - Local elections pre-poll public opinion research data tables (XLSX) 2019 - Local elections post-poll public opinion research data tables (XLSX) 2019 - Participating pilot areas pre-poll public opinion research data tables (XLSX) 2019 - Participating pilot areas post-poll public opinion research data tables (XLSX) 2019 - Polling station staff survey results (XLSX) 2019 - ID types used by pilot model (XLSX) Report navigation links Next 1. Our findings Related content Register to vote All you need to register to vote is 5 minutes and your National Insurance number. Our Commissioners Donations and loans Find out about donations and loans to a political party, individual or other organisation Report: How the 2017 UK general election was run Read our report about how the 2017 general election was run