

Requirement to show ID at polling stations | Electoral Commission Search
Requirement to show ID at polling stations You are in the Elections Act section
Home Elections Act On this page Changes Our role First published: 5 July 2021 Last
updated: 2 February 2023 Summary The UK Government has introduced a new requirement
that voters will have to show an accepted form of photo ID to vote in a polling
station. This requirement applied for the first time at the local elections taking
place in 230 areas of England in May 2023. about voter ID, including the accepted
forms of ID and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. Changes From 4 May
2023, voters in England needed to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some
elections. This applied to: Local elections and by-elections Police and Crime
Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October
2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. Voters in Wales will need to show ID
at Police and Crime Commissioner elections and at recall petitions. They will not
need to show photo ID to vote at a polling station at Senedd elections or local
council elections. Voters in Scotland will not need to show photo ID at Scottish
Parliament elections or at council elections. If voters don't have accepted photo ID,
they can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority
Certificate. Our role Support to voters As part of our duty to inform voters about
democracy and elections, we are responsible for making sure that voters know they
need to bring an accepted photo ID to vote. We launched a new public awareness
campaign in January 2023. The campaign explains that voters will need to show an
accepted form of photo ID in polling stations, and the types of photo ID they can
use. It also explains how and when voters can apply for the free Voter Authority
Certificate, if they do not have an accepted form of ID. We're working closely with
civil society organisations to produce tailored resources for voters who we know are
less likely to have the ID they need to vote. Support to local authorities We will
provide updated guidance and resources to support electoral administrators to deliver
the new voter ID requirement. The guidance will include how to manage and process
applications for the Voter Authority Certificate, and procedures for polling station
staff to follow. We are also supporting local authority communications teams by
providing a range of resources, such as template press releases and social media
content, to help them to raise awareness of voter ID with their residents. Political
parties We will use a variety of channels to ensure that political parties and
campaigners are aware of the new voter ID requirement, and how voters can apply for
the free Voter Authority Certificate. This will include updates to the code of
conduct for campaigners. Reporting on 4 May local elections in England We've
published our initial research on the implementation of the voter ID policy at local
elections in England in May 2023. The research pulls together initial data from
polling stations and the results of large-scale public opinion research. We are
running more research and will publish a full, more in-depth report in September
2023. Related content Elections Act about the UK Government's Elections Act and what
it means for voting and campaigning About the Elections Act about the Elections
Bill, including the measures it contains and which elections it applies to. Changes
to postal voting The UK Government has proposed a number of changes to postal voting.
. Changes to proxy voting about the proposed changes to voting by proxy, where
someone you trust votes on your behalf.