

Bring ID to vote: new campaign launched | Electoral Commission Search
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January 2023 Bring ID to vote: new campaign launched A new public awareness campaign,
launched today by the Electoral Commission, is urging voters across England to make
sure they are ready for changes to how we vote. A new requirement to show
photographic ID at polling stations comes into force this year, and will apply for
the first time at local elections in May. The Commission's public awareness campaign
features giant sticky notes with handwritten reminders to bring ID to the polling
station. The adverts will feature on TV, radio, billboards and buses, on social feeds
and website banners, and in local newspapers across England. The tv ad can be viewed
here. Craig Westwood, Director of Communications at the Electoral Commission, said:
"May's elections may seem a distant thought, but it is worth voters taking note of
the changes now, and checking they have appropriate ID. That way, when polling day
arrives, all they have to do is remember to bring it. "Those who don't have an
accepted form of ID will shortly be able to apply for free ID. We are working closely
with local authorities and civil society organisations to support those less likely
to have ID, so that nobody misses the opportunity to have their say." Accepted forms
of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA
or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an
older person's bus pass or an Oyster 60+ card. Voters will be able to use expired ID
if they are still recognisable from the photo. Anyone who does not have one of the
accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID. Applications can be submitted
through the UK government's online portal or by submitting a paper form to the
relevant local authority. Applications are expected to open next week. Craig
Westwood, added: "Our campaign aims to build awareness of the change amongst voters
and remind them to bring ID on polling day. Those seeking more information on
accepted forms of ID and the free ID should visit the Commission's website for more
information." From May, voters will need to show photo ID before voting in local
council elections in England, parliamentary by-elections, and police and crime
commissioner elections in England and Wales. From October 2023, photo ID will be
needed at UK parliamentary general elections. Ends Commission spokespeople are
available for interview on the launch of the campaign. High quality images of the
campaign can be shared by the press office. For more information contact Electoral
Commission press office on 020 7271 0704, out of office hours 07789 920 414, or
press@electoralcommission.org.uk Notes to Editors The requirement to show photo ID at
the polling station is a new rule, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act,
which was passed last year. From May, voters will need to show photo ID before voting
in local council elections in England, parliamentary by-elections, and police and
crime commissioner elections in England and Wales. From October 2023, photo ID will
be needed at UK parliamentary general elections. It will not be a requirement at
local elections in Scotland or Wales, or elections to the Scottish Parliament or
Senedd. The requirement already exists in Northern Ireland. Applications for the free
ID, called the Voter Authority Certificate, are expected to open later this month.
The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is responsible for the
online application portal . To apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, voters will
need to provide a photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are
registered to vote and their National Insurance number. The Electoral Commission is
responsible for ensuring voters are aware of the new voter ID requirement, and for
supporting local authorities with the process, and we are available to answer
questions related to the public awareness campaign. The UK Government's Department

for Levelling up, Housing and Communities is responsible for the new voter ID policy and for the free voter ID application system. Enquiries relating to the application system or the policy itself should be directed to the Department. Returning Officers and their teams are responsible for implementing the voter ID policy at the local level. From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to: Local elections Police and Crime Commissioner elections UK parliamentary by-elections Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. 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 Our Executive Team Meet our Executive Team, and find out more about them