

person You are in the Voter section Home Voter Your location: Change England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales Overseas We're showing you content for . Select 'change' to choose a different location. On this page If you're in the UK Your polling station Your polling station Your polling place Your polling station Your polling station Take ID Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Opening times Tellers Tellers Tellers Tellers How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person How to vote in person If your photo ID is refused Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Asking for help Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day First published: 12 September 2019 Last updated: 3 January 2023 Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply Make sure you're registered Make sure you're registered To vote in any election in the UK, you must be registered to vote. Find out if you're eligible to register and how to apply If you're in the UK If you happen to be in the UK on polling day, you can vote in person at your polling station. If you have a postal vote, you won't be able to vote at the polling station, but you can hand in your completed postal ballot at the polling station. If you have a proxy vote, you will only be able to vote at the polling station if your proxy hasn't already voted on your behalf. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling station When you vote in person, you go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling station, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. Your polling station will be on your poll card, which you'll receive through the post a few weeks before polling day. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID then make sure you have an accepted form of photo ID or your Voter Authority Certificate with you before you go to the polling station. Your polling place When you vote in person, you go to the polling place allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register. Before you go to vote, check where your polling place is. It might not be the closest one to where you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You have to go to your allocated polling place, and you can't go to a different one close to where you work,

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forms of photo ID , and how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate . Learn more

Opening times Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on polling day. They can get busy, particularly towards the end of the day. If there's a queue at your polling station, you'll still be able to vote as long as you joined the queue before 10pm. If you need help getting to your polling station, you can contact your local council.

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Tellers Tellers You might see people waiting outside the polling station who ask you for the number on your poll card. These people are called 'tellers', and are volunteering on behalf of candidates. They use the information people give them to check who has voted, and remind people who haven't to do so. They are allowed to be there and to ask for the information, but you don't have to give them any information if you don't want to. If you are concerned about the conduct of a teller, speak to a member of staff at the polling station.

Greeters at polling stations We're aware that staff acting as greeters may be used in some polling stations to welcome voters, remind them about the need to show photographic ID, and help speed up the voting process.

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How to vote in person Check where your polling station is , and go

to vote between 7am and 10pm on polling day. When you arrive at your polling station, a staff member will ask for your name and address, and check that you are on the electoral register. If you are voting in an election that requires photo ID, you will need to show photo ID to vote. They will ask to see your ID, check that it's accepted , and that it looks like you. If you are registered to vote anonymously , you will be asked to show your poll card and Anonymous Elector's Document (AED). A private area will be available should you choose to have your photo ID viewed in private. This might be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station. The staff member will cross your name off the register and give you a ballot paper listing the candidates you can vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

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vote for. You might be given more than one ballot paper if there is more than one election taking place in your local area on the same day. Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can cast your vote in secret. Read the instructions on the ballot paper carefully. Some elections use different voting methods, so you need to make sure you fill in each ballot paper correctly. Complete your ballot paper using the pencil provided in the polling booth. You can also use your own pen if you want to. Don't write anything else on the paper, or your vote may not be counted. If you make a mistake, don't put your ballot paper in the ballot box. Ask the polling station staff for a replacement ballot paper, and fill it in again. Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.

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Taking photos Taking photos inside the polling station isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling station, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote.

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Face coverings Face coverings If you wear a face covering for any reason, such as a mask worn on medical grounds or a face veil worn on religious grounds, you will be asked to remove it so polling station staff can

check your ID looks like you. You can ask to have your ID checked in private. You can also request that a female member of staff checks your ID. This request will be granted if possible. There will be a mirror available in the polling station to allow you to replace your face covering once your ID has been checked. If you have any questions about voting in person at the polling station you may wish to contact your Returning Officer to discuss this. Find the contact details

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Taking photos inside the polling place isn't allowed as it might risk the secrecy of the ballot. You are more than welcome to take photos outside the polling place, and share them on social media to encourage your friends and family to vote. Postal ballot papers are viewed differently in electoral law to ballot papers in a polling station, so voters can take a photo of their own postal ballot paper and publicise it (including on social media) if they want to. It is the personal choice of the voter whether they decide to take a photo of their postal ballot paper and share it. It is an offence to persuade or induce another person to share a photo of their postal ballot paper.

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general elections, including recall petitions, anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. You can also ask polling place staff to help you, or you can bring someone with you to help. If you bring someone to help you at local elections, they need to be over 18 and eligible to vote in the election. For general elections, including recall petitions, anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Asking for help If you're not sure what to do, or need any help, just ask the staff at the polling station – they will be happy to assist you to cast your vote. There are a number of things at the polling station to help you cast your vote, including a large print sample ballot paper, and a tactile voting device to help if you have a visual impairment. If you want to, you can take your phone into the polling booth to use magnifier or text-to-speech apps, or the phone torch to improve lighting. When using your phone, don't take any photos inside the polling station. You can ask polling station staff for help, or you can bring someone with you. Anyone over the age of 18 can come with you to help you cast your vote. They don't need to be eligible to vote in that election. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way by intimidating them or using undue influence. If you're concerned about something, contact the elections team at your local council. If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police or Crimestoppers. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material and campaigning on polling day . It's an offence to influence someone to vote a certain way by intimidating them or using undue influence. If you're concerned about something, contact the elections team at your council. If you have evidence that a crime has taken place, contact the police or Crimestoppers. about electoral fraud , which includes influencing someone to vote a certain way. Campaigning on polling day Campaigning on polling day There are no rules that say campaigning can't take place on polling day. However, campaigning should not take place within the polling station itself, and campaigners must not obstruct the polling station or stop voters from entering. about campaign material

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