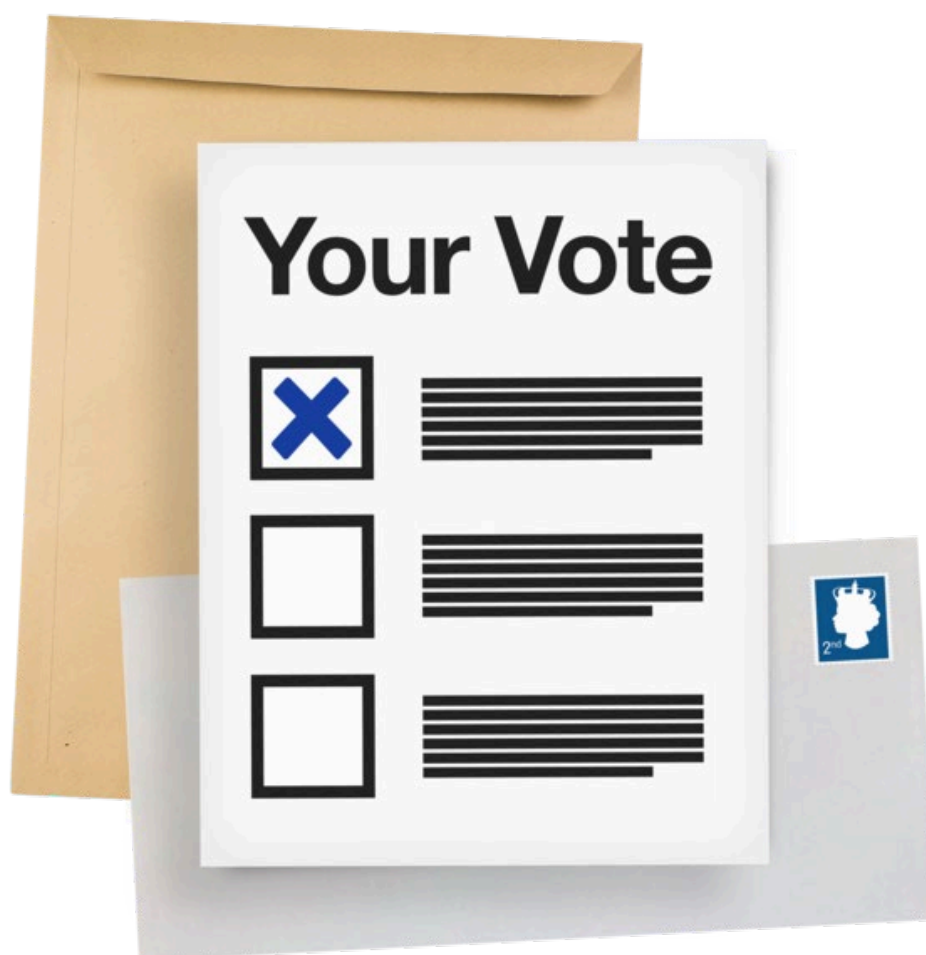


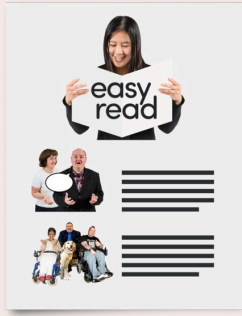


How to vote

Questions and answers



Easy read booklet



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It has words and pictures.



You might want help to read this booklet. You can ask someone to help you.

words

Some words are **black and bold**. This means we think they are difficult words.



Black and bold words are thicker and darker. We explain what they mean in a box like this.



Some words are **bright blue**. These are links to websites or email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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Why you should register to vote	page 44
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Who we are



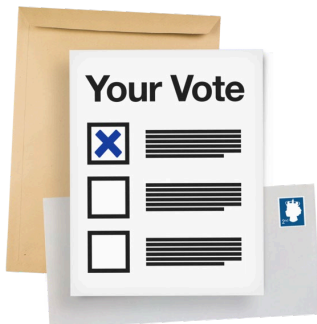
We are **Shout Out UK**. We help young people learn about **media** and **politics**.



Media means all the ways you get information, like from TV, radio, newspapers or online.



Politics means how decisions are made by people in power, like the government.



We are working with **Greater London Authority** and the **Electoral Commission** to make sure people in London know how to vote.

GREATER
LONDON
AUTHORITY

Greater London Authority speak and stand up for people who live in London. They are based at London City Hall.

The
Electoral
Commission

The **Electoral Commission** help people vote.

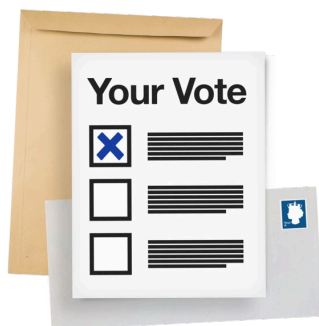
What this booklet is about



This booklet tells you our answers to questions about how to vote.



Some important changes have been made to how you must vote in some **elections**.



An **election** is when people vote for the person they want to be in charge of the area they live in.

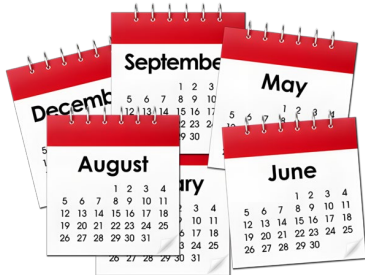


We want to make sure everyone understands these changes and knows how to vote in London.

The GLA Civic and Democratic Participation Programme



The **GLA Civic and Democratic Participation Programme** is a **programme** that runs all year.



A **programme** is a plan. Our programme is full of activities and **campaigns** that you can take part in.



A **campaign** is when you share information to get people to do or talk about something.



Civic Participation is when you take part in things within your community, like campaigns.



Democratic Participation is when you take part in making decisions, like by voting.



The programme helps people in London to learn about voting and their rights.

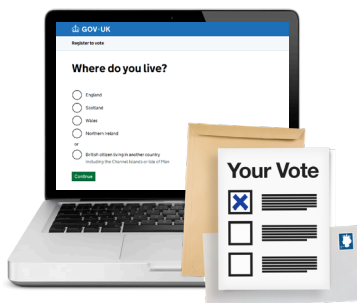
Rights are things that every person should have by law.



It really helps people who are **under-represented** or not **registered** to vote.



Under-represented means from a group of people who don't often vote so what they think is not said or heard.



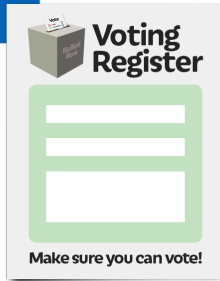
Registered means to sign up so you are allowed to vote in elections.



Go to this website to find out more about our programme
www.registertovote.london/

Questions about registering to vote

16



Who can register to vote in London?

You can register to vote in London when you are 16 years old. You can vote if you are 18 years old.



You can register to vote in London if you live in London and you are British, Irish, or from a country in the **EU** or **Commonwealth**.



EU stands for **European Union**.

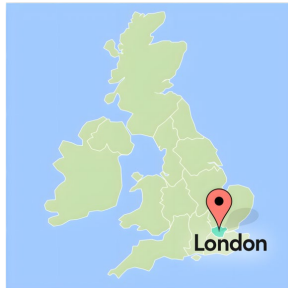
The **EU** is 27 countries that work together on big issues and goals that affect lots of countries.



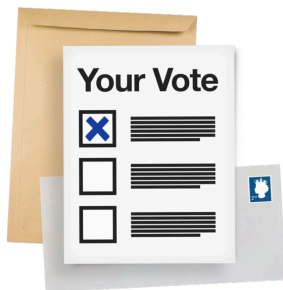
Commonwealth countries are 56 countries that work together and support each other.



You can register to vote in UK **general elections** if you are a British **citizen** who used to live in London but do not anymore. You are called an overseas voter.



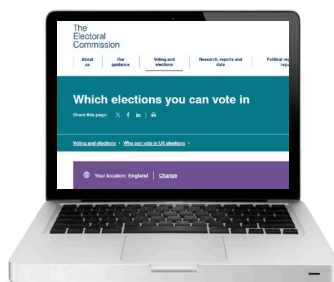
You will need to use your old address in the UK to register if you no longer live in the UK.



General elections are when you vote for who you want to run the country.



A **citizen** can vote, work and live in a certain country by law.



Anyone can go to this website to find out if they can register to vote
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/which-elections-you-can-vote

How can I vote as an overseas voter?



You can vote in London if you will be in London on election day.

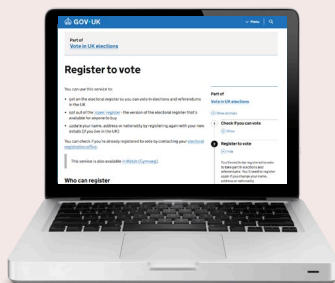


You can vote by post or by **proxy voting**.

Proxy voting is when you ask someone else to vote for you.

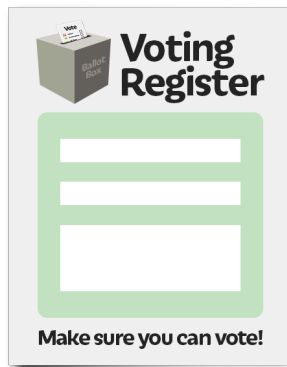


You need to register every 3 years if you are an overseas voter.



Go to this website to find out more about voting as an overseas voter

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



Can European citizens register to vote?

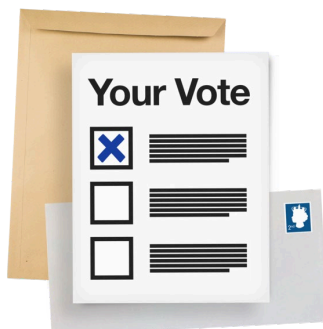
You can register to vote if you are a **qualifying EU citizen** or an **EU Citizen** with **retained rights** who lives in London.



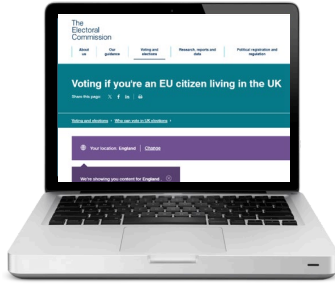
A **qualifying EU Citizen** is someone who used to live in Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain who can stay or work in the UK.



An **EU citizen** with **retained rights** is someone from other EU countries that has been allowed to stay or work in the UK since before 31 December 2020.



You can vote in local elections like London borough council elections and the Mayor of London elections.



Go to this website to find out what elections you can vote in
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/voting-if-youre-eu-citizen-living-uk

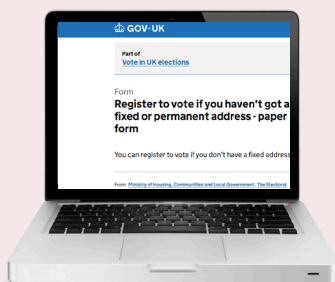


Can I register to vote if I do not have an address?

You can register to vote if you do not have an address or you are homeless.



You can use the address of the place where you are most often. This is called a **declaration of local connection**.



Go to this website to make a **declaration of local connection**
www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-vote-if-you-havent-got-a-fixed-or-permanent-address

When I register to vote, do I need to prove my identity?



Prove your identity means to show an official, legal document that says who you are.



When you first register to vote you will need fill in a form with some information about you.



The government will check this against information they already have about you.



If the information is different, you will need prove your identity. This is called **evidence of identity**.



You can show

- 1 **primary identification document.**

or

- 1 **trusted government document** and 2 **financial or social history documents.**

or

- 4 **financial or social history documents.**



Primary identification documents

- Passport from the UK or a country in the EEA or Commonwealth.
- UK Biometric residence permit.
- Valid EEA identity card.
- the photo part of a full or provisional driving licence from the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.
- Northern Ireland Electoral identify card.

Trusted government documents



- UK paper version driving licence.
- Birth certificate.
- Marriage or Civil Partnership certificate.
- Adoption certificate.
- Firearms licence.
- Police Bail sheet.



All of these must be from the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.



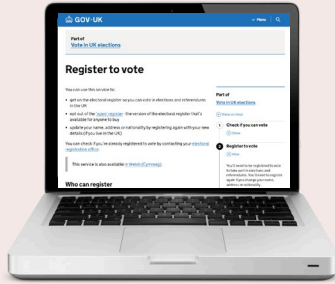
You can use a photo driving licence if you are not from the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.



Primary identification documents

- Mortgage statement dated within the last year.
- Bank or building society statement dated within the last 3 months.
- Bank or building society account opening confirmation letter dated within the last 3 months.
- Credit card statement dated within the last 3 months.
- Financial statement dated within the last year.
- Council Tax statement dated within the last year.
- Utility bill dated within the last 3 months. Not a phone bill.
- P45 or P60 statement dated within the last year.
- Benefit statement dated within the last 3 months.
- Letter from the government, a government agency or department dated within the last 3 months.

How do I register to vote?



Click the link below to fill in an online form

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



It is helpful if you have your National Insurance number.



Your National Insurance number is used to prove your identity.

Can I register to vote if I do not have a National Insurance number?



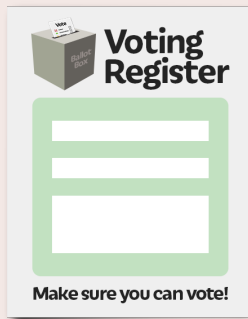
You can register to vote if you do not have a National Insurance number.



You still need to fill in the online form, but the form will ask for your contact details so someone from your local council can talk to you.



Someone from your local council will ask you to prove your identity in a different way.



Do I have to register to vote by a certain date?

You can register to vote any time.



You need to register to vote at least 2 weeks before any elections you want to vote in.



Do I only have to register to vote once?

You will have to register again if you ever change your name or address.



You will need to register again if you become a British citizen or change your nationality.



Do I have to vote if I register to vote?

You do not have to vote if you register to vote.

Questions about how to vote

What elections can I vote in?

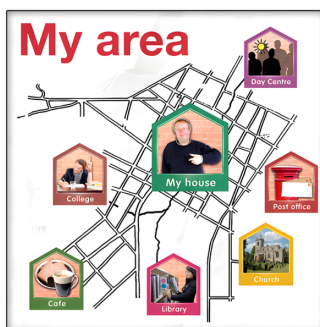


You can vote in all elections if you are British, Irish, or from a Commonwealth country.



If you are from a country in the EU you might be able to vote in

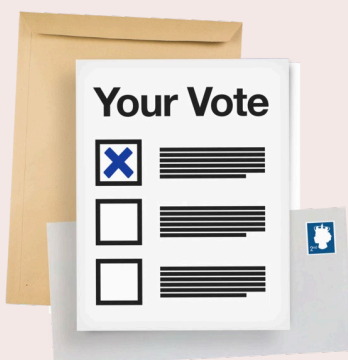
- London borough council elections.
- Mayor of London and London Assembly elections.



You can only vote in local elections if you are

- a qualifying EU citizen.
- an EU citizen with retained voting rights.

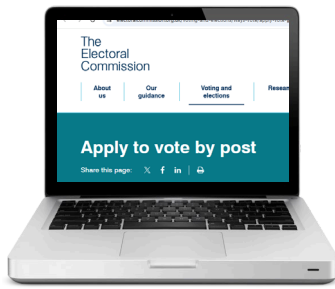
How can I vote?



You can vote

- in person.
- by post.
- by proxy.

How do I apply to vote by post?



Go to this website to fill in the form if you want to vote by post
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post



Or go to this website to save the form, print it and then fill it in
www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote



Do I need to apply more than once?

You need to apply to vote by post every 3 years.



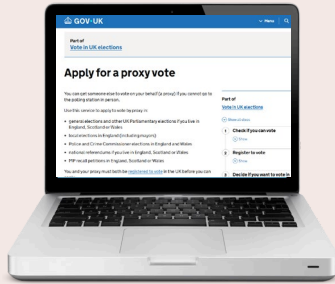
When do I need to apply?

You need to apply to vote by post by 5pm, 11 working days before the election.

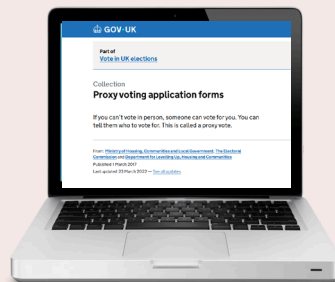


If you cannot post your vote, you can take it to your local polling station on election day.

How do I apply to vote by proxy?



Go to this website to fill in the form if you want to vote by proxy
www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote



Or go to this website to save the form, print it and then fill it in
www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms



When do I need to apply?

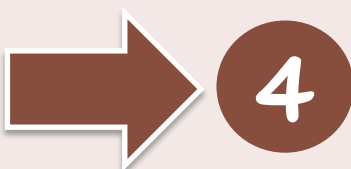
You need to apply by 5pm, 6 working days before the election.

The person voting for you will need to vote for you on the day of the election.



How many people can I do a proxy vote for?

You can vote for 2 people who live in the UK and up to 4 people who live outside the UK.



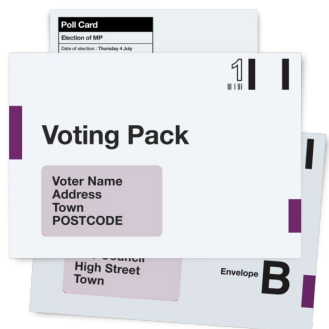
Where is my local polling station?



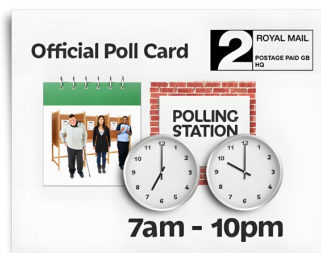
If you vote in person you will need to go to your **polling station** on the day of the election.



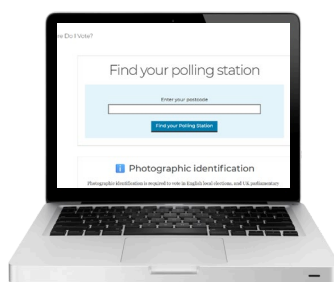
A **polling station** is the place where you go to vote. It can be any public building near you like a school or library.



A **polling card** will be sent to you in the post. It will tell you where your polling station is.



Your **polling card** is a piece of paper that tells you where your polling station is and what day the election is.



It's okay if you lose your polling card, use your postcode to search for your polling station on this website

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information>

What will happen at my local polling station?



Someone will look at your photo and the name on your **photo ID** to check your name matches the **electoral register**



Photo ID means a document with a photo of you that shows who you are.

The **electoral register** is a list of everyone registered to vote.



If you are registered to **vote anonymously**, they will look at your poll card and your **Anonymous Elector's Document**.



Vote anonymously means your name and address will not be on the electoral register.



An **anonymous elector's document** is a document you can show instead of a Photo ID if you want to vote anonymously.



There will be another room or area if you want them to look at your photo ID in private.



1. They will give you a ballot paper.
2. You will go into a booth to vote.
3. Read the instructions on the ballot paper that explain how to make your vote.
4. When you are finished, put your paper into the ballot box.

How will someone check my photo ID if I wear a face covering?



You might need to take your face covering off for a short amount of time so someone can check you are the person on your photo ID.



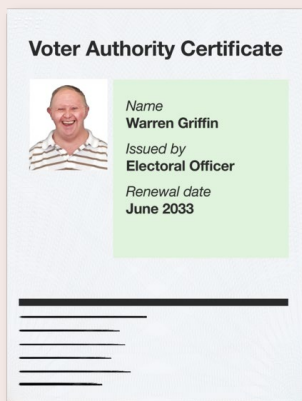
You can ask for a woman to check your photo ID and to go somewhere private before you take your face covering off.

How will the staff at the polling station decide if my photo ID looks like me?



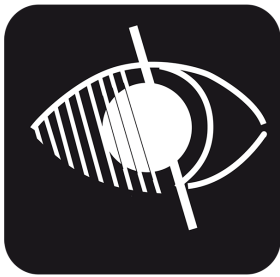
They will look at your photo and the name on your photo ID to check it matches the electoral register.

If you do not think your photo looks like you, apply for a **Voter Authority certificate**.

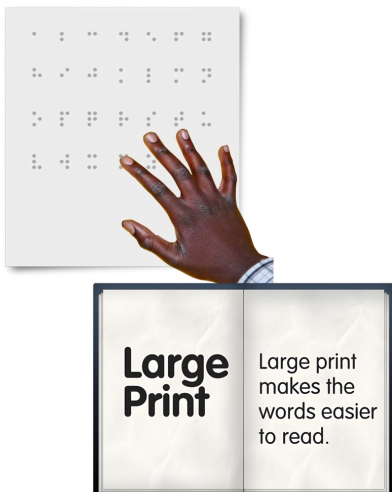


A **Voter Authority Certificate** is a type of photo ID you can use to vote.

I'm blind, can someone help me at the polling station?



Yes. Someone can help you put a cross by the person you want to vote for on your paper ballot.



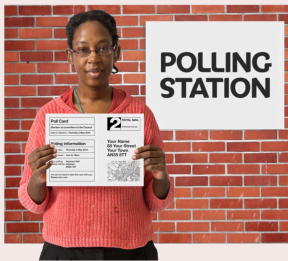
All polling stations will have

- tactile devices you can use to vote.
- large print ballot papers.
- magnifiers and extra lighting.

Can I ask for a reasonable adjustment?



Reasonable adjustments are changes you can ask for to make something fair or easier.



You can ask for anything you need on the day you go to the polling station.



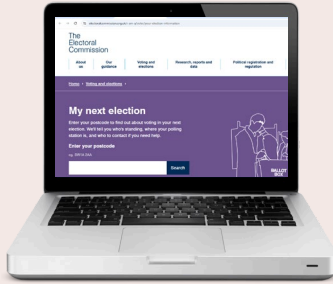
It is okay if you need your mobile phone to read printed text to you.



You can also contact your local **electoral services** to ask for anything you will need before you go.



Your local **electoral services** help run elections.

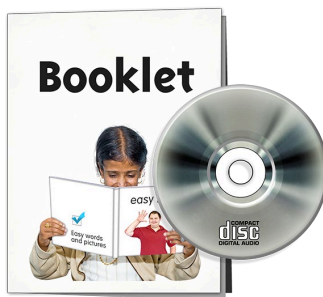


To find their contact details,
go to this website and put in
your postcode

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk
/i-am-a/voter/your-election-
information](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information)



You can tell your electoral services
if you have any problems at the
polling station.

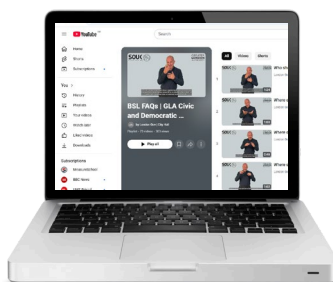


**Can I read information about
how to vote and photo IDs in
a different format?**



Go to one of these websites to find
information in different formats

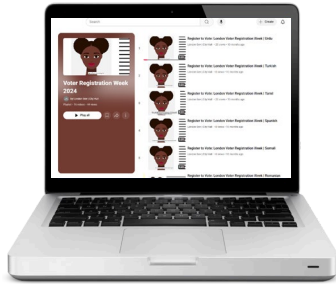
- registertovote.london/
- www.electoralcommission.org.uk/



The questions in this booklet are
also in BSL. BSL stands for British
Sign Language. Go to this website
to watch them

[www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLs
ZNTIKQ-f0FeCc4TJe2nOj2u-im5euti](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsZNTIKQ-f0FeCc4TJe2nOj2u-im5euti)

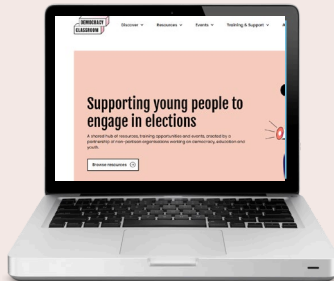
Go to this website to watch short videos all about voting.



These videos are in different languages including BSL

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsZNTIKQ-f0GwtMPSXJ2qMqxaoTDNC0CW

Is there any information about voting for people in different communities?



Go to this website for information if you are a young person or you work with young people

www.democracyclassroom.com



Go to this website for information if you are **LGBTQ+**

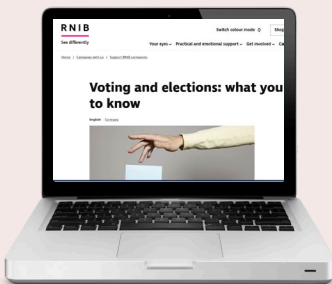
www.lgbthero.org.uk/pages/category/lgbtq-photo-voter-id-london-elections



LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and more.



Go to this website for information if you are a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller
www.gypsy-traveller.org/news/fft-publish-voting-resources-for-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-people/



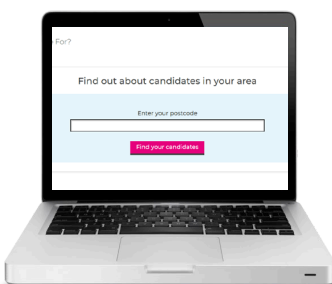
Go to this website to find out how to vote if you are blind and what you can expect
www.rnib.org.uk/campaign-with-us/support-a-campaign/voting-and-elections/#how-to-request-a-reasonable-adjustment



Go to this website for more information in Easy Read about voting and your rights
www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk

Who should I vote for?

You should decide who to vote for on your own.



Go to this website to learn more about who you can vote for
whocanivote.co.uk/

Questions about voting anonymously



What does it mean to vote anonymously?

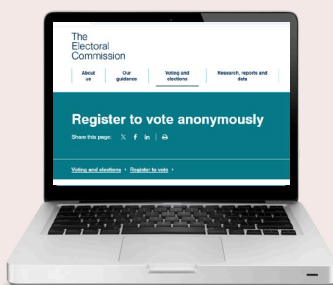
When you register to vote your name and address will go on the electoral register.



If you are worried about your safety, you can apply to vote anonymously.



You will need to register to vote anonymously as soon as possible, and at least 2 weeks before the election you want to vote in.



Go to this website to fill in the application form

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/register-vote/register-vote-anonymously



When you vote, you will need to show a document called an **Anonymous Elector's Document** instead of a photo ID.

How do I apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document?



You need your name, address, date of birth and National Insurance number to apply.



You can still apply if you cannot find your National Insurance number.



Someone from your local council will ask you to prove your identity in a different way.



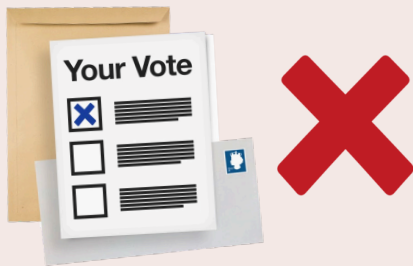
You can still ask someone else to vote for you (proxy voting) or vote by post if you want to vote anonymously.

Questions about photo ID

Do I always need photo ID to vote?



You need a photo ID if you want to vote in person.



If you go to the polling station without a photo ID, the staff will not give you a ballot paper. This means you cannot vote.



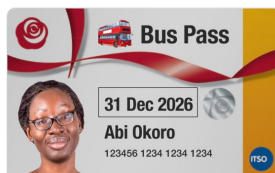
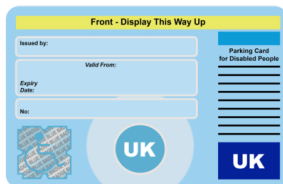
You do not need photo ID if you ask someone to do a proxy vote for you or if you vote by post.



If someone does a proxy vote for you, they will need to show their own photo ID.

What can I use as my photo ID?

You can show 1 of these photo IDs



- British passport.
- Passport from a country in the EEA or Commonwealth.
- National identity card from a country in the EEA.
- UK driving licence that includes a photo.
- Driving licence from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or a country in the EEA.
- Biometric immigration document. This includes eVisas.
- PASS card.
- Defence Identity Card.
- HM Armed Forces Veteran Card.
- Older Person's Bus Pass or Disabled Person's Bus Pass.
- Oyster 60+ Card.
- Freedom pass.
- Blue Badge.
- Free Voter Authority Certificate.

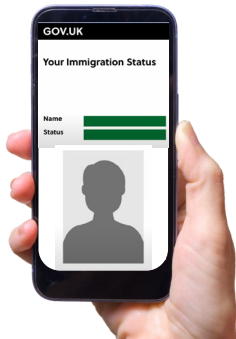


Why can I not use other types of photo ID?

The Government decided the types of photo ID that you can use.



These are the only types of photo ID that you can use.



What is an eVisa?

An **eVisa** is an online record of your **immigration status**.



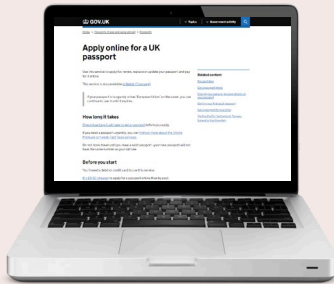
Your **immigration status** shows if you are allowed to live, work or study in a certain country.



You can use your eVisa at the polling station as your photo ID.

You will need to log into your eVisa account on your phone and show your eVisa.

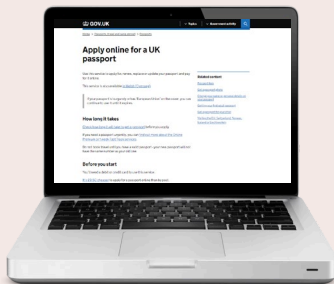
Where can I get these types of photo ID?



Go to this website to apply for a British passport

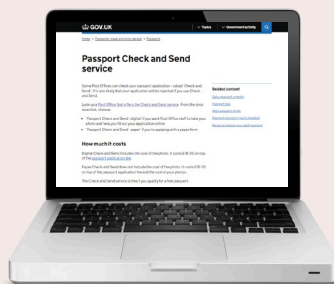
[**www.gov.uk/apply-renew-passport**](https://www.gov.uk/apply-renew-passport)

Or go to your local post office to get a form to apply for a British passport.



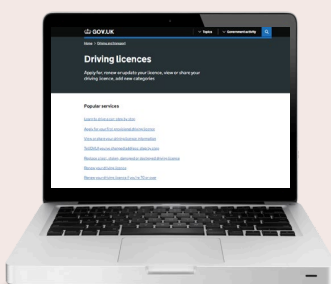
Go to this website to find your local post office

[**www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder**](https://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder)



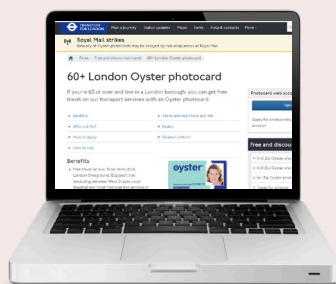
Go to this website to find out more about how the post office can help

[**www.gov.uk/how-the-post-office-check-and-send-service-works**](https://www.gov.uk/how-the-post-office-check-and-send-service-works)



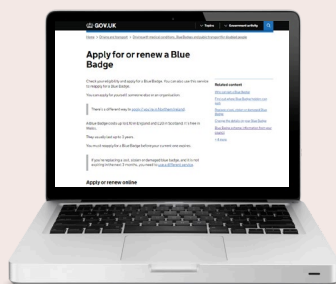
Go to this website to apply for, renew or update your UK driving licence

[**www.gov.uk/browse/driving/driving-licences**](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/driving-licences)



Go to this website to apply for a 60+ Oyster photocard

tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/60-plus-oyster-photocard

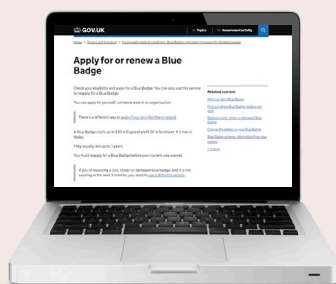


Go to this website to apply for a Blue Badge

www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge

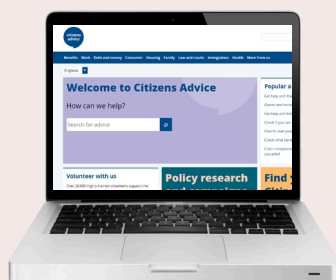


Talk to your local council if you have any questions about Blue Badges.



Go to this website to find your local council

www.gov.uk/blue-badge-scheme-information-council



Go to this website to find out how Citizens Advice can also help you

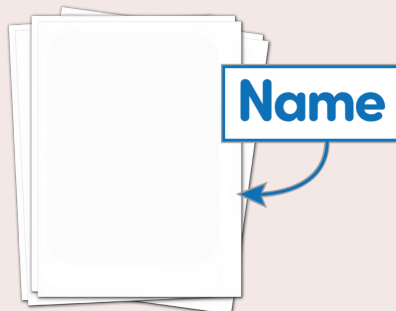
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

What information will the staff at the polling station check on my photo ID?



They will only look at your photo and your name. They will not check your gender, address or nationality.

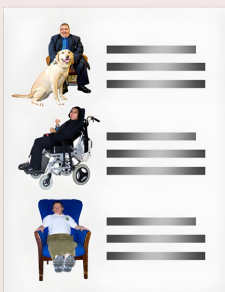
What should I do if my name on my photo ID is not the same as my name on the electoral register?



You will need to show an official document that says you have changed your name.



Or you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate using the same name you wrote down when you registered to vote.



Or you can contact your local council and ask them to change your name on the electoral register.

Can someone check my photo ID in private?



Yes. You can ask for someone to check your photo ID in private. Staff will not ask you why.



What should I do if I do not want my photo ID to show my gender?

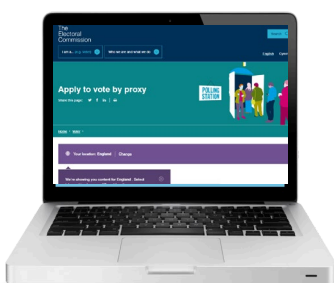
You do not need to show a photo ID that says your gender.



But if you feel worried you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. It will not show your gender.

What do I do if my photo ID is lost or stolen close to an election?

You will need to apply for an emergency proxy vote if the deadline to apply for Voter Authority Certificate has passed.



Go to this website to apply
[www.electoralcommission.org.uk
/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-proxy](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-proxy)



When did photo ID become a requirement?

A **requirement** is something you have to do.



Photo ID has been a requirement for elections in England since May 2022.

I am worried about having to show photo ID to vote. Who can I talk to?



You can send an email to correspondence@communities.gov.uk

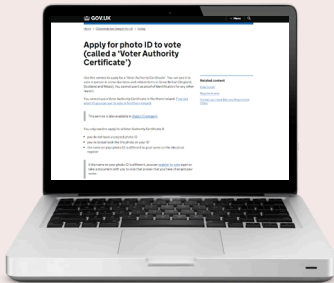
Or write a letter and send it to this address



**Ministry of Housing
Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF**

Questions about the Voter Authority Certificate

How do I apply for a Voter Authority Certificate?



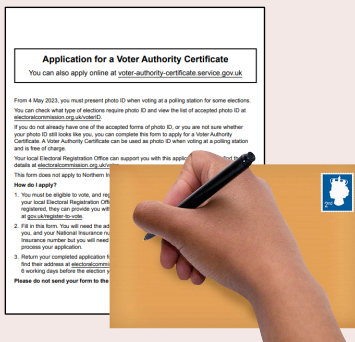
Go to this website to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate



You will need

- a photo of yourself.
- your date of birth.
- your National Insurance number.



Go to this website to print out a paper copy of this form

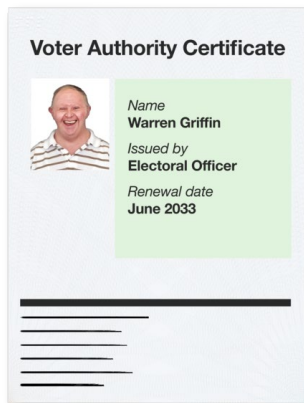
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information



Send the form to your local council.

What information is on the Voter Authority Certificate?

The Voter Authority Certificate will show

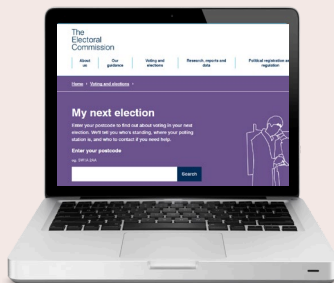


- your name.
- your photo.
- your local council.
- your reference number.
- the date you got the Voter Authority Certificate.
- the date you need a new one.

Can I get help to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate?



Your local council can help you to apply. To find their contact details, go to this website and put in your postcode



<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information>

Can I use a Voter Authority Certificate as photo ID for other things?

No. It can only be used to vote.



Are there rules about how to take the photo?



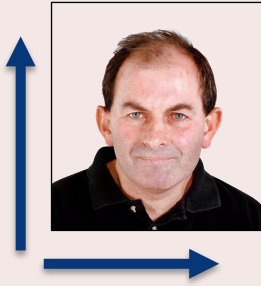
Yes. You need to

- ✓ look at the camera.
- ✓ not wear anything on your face or head, unless you wear a head covering because of your religion.
- ✓ make sure you take the picture against a plain, light background.
- ✓ have a plain expression. This means you cannot smile or frown.
- ✓ make sure your eyes do not look red in the photo, this is called redeye.



Your photo needs to be

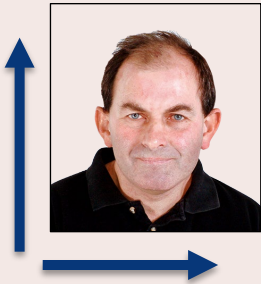
- ✓ of your head and shoulders.
- ✓ in colour.



If you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online your photo needs to be at least 750 pixels in height and 600 pixels in width.



Your image cannot be larger than 20MB.



If you apply for a Voter Authority Certificate using a paper form your photo needs to be at least 45 mm tall and 210 mm wide.

Do I have to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by a certain date?



You need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at least 6 working days before the election you want to vote in.

Why you should register to vote



If you register to vote, your **credit score** gets better.



Your **credit score** is a number that can help you buy things because it shows if you can be trusted to pay.



If you register to vote you can also be chosen to take part in **jury service**.



Jury service is when you go to court to help make a decision about a crime with a group of people called a jury.



If you vote you have the chance to say what you think about issues that most affect you and your community.

Who you can contact for help



Your local electoral services can answer any questions you have about voting.



Go to this website to find out who your electoral services are
www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office