

Introduction to voting in London (FAQs doc)



GREATER
LONDON
AUTHORITY



WHO CAN REGISTER TO VOTE?

You can register to vote if:

- You are resident (usually live) in London
- You are aged 16 or over (you can vote from 18)
- You are a British, Irish, qualifying Commonwealth, qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained voting rights

If you're not sure if someone from a Commonwealth or an EU country can vote, use the flowcharts provided in this pack to help you.

You can also check if you can vote at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/which-elections-can-i-vote.

WHAT ELECTIONS CAN I VOTE IN?



Mayor of London and
London Assembly elections



General/parliamentary
elections



Local/borough
elections

Please note that not all Londoners can vote in every London election, look at the table below to see who can vote in which elections:

	Mayor of London and London Assembly	General/ parliamentary	Local/borough
Must be at least 18 years of age	✓	✓	✓
British or Irish citizens	✓	✓	✓
Qualifying Commonwealth citizens	✓	✓	✓
Qualifying EU citizens or EU citizens with retained rights	✓	✗	✓

HOW DO I REGISTER TO VOTE?

To register to vote, you can head to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and fill in the online form. It only takes a few minutes. All you need is your National Insurance (NI) number. This number helps prove who you are. But don't worry if you don't know it or don't have one – just leave your contact details on the form, and your local council will get in touch.

It usually takes about 5 minutes.

Start now >

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS OF VOTING?

Once registered to vote, you can vote:



in person at a polling station on election day;



by post, if you are not around on election day, for example, if you are on holiday;



by proxy, which means asking someone else you trust to vote for you, for example if you know you will not be able to go.

To vote by proxy, you can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote.

To vote by post, you can apply online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote.

If you cannot apply online, you can download and complete a proxy vote application form at www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms or a postal vote application form at www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote and send it to your local Electoral Registration Office. You can also request an application form be sent to you in the post.

You can find the details of your local Electoral Registration Office at www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE POLLING STATION?

All polling stations are open from 7 am until 10 pm on election day.

Some might have greeters who will welcome voters before they enter the polling station and ask them if they brought an accepted form of photo ID to be able to vote in person.

Once you're inside the polling station, this is what happens:

- 1 A staff member will ask you for your name and address, and check that you are on the electoral register.

They will ask to see your photo ID, check that it's accepted and that it looks like you (more info at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id). If you want, you can show your

- 2 ID in a private area, like a separate room or behind a screen.

If you are registered to vote anonymously (www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/register-vote/register-vote-anonymously), you will be asked to show your poll card and Anonymous Elector's Document (AED).

- 3 Once your photo ID has been checked, the staff member will mark your name on 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

- 4 Take your ballot paper (or papers) to a polling booth, so that you can 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.

- 5 Complete your ballot paper using the pencil 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 new ballot paper and fill it in.

- 6 Once you're done, fold your completed ballot paper and put it in the ballot box.



WHAT KINDS OF PHOTO ID ARE ACCEPTED TO VOTE IN PERSON?

Accepted photo ID to vote cannot be any form of ID. You need to show the original version of one of these accepted photo IDs to vote:

- A United Kingdom passport
- A passport issued by an European Economic Area (EEA) state or a Commonwealth country
- A national identity card issued by an EEA state
- A UK driving licence (with photo, paper licences will not be accepted)
- A driving licence issued by the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or an EEA state
- A biometric immigration document (including eVisas)
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- A Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card) and Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veteran Card)
- Older Person's Bus Pass, Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Oyster 60+ Card, Freedom Pass
- A Blue Badge
- A free Voter Authority Certificate (you can apply at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)



UK, Channel Islands or EEA driving licence



Blue Badge scheme card



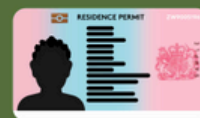
National identity card issued by an EEA state



60+ Oyster photocard or a Freedom Pass



Veteran Card



Biometric immigration document (including eVisas)



PASS card issued by the National Proof of Age Standards Scheme bearing the PASS hologram



UK, Commonwealth or EEA passport



Free Voter Authority Certificate

WHY REGISTER TO VOTE?

There are many reasons why it is beneficial to register to vote. Here are a few...

- Registering to vote allows you to use your democratic rights, which were hard won and are not available to all Londoners.
- Being registered to vote also improves your credit score, meaning it can be easier to borrow money from banks because they can check your name and address.
- The electoral register is also used to select people for jury service. Juries attend trials and decide whether someone is guilty or not guilty. Juries that include a variety of people from different backgrounds are more likely to result in fairer verdicts.

You decide if you want to vote or not. But, making sure you are registered to vote and have an accepted photo ID to be able to vote, allows you to have your voice heard on the issues that matter to you, your family and your community, London's and the country's future.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The GLA Democracy Hub registertovote.london has more accessible resources, including a more detailed list of questions about voting, information in 16 community languages, as well as resources in British Sign Language and Easy Read.

You can also message our WhatsApp Chatbot on +44 7908 820136 to find the information you need on voter registration and Voter ID. You can also scan the QR code below.



GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS:

Poll cards

A poll card is a card you receive in the post before an election. This tells you everything you need to know about the election day. What date and time is the election, and where you need to go to vote (your polling station).

Polling station

The place where you go to vote in person on election day. This is often a community space such as a school or a community hall.

Ballot paper

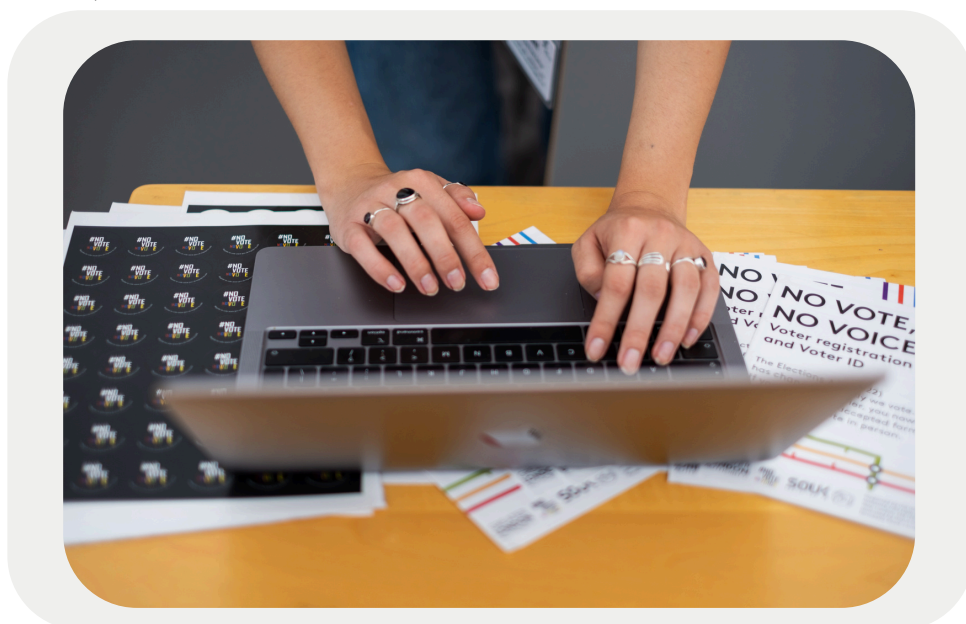
The piece of paper you are given to vote on. The instructions on how to use it and vote are at the top of the ballot paper.

Electoral Registration Office

Each borough in London has an Electoral Registration Office. This is the team that registers people to vote in the local area, sends out poll cards, and makes sure everyone who wishes to vote is able to.

Eligible

People who are able to register to vote are called "eligible to vote". This means that because of their age, nationality and address, they are able to register to vote. You can use the **Eligibility Flow Chart** to understand which elections you can vote for. You can also check here if you are eligible to vote: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/which-elections-can-i-vote.



VOTER REGISTRATION PLEDGE TEMPLATE



Thank you for pledging to support a total of ____ people to register to vote in London!

Remember to follow these steps to register to vote:

1. Head to gov.uk/register-to-vote.
2. Follow the steps on the online form. It only takes a few minutes. If you have your National Insurance number handy, that'll be helpful.
3. Once you've submitted your form, your local Electoral Registration Office will get in touch.

If you're not sure if you're able to vote in London or want further information, contact the Greater London Authority's WhatsApp Chatbot on +44 7908 820136. For more info, check the GLA Democracy Hub registertovote.london.

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