



Voter ID at the May 2023 local elections

Interim analysis

Ownership of ID

Some people do not already own any of the accepted forms of ID

4% of the population in Great Britain did not have access to ID

- 3% did not have any photo ID; 1% did not have ID where they thought the photo would be recognisable
- 1% did not know whether they had any of the forms of photo ID we asked about

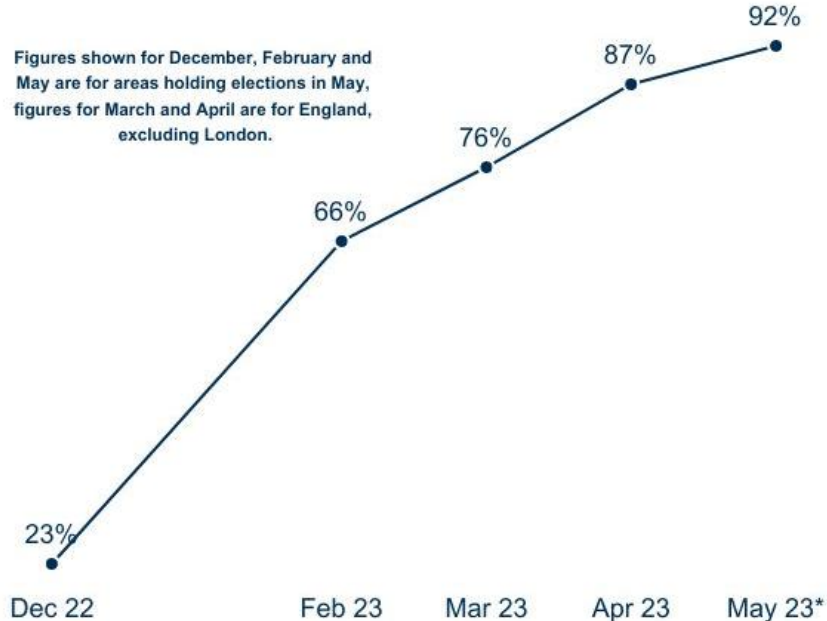
Ownership was lower among specific groups

- renting from their local authority (17% of whom did not have the correct ID)
- renting from a housing association (10%)
- unemployed (14%)
- lower social grade (8% of those who are DE social grade)

Awareness of the requirement

Awareness of the need to bring ID to vote at a polling station was high

Awareness that ID would be needed to vote in a polling station May 2023



*May 23 data was collected post election

The Voter Authority Certificate

Awareness and take-up of the Voter Authority Certificate was low

Around 89,500 VAC applications before the deadline on 25 April

- Estimated that 250,000 to 350,000 applications for a Voter Authority Certificate might be expected

Awareness was low among the overall population and those who said they did not already have photo ID

- Only just over half (57%) of all respondents were aware
- Same proportion among people who said they did not already have photo ID

This means that just under half of people who did not have any other accepted ID did not know that they could have applied for a form of ID to enable them to vote on polling day

Voters turned away at polling stations

0.25% of polling station voters were turned away and did not return to vote

Polling staff collected data in polling stations on 4 May

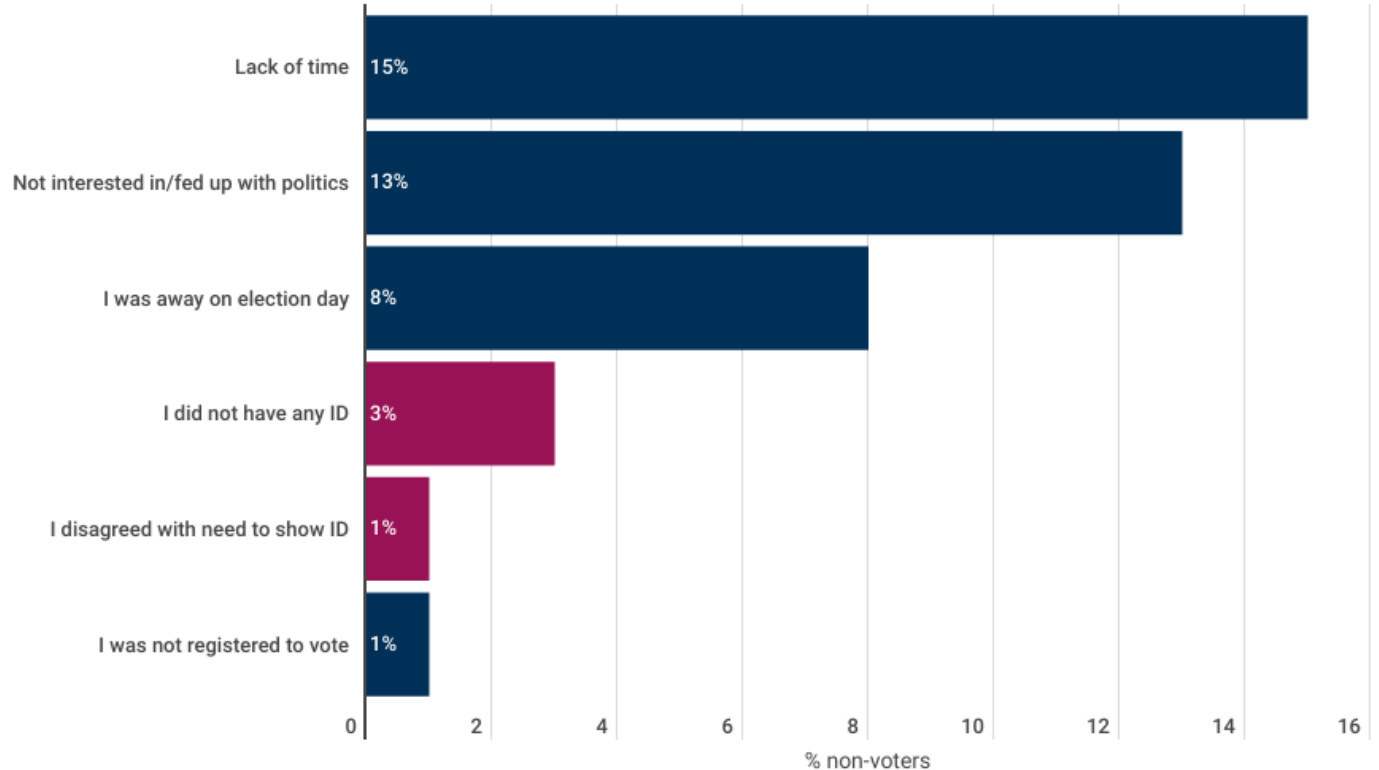
- 0.7% of polling station voters were initially rejected
- 63% of voters who were rejected returned and voted successfully
- The 0.25% of polling station voters who were turned away and did not return to vote equates to roughly 14,000 people

Lower proportions of voters were initially rejected at stations with greeters

- 0.55% polling station voters initially rejected (compared with 0.7%)

What non-voters said about ID

Around 4% of all non-voters said they didn't vote because of the voter ID requirement

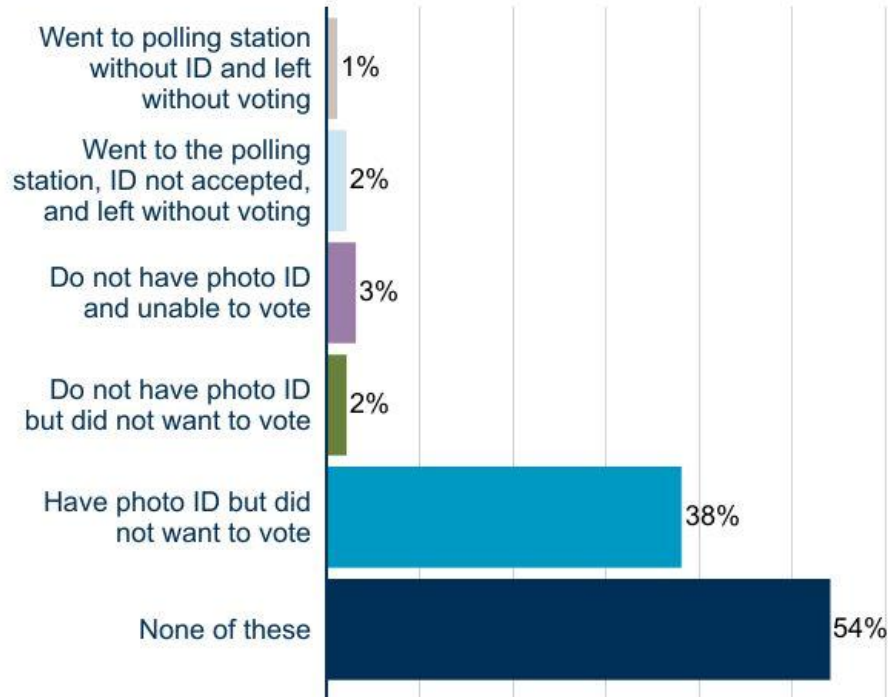


What non-voters said about ID

Around 7%
picked a reason
for not voting
related to the
voter ID
requirement

Non-voters: which of the following describes your experience

7% of non voters indicated that the ID requirement was the reason they did not vote



Voter confidence

Levels of voter confidence and satisfaction were similar to previous elections

	2023	2019
How confident, if at all, are you that the recent election was well run?	67%	64%
How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting in the recent election(s)?	89%	91%
In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, how safe or unsafe do you think these things are? Voting in a Polling station	83%	81%

Further questions to be addressed

We have more work to do in order to understand the impact of the new voter ID requirement

- Differential impact on people across society
- Impact on electoral administrators, candidates and campaigners
- Implications for future elections
 - May 2024: PCC elections across England and Wales, GLA in London
 - By Jan 2025: UK general election – significantly higher turnout expected

