



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Voter Identification

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Elections Act: Voter ID

From 4 May 2023, photographic identification will be required to vote in person in polling stations, in:

- UK Parliamentary Elections and National Referendums in Great Britain.
- Local Elections in England.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Elections in England and Wales.

Electors without photographic identification are now able to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate either online through the GOV.UK application service, or via a paper application. The application service went live to the public on 16 January 2023.



Voter ID: Key Changes

Voter Identification

- Electors are required to show an accepted form of photographic identification to vote in a polling station.
- 98% of the electorate already own accepted photographic identification.
- Voter Authority Certificates are available, free of charge, to ensure all electors have access to photographic identification. Voters can apply online via GOV.UK or via paper-based application. This system was open from the 16 January 2023.
- Deadline for applications is 5pm, 6 working days ahead of poll.
- Certificates are approved by LA elections teams via the ERO Portal and produced and distributed via a centrally procured supplier. You may have already received and processed applications.
- We have had regular communications with EROs, and our third survey to assess and monitor readiness will be going out to elections teams this month.

Funding

- Initial Section 31 grants for New Burdens Funding, and additional funding for local engagement for those with polls in May, were released before Christmas to EROs and ROs.
- Grants are not ringfenced.



Voter ID Launch Dates

Action	Date
Onboarding EROs to Portal	19/12/2022
Launch of Electoral Commission public awareness campaign for voter identification	09/01/2023
3rd ERO Portal training workshop for administrators	10/01/2023
Voter identification measures become law and electors can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate	16/01/2023
Deadline for electors to apply for Voter Authority Certificate	25/04/2023
Photographic identification requirements take effect in reserved polls	04/05/2023



Accepted Forms of Photo Identification

International Travel:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country

Driving and Parking:

- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge

Local Travel:

- Older Person's Bus Pass
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- Oyster 60+ Card
- Freedom Pass
- Scottish National Entitlement Card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card
- Senior SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Registered Blind SmartPass or Blind Person's SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- War Disablement SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- 60+ SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland
- Half Fare SmartPass issued in Northern Ireland



Accepted Forms of Photo Identification

Proof of age:

- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

Other Government issued documents:

- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state
- Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
- Voter Authority Certificate
- Anonymous Elector's Document

Out of Date photo ID:

- You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.
- The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.



Who Should Apply For A Voter Authority Certificate?

Any registered elector can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

Voters can apply online via GOV.UK or via paper-based application. This system was open from the 16 January 2023.

Voters need to register to vote before applying for a Voter Authority Certificate.

The application service includes information on identifications electors may already have and advises them they may not therefore need a Certificate. They are particularly encouraged to apply for a VAC if:

- They don't have a form of photo ID
- They're not sure whether their photo ID still looks like them
- They're worried about using an existing form of ID for any other reason, such as the use of a gender marker



Anonymous Electors

- Anonymous electors who wish to vote in person at a polling station need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document (AED).
- An AED is the only form of identification which an anonymous elector can use in polling station. This is because the anonymous elector's name does not appear on the register and therefore no other types of identification would prove they are the correct elector.
- Anonymous electors need to apply for a new AED each year when their anonymous elector registration expires and they renew it; they will provide a photo as part of their application for an AED.
- Unlike Voter Authority Certificates, AEDs are not usable in any polling station – this is because the electoral register number displayed on the AED is unique to each ERO.