

# LOCAL ELECTIONS 2023



## New Voter ID rules: A step by step guide for campaigners



# The way we vote is changing

On Thursday 4 May 2023, millions of us will go to the polls to vote in local elections. But for the first time ever, voters are required to take Photo ID with them.

**Millions of people are unaware of this change, and could lose their chance to vote. Our research shows that younger voters and ethnic minority voters are most at risk.**

Together, we can prevent this. Help raise awareness of the new rules and support your friends, families and communities to get set to vote on 4 May.

This toolkit is your step by step guide to the new rules:

- ✔ Step 1: Get informed: who can vote?
- ✔ Step 2: Get informed: what are the new Voter ID rules?
- ✔ Step 3: Raise awareness of the new rules
- ✔ Step 4: Vote for hope



# Step 1: Who can vote?

There are local elections taking place across England on 4 May, and local government elections in Northern Ireland on 18 May.



Check if there is an election in your area



British, Irish, EU, and qualifying Commonwealth citizens can all vote in local elections.

The deadline to register to vote in local elections on 4 May 2023 is 11.59pm on 17 April.



**HATE**  
**HOPE**

## Step 2: what are the new Voter ID rules?

You will need to bring a valid photo ID, or “Voter ID”, to the polling station when you go to vote on 4 May.

What can you use as Voter ID?

- 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 licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- A blue badge
- 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
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state

# Questions about photo ID

## My ID has expired, can I still use it?

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.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.

## I don't have any of the forms of ID listed. What should I do?

If you do not have a valid photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter ID document. The deadline\* to apply for a free voter ID document is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Another option is to vote by post. The deadline\* to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023. You will not need to provide photo ID to vote by post.



[Apply for a free  
Voter ID document](#)



\*These deadlines are to ensure you can vote in elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.



## Step 3: Spread the word

HOPE not hate has carried out polling which suggests that the following groups are not aware of the new voter ID rules:

- 31.5% of 18-24 year olds and 36% of 25-34 year olds are not aware of the new rules. 13.2% of people aged 65+ are not aware of the rules.
- Ethnic minority voters are less likely than white people to know about the rules. 33.3% of arab/other ethnicities, 32.3% of asian people, 32.8% of black people, 29% of mixed race people and 22.4% of white people don't know about the new rules.

We have created an interactive map so you can check how many people in your local area are at risk of losing their vote, because of the new rules.

And we have created a poster, at the end of this toolkit, which you can print out and display in a window or community notice board, to spread the word locally.



Spread the word with your  
friends and neighbours



## Step 4: Vote for hope

Our communities are stronger when we put aside our differences and come together.

But across the UK there is a small but committed core of far-right candidates standing for election with histories of extreme views, legal troubles and divisive tactics.

Voting is the best way to show that the far-right are not welcome and they do not have support.

Whether you use your phone's calendar, a paper diary or a post-it note, set yourself a reminder now that you need to take Photo ID when you vote on 4 May.



Set a reminder now to take Photo ID  
when you go to vote on 4 May





**VOTE THURSDAY MAY 4TH**

**VOTE HOPE NOT HATE**

**POLLS OPEN AT 7AM AND CLOSE AT 10PM**



**The way we vote has changed!  
Scan the QR code to find out how.**