

Voter ID for UK Elections



Why do I need voter ID?

There is a new rule requiring all voters to show photo ID when they vote at polling stations for UK General Elections. You will not need photo ID for Scottish Parliament elections or local Council elections.

What is voter ID and do I already have one?

There are many types of photo ID you can use. The most common are:

- **Passport**

This can be a 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 (including an Irish Passport Card).

- **Driving Licence**

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

- **Scottish National Entitlement Card**

This is a card issued for concessionary travel, including a 60+, disabled or under 22s bus pass. So, if you have a disabled or older person's bus pass, you can use this as voter ID.

- **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.

You will only need to show **one** form of photo ID. It needs to be the **original** version and not a photocopy. You can still use out of date photo ID to vote as long as the photo looks like you. The name on your ID should be the **same** you used to register to vote.

What if I don't have voter ID?

You can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, or you can apply to vote by post. You must be registered to vote before applying for these. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to submit the applications before the election you want to vote in. If you need help or you are unsure, contact your local Electoral Registration Office, through your council.

How to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if:

- you don't have an accepted form of photo ID
- you are not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you
- you are worried about using an existing form of ID for any other reason, such as the use of a gender marker.

It's free to apply, you will need:

- a recent digital photo of yourself
- your National Insurance Number.

If you don't have your National Insurance Number, you can still apply by providing a copy of your birth certificate, a recent bank statement or utility bill with your current address.

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online or by post.

How to apply for a Postal Vote

You can apply for a postal vote by doing any of the following:

- complete an online application form
- download a postal vote application form
- contact your Electoral Registration Office who will post you a copy.

It's free to apply, you will need:

- the address where you are registered to vote
- your National Insurance Number or other identity documents.

Connecting Equalities is a Scottish Government funded project for Equalities and Human Rights. To find out more and see our other resources, visit <https://otbds.org/projects/connecting-equalities/>