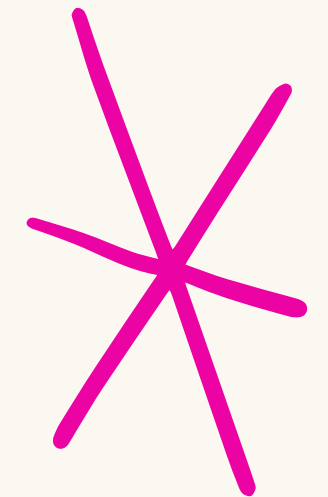
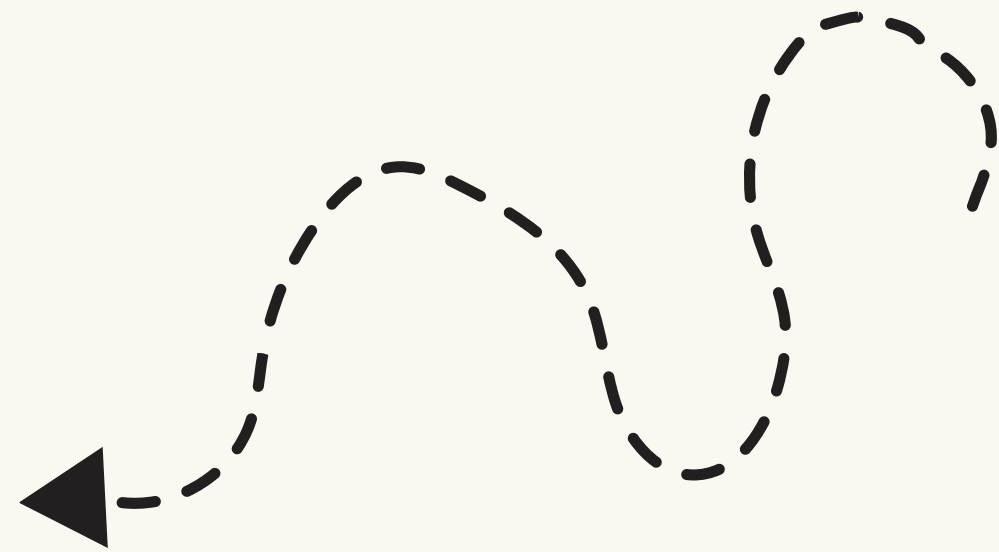
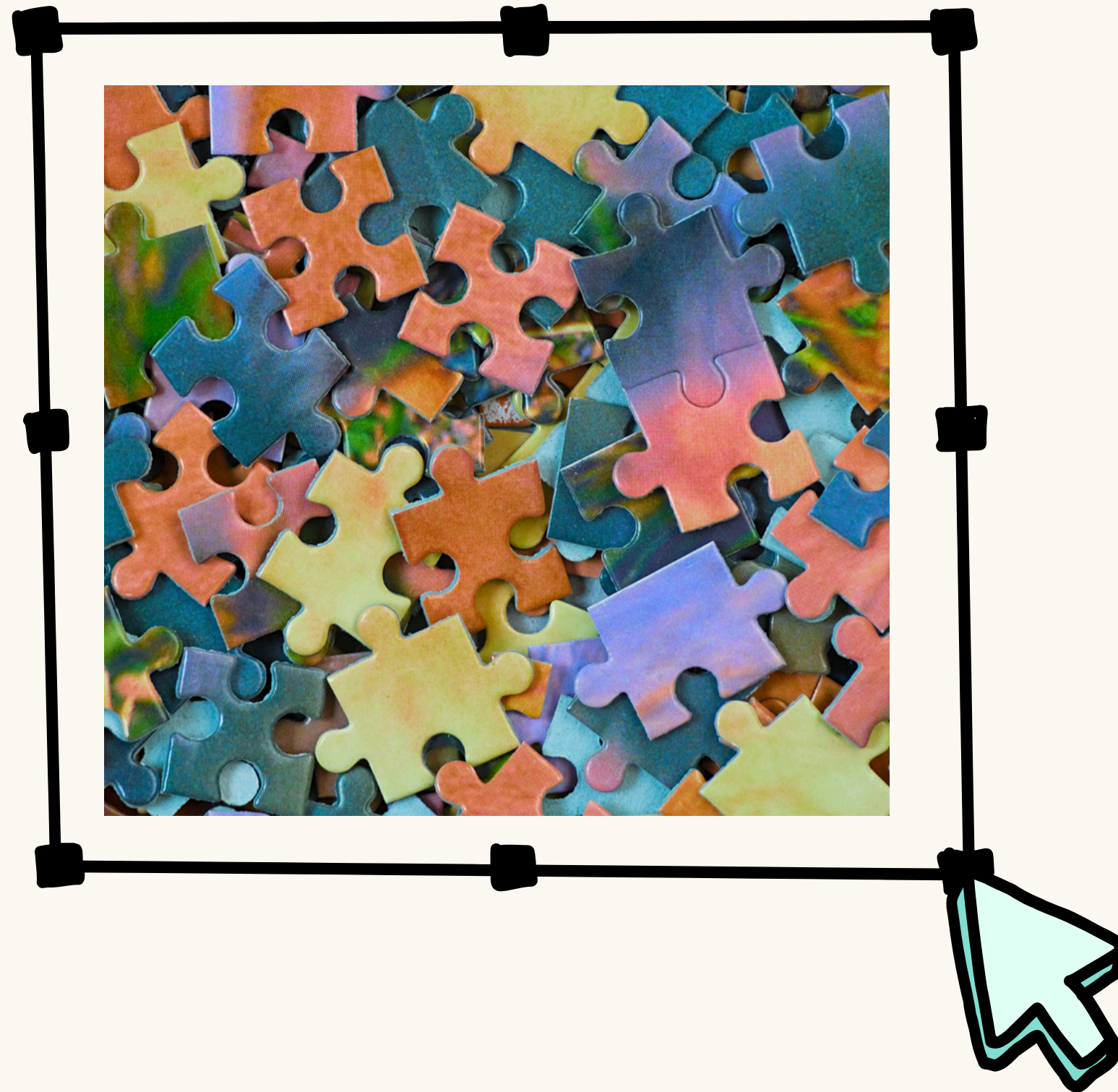




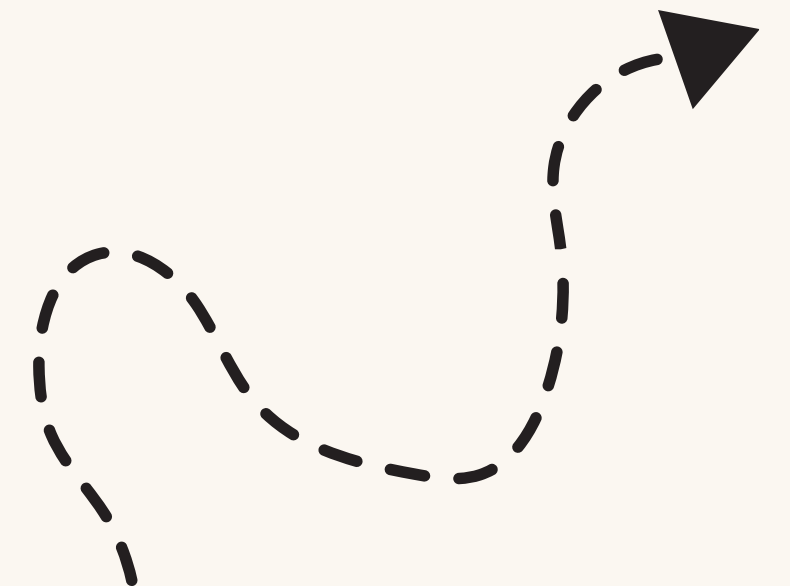
# Voting



# GENERAL ELECTION



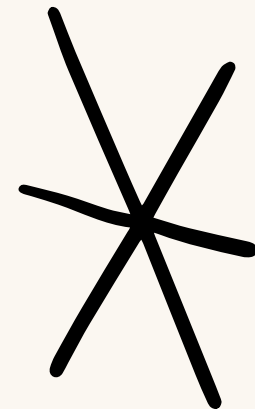
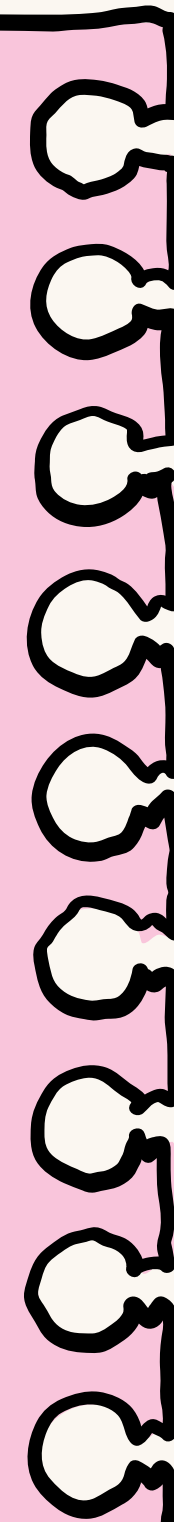
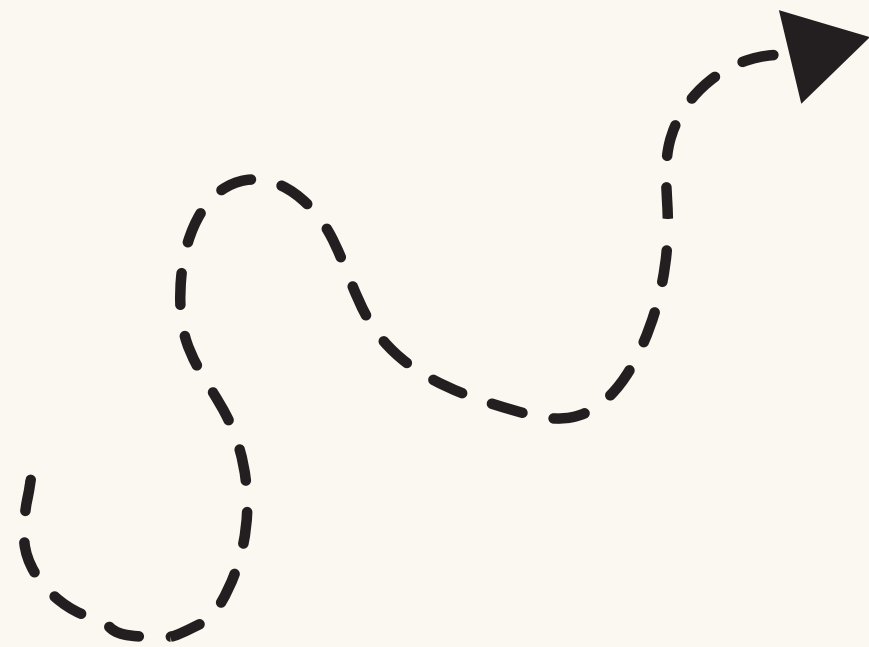
There are lots of things to do and think about before elections. It's handy to imagine all these things as jigsaw pieces. Each piece is a practical step you need to take to be able to take part in an election or something to think about before you to go the ballot box.



**Have you  
registered  
to vote?**

- You can only vote in a general election if you are over 18 and have registered to vote.
- If you are not already registered for this election it is too late but you can register to vote on the UK Government website for future elections:

[https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)






## Who are your Candidates



### Find out who your candidates are

- You can find out who your local candidates are for elections through your local Council. Their names and parties will be posted online, made available in Council buildings and you might also see notices in local magazines or newspapers.
  - You can put your postcode in the Who can I vote for website to find out:  
<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>
- 

# What are the parties & candidates saying they are going to do?

Each political party will publish their own manifesto. This will contain a set of policies that the party stands for and would like to introduce if they are elected into Government.

Leading up to elections you will get various flyers or letters from the candidates. These will detail their values, ideas and more information about their plans.

Each candidate will have some social media page or website where you can read more about them or get in contact with them if you have any questions.

Think about what is important to you?

Read the leaflets that come through your door

Decide which one has the best ideas /plan for what is important to you

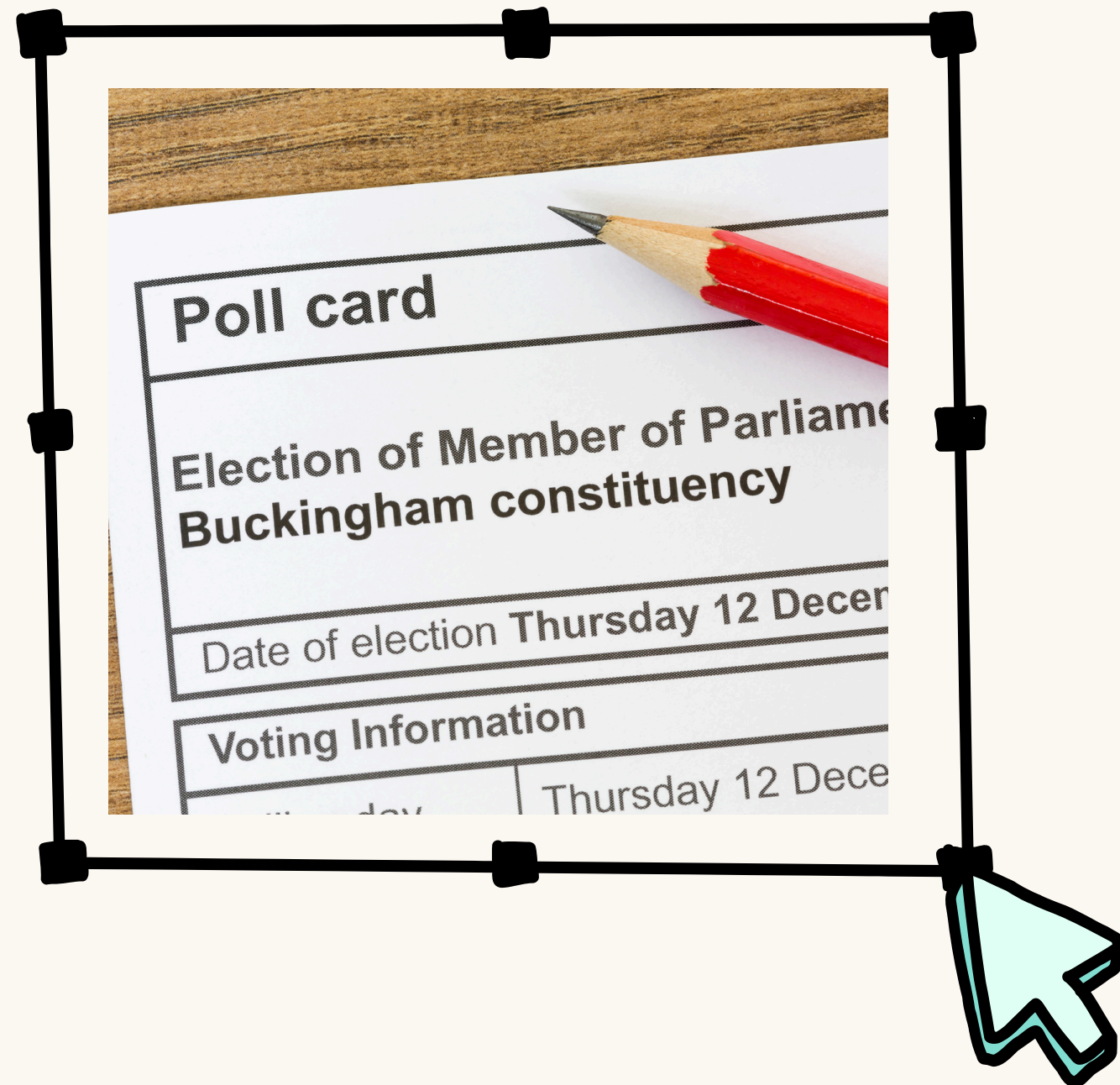
**Manifestos & leaflets**

**NHS**  
**JOBS**

**CLIMATE**  
**EDUCATION**  
**COST OF LIVING**

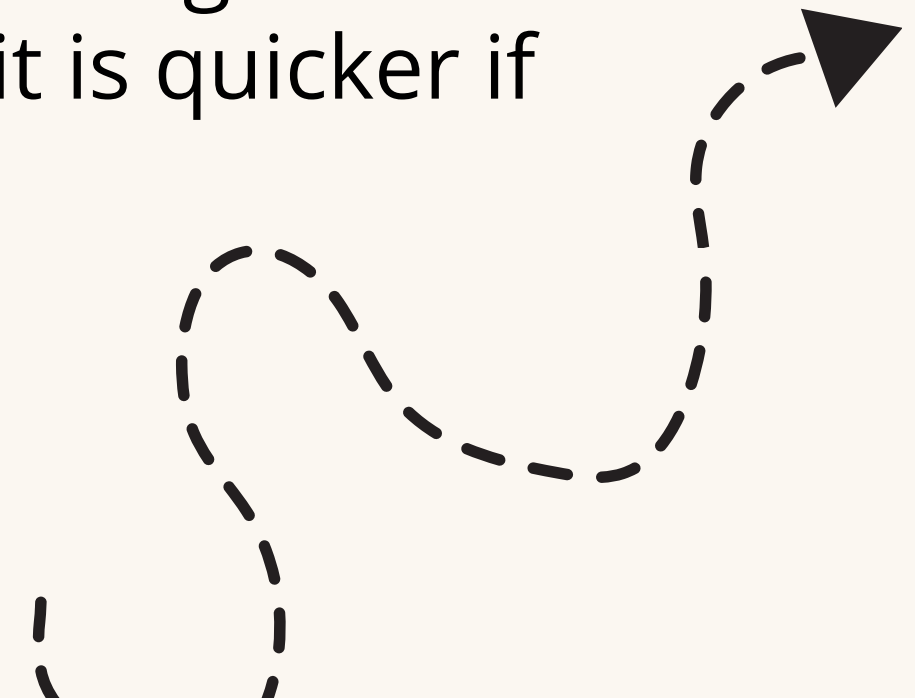
**SOCIAL CARE**  
**BENEFITS SYSTEM**





A couple of weeks before the election you will receive your polling card through the post. This will tell you your constituency, the date of the election, your polling station and the times the polling station is open.

You don't need to take your polling card with you when you go to vote but it is quicker if you do.



There is a new rule that requires voters to show photo ID when they vote at polling stations. This only applies to UK General Elections, and you will not need photo ID for Scottish Parliament elections or local Council elections.



## Voter ID

### • WHAT ID CAN I USE

Many forms of ID are acceptable, the most common are:

- Passport
- Driving Licence
- Bus Pass

### • I DON'T HAVE ID

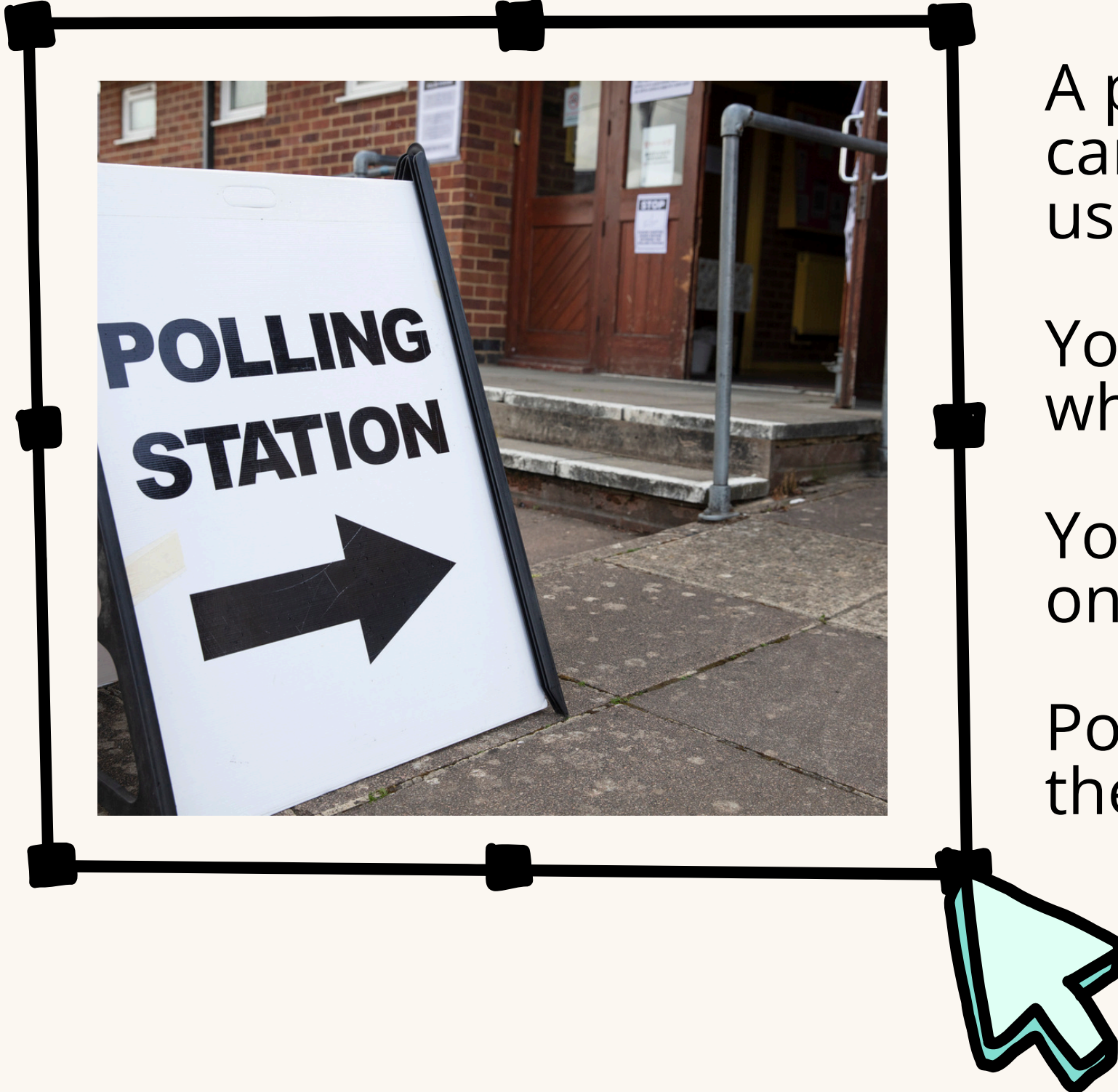
If you don't have one of the accepted forms of Photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. This is if you:

- Don't have an accepted form of photo ID
- Aren't sure whether your photo ID still looks like you

You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate on the [UK Government website](#).

### • ID RULES

- You only need to show 1 piece of ID
- It must have a photo on it (it can be out of date as long as the photo looks like you)
- It must be original (no photocopies)
- It must have the same name on it that you used when you registered to vote

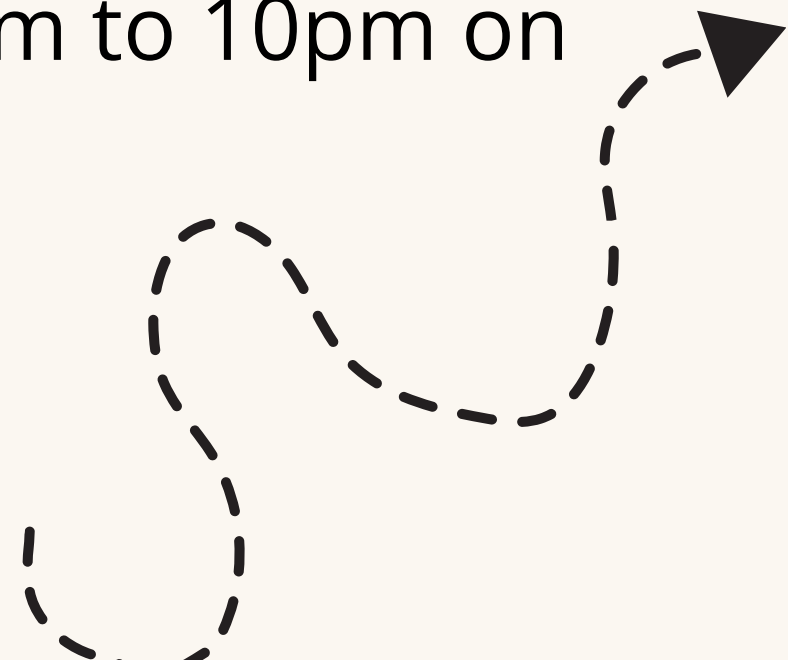


A polling place or polling station is where you can go and vote in person. Polling places are usually primary schools or community halls.

Your polling card tells you when to vote and at which polling station.

You can only vote at the polling station location on your card.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on the day of an election.



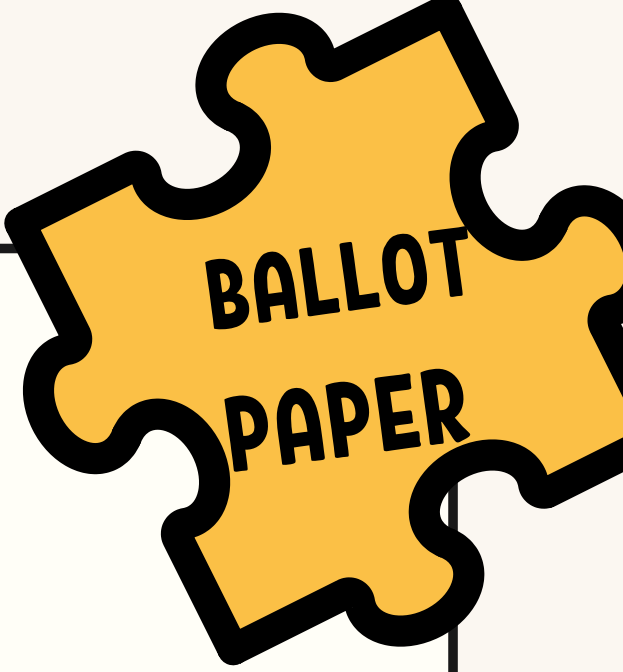




## What do I do when I arrive to vote?

- Some polling stations have different areas/desks in the polling station for different streets (sometimes they use surnames).
- Check which one you need to go to then head there.
- Hand over your polling card or give them your name.

- They will check your ID.
- Give you your ballot paper along with any instructions about how to vote and what to do with your paper once you have made your vote.
- Head to a private booth to make your vote



- **WHAT THE BALLOT PAPER LOOKS LIKE**

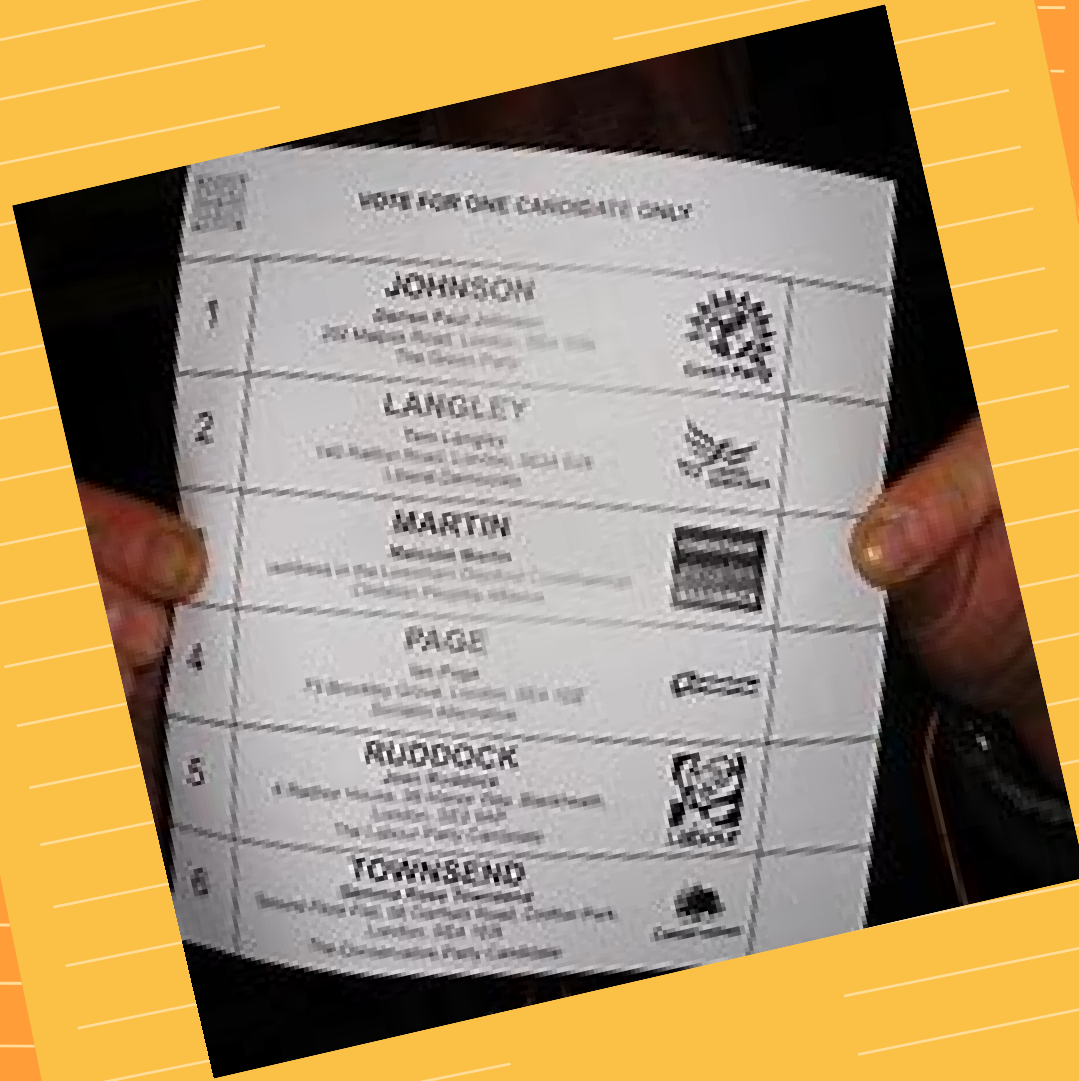
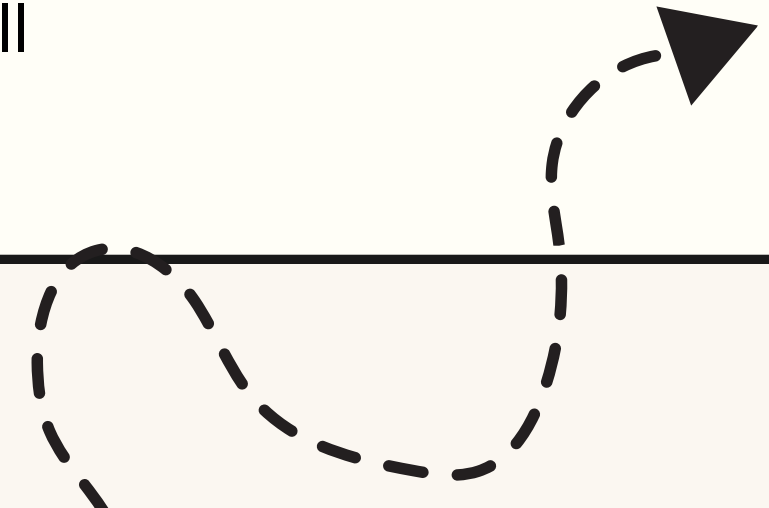
The Ballot paper will have a list of all the candidates you can vote for in your constituency along with the party they represent.

- **WHAT DO I DO**

There will be instructions in the booth to help and remind you but for this General Election you want to put a X next to the person you want to vote for. Don't put any other marks on the paper otherwise it will be 'spoiled' and your vote won't count.

- **BALLOT BOX**

After you have put your X on your Ballot paper, post it in the Ballot Box, usually you are told to fold it in half (the information inside the booth will tell you what to do so don't panic).



## What if I can't vote on the day?

- If for some reason you can't get to the polling station (eg if you are ill) you can request an emergency proxy vote.
- You need to fill in an emergency proxy vote form and return it to the elections team at your local council before the deadline
- You will need someone to confirm your reason for requesting the emergency proxy vote. If you are too ill to vote, it should be a registered health professional.
- You need someone else who is a registered voter to go to the polling station and mark a ballot paper for you.
- You can apply until 5pm on election day - though you can also apply up to six days ahead, if you realise you won't make it to the polling station.