



## Frequently asked questions

### **1. The Voter Registration Champion Scheme**

#### **What is the Voter Registration Champion scheme?**

The Voter Registration Champion scheme is a pioneering non-partisan accreditation program from Citizens UK that awards a Voter Registration Champion badge to organisations that ensure their members are prepared to participate in democracy. This scheme acknowledges faith and community organisations, schools and universities, and employers that assist in making their constituents 'election-ready' by ensuring they are registered to vote, are informed about the new photo ID requirements, and are encouraged to vote. Partnering with various organisations, we aim to prepare 300,000 at-risk voters for the upcoming general election. More information is available at [www.voterchampion.org.uk](http://www.voterchampion.org.uk)

#### **Why are you asking us to verify that people are registered?**

Merely making people aware of the need to register to vote is insufficient, as 8 million eligible voters are missing from electoral registers across the UK. Given that the Electoral Commission and local councils are limited by resources and reach, civil society organisations, including educational institutions and mosques, need to take a proactive role in engaging their members and verifying their registration status. We require a responsible figure in each organisation to report how many have confirmed their readiness to vote. This allows us to track progress toward our goal of registering 300,000 at-risk voters.

#### **What do we need to do to be accredited as a Voter Registration Champion?**

The criteria for becoming a Voter Registration Champion vary by type of organisation. You can apply for accreditation as soon as you have a plan to meet the criteria – there's no need to wait until you've completed all steps. Detailed information about accreditation can be found on our website: [www.voterchampion.org.uk](http://www.voterchampion.org.uk). For faith and community organisations, schools, and universities, the criteria include:

- Voter Registration: Conduct an annual Voter Registration campaign to ensure all eligible members are registered (or have chosen not to) before the deadline, aiming for a 90% success rate.
- Voter ID: Educate your members about Voter ID requirements and ensure they have the necessary photo ID before the election.
- Voter Turnout: Remind your members of the election date and encourage them to vote.
- Voter Registration Week (9-18 June 2024): Participate in Voter Registration Week activities to help build the movement.



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### **2. Registering to Vote**

#### **Why do we need to help people register to vote?**

A general election has been called for 4 July 2024. With 8 million people at risk of being excluded from voting because they are not registered, it's crucial that we engage these potential voters, many of whom are part of our educational and religious communities.

#### **How do I check if I am registered to vote?**

Checking your registration status isn't straightforward, especially if you have moved recently. The best approach is to re-register if you are unsure. This is simple and can prevent unintentional disenfranchisement. You can register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or by using a paper form from the Electoral Registration Office at your local council.

#### **How do we help people register to vote?**

Registering to vote is quick and easy. It requires basic information such as name, address, date of birth, nationality, and optionally, your National Insurance number. The deadline for registration for the upcoming General Election is 18 June 2024.

#### **How do we know who is eligible to register to vote?**

Eligibility to vote in the UK includes residents aged 16 or over (voting from age 18), and citizens of the UK, Ireland, EU, or Commonwealth with appropriate immigration status. The websites <https://canivote.org.uk/> and <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk> provide resources to help determine eligibility.

#### **What about people who want to keep their address a secret, are abroad, or have no fixed abode?**

It is possible for people to register themselves to vote anonymously if having their name and address on the electoral register could affect their safety, or the safety of someone in their household:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/register-vote/register-vote-anonymously>. There is an array of guidance for people who might otherwise struggle to register to vote (armed services, people experiencing homelessness, Gypsy or Traveller community etc.) on the Electoral Commission's website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/other-registration-options>



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### 3. Voter ID

#### What are the new rules around Voter ID?

Starting from the next general election, photo ID will be required at polling stations. Full details and a list of acceptable IDs can be found at [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need)

#### What forms of photo ID can I use for the election?

You can check whether you have the right ID here: [www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need). The photo on your ID must look like you. You can still use your ID even if it has expired. Here is the full list of accepted ID:

- a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional);
- a driving licence issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands;
- a UK passport;
- a passport issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country;
- a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme);
- a Blue Badge;
- a biometric residence permit (BRP);
- a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90);
- a national identity card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein;
- a Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card;
- a Voter Authority Certificate;
- an Anonymous Elector's Document.

You can also use one of the following travel passes as photo ID when you vote:

- an older person's bus pass;
- a disabled person's bus pass;
- an Oyster 60+ card;
- a Freedom Pass;
- a Scottish National Entitlement Card (NEC);
- a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card;
- a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card;
- a Northern Ireland concessionary travel pass.

#### What if I don't have an accepted form of photo ID?

If you don't have one of the photo ID forms listed above, then you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate from your local council. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, 26 June (5pm).

You can apply for free photo ID from your council here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. You'll need a recent, digital photo of yourself and your National Insurance number (you can still apply if you do not have a National Insurance number, but you'll need to provide other documents to prove your identity, for example a birth certificate, bank statement and utility bill).





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### **4. Voter Turnout**

#### **How do I vote?**

If you have registered to vote, then your local council will send you a poll card in the post a few weeks before the election. You will need to go to the polling station allocated to you based on your address on the electoral register – this will be on your poll card. Before you go to vote, check where your polling station is. It might not be the closest one to where you live, and it might have changed since the last time you voted. You must go to your allocated polling station - you can't go to a different one close to where you work, for example. If you are unsure about your allocated polling station, you can use the tool on this page of the Electoral Commission's website for the fortnight ahead of the election:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/voting-person>. Polling stations will open at 07:00 and close at 22:00. You don't need to take your poll card to vote, but don't forget to take your photo ID! Once at the polling station, the staff there will give you your ballot paper so you can vote.

#### **What about if I can't get to the polling station on election day?**

If you cannot get to the polling station on election day then you can apply for a postal vote (you'll be sent your ballot paper in advance and asked to return it by post ahead of the election) or you can apply for a proxy vote (where a trusted person votes in person on your behalf).

You can find information about applying for a postal vote here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post>. The deadline to apply for a postal vote is Wednesday, 19 June (5pm).

You can find information about applying for a proxy vote here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/apply-vote-proxy>. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is Wednesday, 26 June (5pm).

#### **What if I have applied to vote anonymously to preserve my safety?**

A different process applies for those who have registered to vote anonymously. Guidance here: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/ways-vote/how-vote-anonymously>.