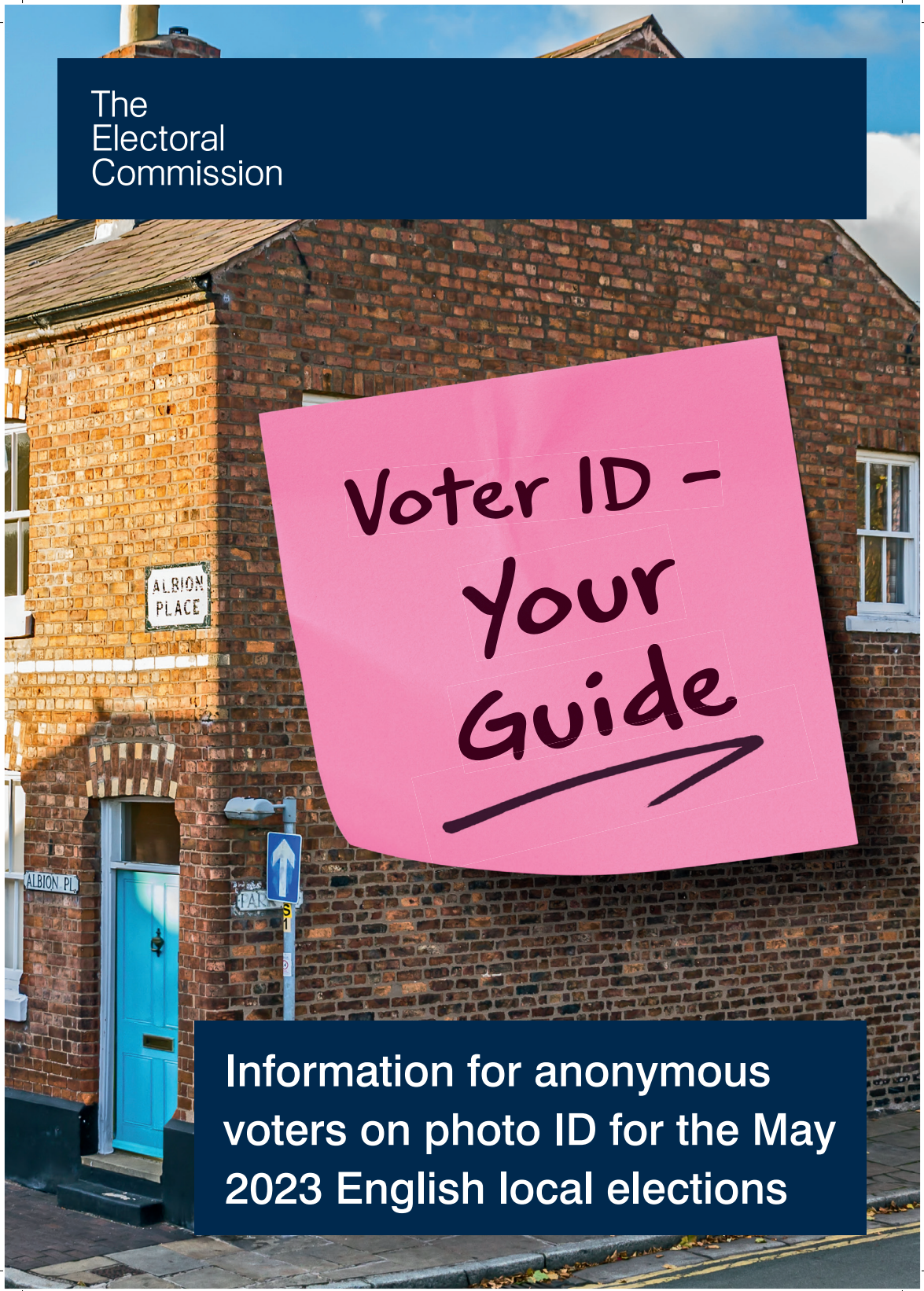
The Electoral Commission



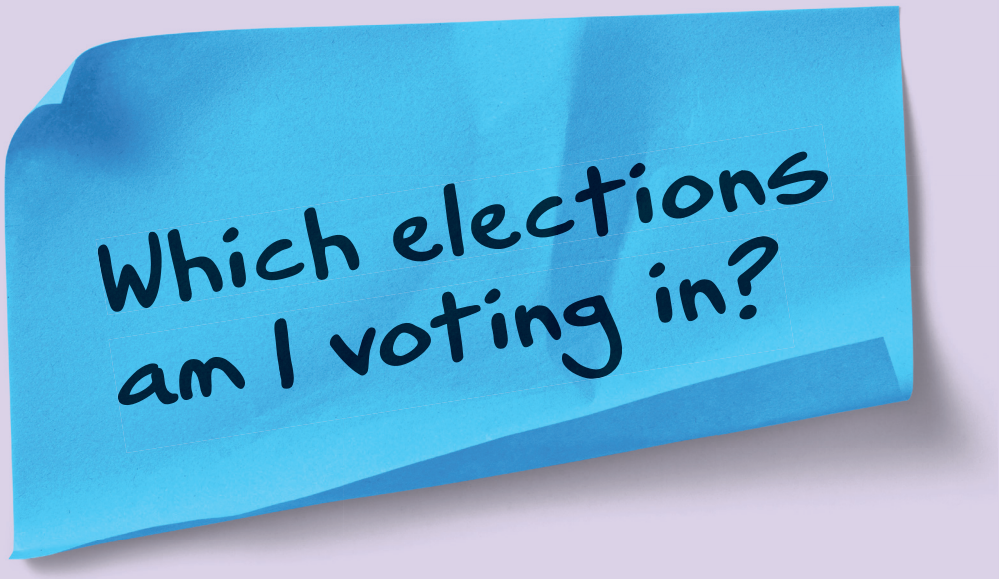
Information for anonymous voters on photo ID for the May 2023 English local elections

The Electoral Commission

On Thursday 4 May 2023, local elections are taking place across England.

At these elections, you will need to bring photo ID to be able to vote at a polling station. If you are registered to vote anonymously, or plan to register anonymously, you'll need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document and bring this with you to the polling station. You will not need to bring an additional form of photo ID.

This leaflet will explain how to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document, what to expect when you go to your polling station, and other ways to vote.



Local elections are taking place across 230 areas in England on **Thursday 4 May 2023**, including local council, mayoral and parish elections.

To find out if there are elections happening in your area go to **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID**

Or call our helpline on **0800 328 0280**.



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

If you feel that your name and address being on the electoral register could put your safety, or the safety of someone in your household, at risk you can apply to register to vote anonymously.

This means you will still be able to vote, but your name and address will not be on the electoral register.

Once your application has been approved, you will be registered as an anonymous voter for 12 months. You will need to reapply each year.

After the 12 month period ends, you will need to re-register anonymously. The elections team at your local council will contact you to tell you what information you need to provide so your registration can continue for a further 12 months.

To find out more about registering to vote anonymously, contact your local council. You can find their contact details by visiting **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**. You can also call our helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

Applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document



If you are an anonymous voter and you want to vote at a polling station at the upcoming elections, you will need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document by **5pm on Tuesday 25 April**.

You should apply as soon as possible in case the local council need to check any details with you.

If you are already registered as an anonymous voter, or you register to vote anonymously ahead of the elections, you will be invited to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document by your local council.

You can also download an application form at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID** or contact your local council to request one. You can find their details by entering your postcode at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**

What information do I need to give when I apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document?

When applying for an Anonymous Elector's Document, you will need to provide your:

- **Name**
- **Address**
- **Date of birth**
- **National Insurance number**

If you don't know your National Insurance number, or don't have one, you can still apply. Your council will contact you to request alternative proof of your identity. This could include a birth certificate, bank statement or utility bill. The council will contact you to arrange this.

You can also ask someone who knows you to provide an attestation to the council to verify your identity if you don't have any other accepted proof of identity. Your local council can provide more information on who can provide an attestation. You can find contact details for your local council by entering your postcode at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**

You will also need to submit a photograph with your application. The requirements for the photograph are similar to the requirements for a passport photo. Your local council can take your photo for you.



Find out more about the requirements at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID**



Or call our helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

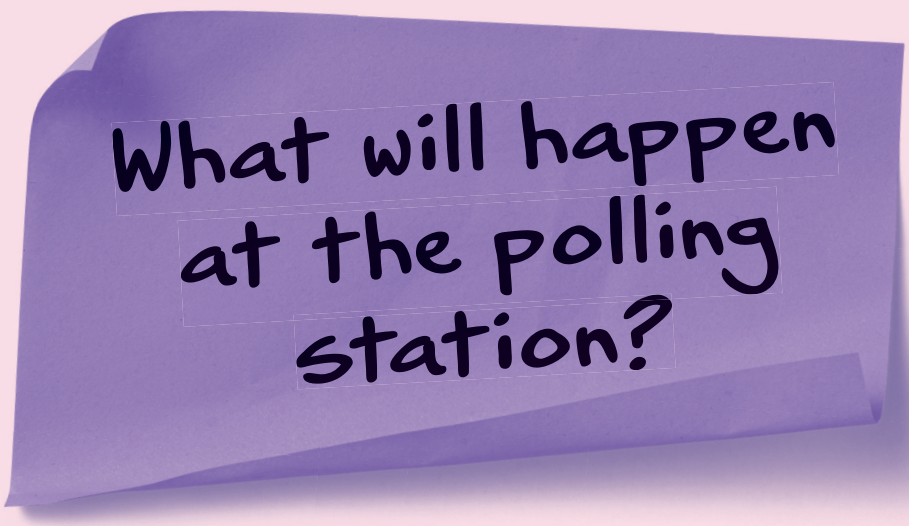
What does an Anonymous Elector's Document look like?

An Anonymous Elector's Document has the words 'Elector's Document' written on the top, and does not refer to your status as being registered to vote anonymously.

An Anonymous Elector's Document includes:

- The date of issue
- Your photograph
- Your electoral number (which is the number which will appear on the electoral register instead of your name and address)
- An appropriate identifier (which is a combination of 20 letters and numbers generated by the software used by Electoral Registration Officers)

If you are an anonymous voter you need to bring your Anonymous Elector's Document when you go to the polling station. You do not need to bring an additional form of photo ID with you.


What will happen at the polling station?

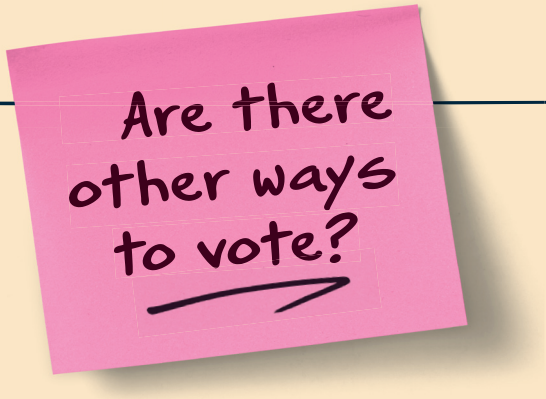
You will need to bring both your poll card and your Anonymous Elector's Document when you go to your polling station.

When you arrive, you will be greeted by a member of staff. They will:

1. Ask to see your poll card
2. Find your elector number on the electoral register
3. Check your Anonymous Elector's Document
4. Give you your ballot paper

A private area will be available at polling stations so you can choose to have your Anonymous Elector's Document viewed in private. This may be a separate room, or an area separated by a privacy screen, depending on the polling station.

Staff at the polling station are there to help. If you need assistance at any point, just ask.



If you've registered to vote but would prefer not to vote at a polling station there are other options.

Voting by post

You don't need to provide photo ID to vote by post.

18 To apply to vote by post, you'll need to complete a postal vote application form and make sure it arrives with your local council by **5pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023**.

You will receive your ballot paper in the post. Complete and return your ballot paper, ensuring you leave enough time for it to arrive at your local council by **10pm on Thursday 4 May**. If you can't post your postal vote pack in time, you can take it to your polling station or to your local council office on polling day.

Voting by proxy

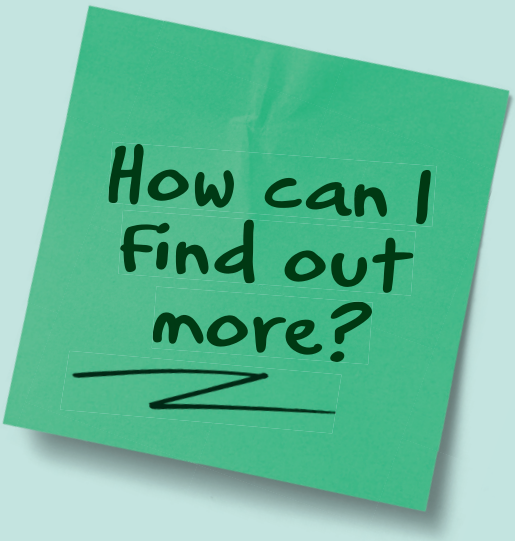
(allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf)

25 To apply to vote by proxy, complete an application form and send it to your local council to arrive by **5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023**.

The person you choose to vote on your behalf will need to go to your polling station to vote and will need to show their proxy poll card and their own photo ID to be able to cast your vote. They will not need to show your ID when voting on your behalf.

In an emergency where you cannot go to the polling station in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy up to **5pm on Thursday 4 May.**

For more information or to get a postal or proxy application form, visit **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter** or call our helpline on **0800 328 0280.**



If you have any questions or would like to obtain this information in an accessible format, go to **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID**, call our helpline on **0800 328 0280** or scan the QR code below.

This booklet has been produced by the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity.

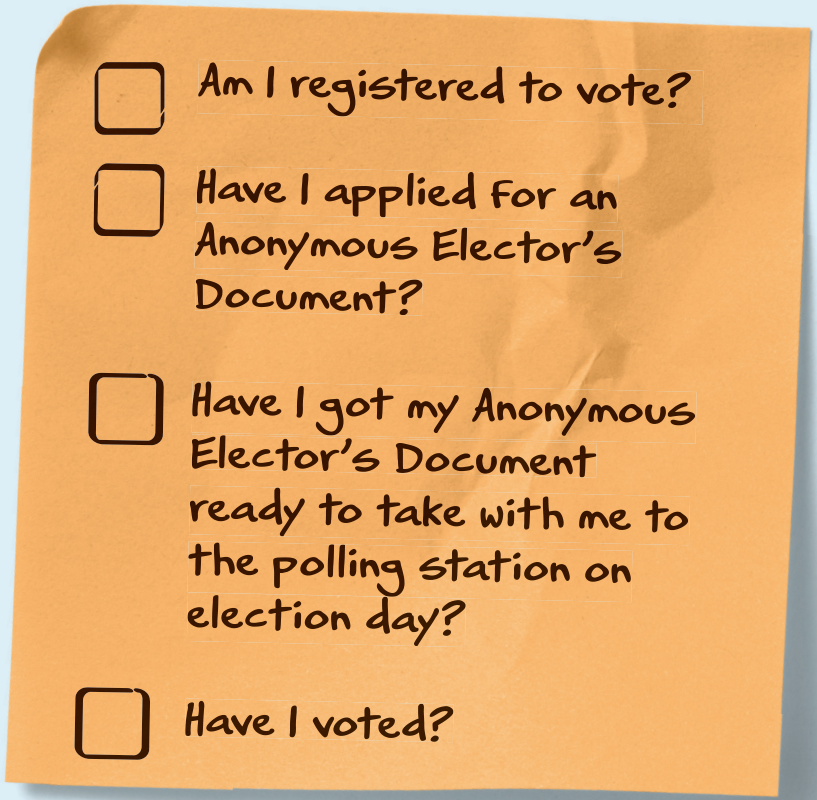
Follow us on

@ElectoralCommUK

facebook.com/ElectoralCommissionUK

@ElectoralCommissionUK

The Electoral Commission



The deadline to register to vote in the 2023 local elections is **11:59pm on Monday 17 April**.

The deadline to apply for a Anonymous Elector's Document for the 2023 local elections is **5pm on Tuesday 25 April**.

Visit **electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID** or call **0800 328 0280** for more information on:

- Anonymous voter registration
- How to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document
- What to expect at the polling station