



Local Elections

An easy read guide



A local election is when you vote for a councillor to represent the area you live in on the local council.



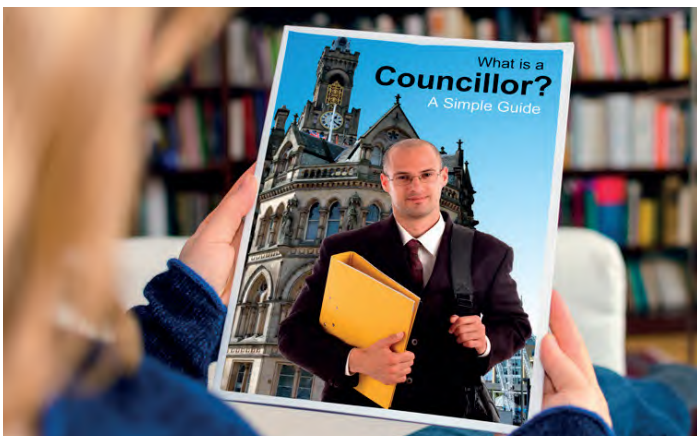
A councillor is different to an MP.

Councillors deal with things locally like schools, social care, housing, parks, leisure centres and so on.



MP's deal with things that affect the whole country.

We vote for them in a general election.



You can find out more about councillors in our easy read booklet – What is a Councillor?

Why should I vote in a local election?



Your local council deals with things that you see and use every day, like housing, parks, transport, recycling and many others.



They set the rate of council tax for your area which most people have to pay.



The councillor you vote for in the local election will get a say on important things in your local area that will affect you.



It is important to vote for the person who has some of the same ideas as you do for your local area.

Who should I vote for?



It is completely up to you who you vote for.

Don't let anyone else decide for you. Never let anyone else use your vote for themselves.



Try and find some information about all of the people who are standing for election.

They are called candidates.



In the run up to election day they will post leaflets through your letterbox telling you about themselves and the things they will do if they get elected.

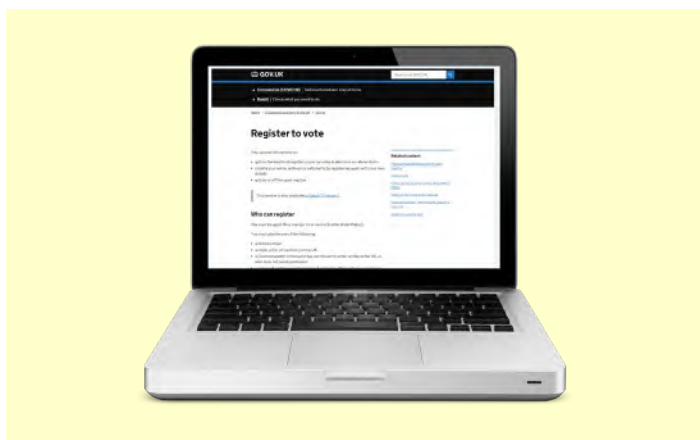


Some candidates might also be out and about in your local area so you can talk to them and find out their views.

Registering to vote



To vote in an election you must be 18 or over and be registered to vote.



If you are not registered to vote go online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

You will need your name, address and national insurance number. It's quick and easy to do.



Once you are registered to vote you can vote in person at a polling station or you can apply for a postal vote.



You can find out more in our other easy read guides on our website www.btm.org.uk

Voter I.D Info

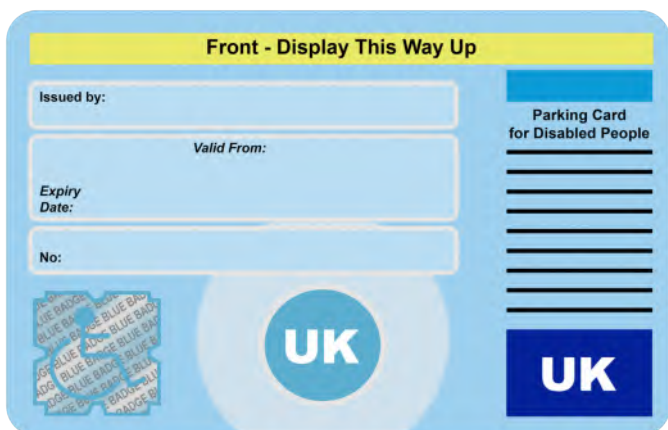


You now have to show photo identification (I.D.) to vote at a polling station.

There are lots of different types you can use including:

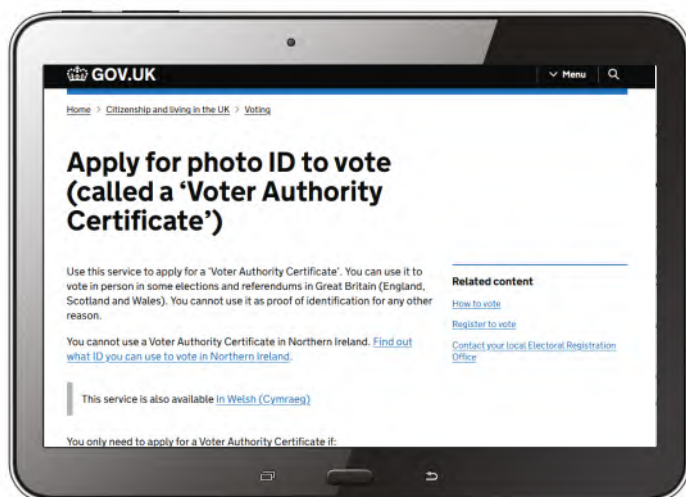
- Passport
- Driving license
- Bus pass
- Blue badge

It doesn't matter if the I.D. is out of date, but the photo must still look like you.



If you don't have any photo I.D. you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. You must be registered to vote before you do this.

For more information and to find out how to apply go to www.electoralcommission.org.uk



For more accessible information on a broad range of subjects please contact



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