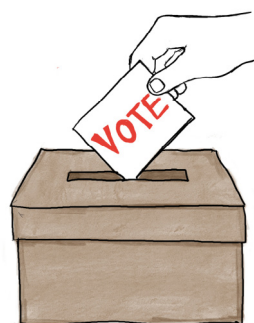




**FRIENDS,
FAMILIES &
TRAVELLERS**

The
Electoral
Commission



APPLYING FOR A **FREE VOTER
AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE,
AND OTHER WAYS TO VOTE**

VOTER AUTHORITY CERTIFICATE

If you want to vote in person at a polling station, you need bring an acceptable form of photo ID or a free Voter Authority Certificate.



You can get a **free** Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) if:

- You don't have an accepted form of photo ID like a passport.
- You're not sure if you still look like the photo on your ID.



This guide will explain how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate and other voting options, like postal or proxy voting (where someone votes on your behalf).

Keep reading to find out more about applying for your VAC and alternative voting routes.

Step 1: Register to vote

You need to be registered to vote before you can apply for a VAC.

Go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or you can ask your local council for a paper form.



Step 2: Apply for your Voter Authority Certificate

There are three ways to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate:

Online:

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

By post:

Ask your local council for a paper form. The form is available in English and other accessible formats. Go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-voter-authority-certificate-by-post-if-youre-living-in-the-uk for the form.

In person:

Some local Electoral Services Offices may let you apply in person. Find your local council by going to www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/your-election-information

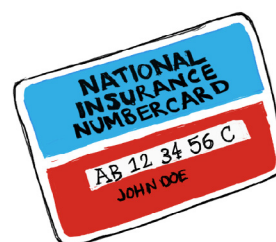
Step 3: What you'll need



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When applying, you'll need to provide:

- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- Your National Insurance number, or other documents to prove your identity if you don't have one.



Step 4: Include a photo

You need to include a photo with your application, like a passport photo. If you don't have one, your local council might be able to help you take one.



Step 5: Application deadline

You can apply for a VAC any time up to 5pm, six working days before election day.

Apply as early as possible, so it arrives in time.



Step 6: What happens next

Once your application is accepted, your VAC will be sent to you by post with instructions on how to use it.

Your VAC does not expire, but you should renew it after 10 years.





ALTERNATIVE VOTING ROUTES:

There are many ways you can vote, including by proxy or by post.

TO VOTE BY POST

Step 1: Apply to vote by post

If you want to vote by post, you can:

- Go online at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote
- Call your local electoral services team at your Local Authority to ask for a postal vote application form.
- Go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote to download the form.



Step 2: Fill out the form

The details you will need to provide include:

- 1. *Personal Information:***
Name, address, date of birth, and National Insurance number, or another proof of your identity.
- 2. *Address for postal ballot paper:***
Write the address where you want the ballot paper sent.
- 3. *Your declaration:***
Write your date of birth and sign the form.



Step 3: Return your form

Send the completed form to your local electoral registration office.

You can find their contact by going to [www.gov.uk/
contact-electoral-registration-office](https://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office)

Deadline to apply

**Apply for a postal vote by 5pm,
11 working days before the election date**

TO VOTE BY PROXY (FOR SOMEONE ELSE)

Step 1: Apply to vote by proxy

If you want someone else to vote on your behalf, apply for a proxy vote.

- Go online at www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote
- Call your local electoral services team at your Local Authority to ask for a proxy vote application form.
- Download a proxy vote application form at www.gov.uk/government/collections/proxy-voting-application-forms?step-by-step

Step 2: Fill out the form

Complete the form with the following details:

- Name, address, date of birth, and National Insurance number, or another proof of your identity.
- Say which elections you want a proxy vote for (e.g., local, general).
- Give the reason why you need a proxy vote (e.g., being away on election day).
- Provide the name and address of the person you want to vote on your behalf.
- Sign the form and date it.



Step 3: Return your form

Send the completed form to your electoral registration office.

You can find their contact details and more information at:
electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

**[Click here to contact
Electoral Registration
Office](#)**



If you are unsure about the process, or need more information, click [here](#)





FRIENDS, FAMILIES & TRAVELLERS

Contact Details:

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