



# Elections 2024: Voter ID and more

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**“Have you ever felt like you wouldn’t be able to deliver a successful election, or like there was a threat to delivering a successful election?”**

“I would say probably every election for the last 10 years, and I’m not joking.”

*Electoral administrator in  
2023 LGiU voter ID report*

# Online absent vote applications

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Live since 31 October 2023 – postal and proxy votes

Polls in England, Police and Crime Commissioner England and Wales, Recall and UK Parliamentary by-elections/general election GB wide

National system with Agile development approach

# Absent voting changes

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## **January 2024**

Postal vote fresh application every three years, with identity verification needed



## **May 2024**

Political parties and campaigners banned from handling postal votes



## **May 2024**

Limit on number of postal votes handed in by an individual



## **May 2024**

Electors only allowed to act as proxy for up to four people, no more than two 'domestic'

# Overseas electors

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- Applies to UK general elections only
- 15-year limit removed from 16 January
- Can use previously registered address, or area last lived in if never registered
- Registration lasts three years
- Up to 3.5m may be eligible

Photo: Dickelbers  
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via Wikimedia Commons



# 2024 scheduled elections

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2 May scheduled polls	Number of councils
<b>Principal councils</b>	107 in England
<b>Police and Crime Commissioners* (PCC)</b>	270 in England and Wales
<b>Combined Authority Mayoral* (CAM)</b>	47 in England
<b>Mayor of London and Greater London Authority</b>	All London Boroughs plus City of London

- PCC and Mayors now first past the post
- Combined poll counts
- Monday 6 May bank holiday

Plus local by-elections or referendums



# Pre-election period: 2 May 2024

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Code of  
Recommended  
Practice

By 19 March  
for London  
elections

By 26 March  
for all other  
elections

LGA guidance  
available

Returning and  
Monitoring  
Officer input

Tell elected  
members and  
officers

# Voter ID

- Reserved polls in GB only
- 2024 a first for many areas
- Electoral Commission resources
- VAC deadline: 5pm on 24 April
- Local knowledge is key
- GLA resources #NoVoteNoVoice





# Accessibility

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Must take all  
reasonable steps  
to support voters  
with disabilities

Electoral  
Commission  
guidance

Work with local  
charities and  
networks

# Ongoing issues

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- Polling station staff recruitment
- Polling station venues
- Abuse towards candidates
- Mis/disinformation
- Potential for protests





# UK Parliamentary general election

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- By 28 January 2025
- 25 working day timetable
- Counts and media interest
- New constituency boundaries



Photo: Sergeant Tom Robinson RLC/MOD,  
OGL v1.0OGL v1.0,  
via Wikimedia Commons

# But wait, there's more

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EU citizen voting  
and candidacy  
rights

Scotland and  
Wales reform

New digital  
imprints regime

New 'family  
voting'  
legislation

Electoral reform  
after general  
election?



