



Changes are coming to local elections following the introduction of the Elections Act 2022 which are to provide greater protection against election fraud.

The biggest change for the May 2023 elections is that you will have to show photo ID at your polling station in order to cast your vote. The message is - **NO ID, NO VOTE**.

The Electoral Commission is running a national publicity campaign up until polling day – you might already have seen or heard their media adverts. Epping Forest District Council is doing as much local publicity as possible too. They will be using social media and the elections team might send you a targeted email or text nearer to the election with a reminder about taking ID with you to vote. Spreading the word is vital so please tell your family, friends and neighbours about this key change to the voting process.

Practically any photo ID will do from passports and driving licenses to bus passes. Your document can have expired so long as the photo is still a reasonable likeness of you.

If you don't have an acceptable form of photo ID, you can apply online for a free Voter Authorisation Certificate (VAC) via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. If you need one, please apply well in advance of the elections in May 2023 to make sure it is delivered to you in time. You can also apply for a VAC by post. Please visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) to access the application form. The VAC will be produced centrally and posted out directly to you after identification verification checks with DWP records have been made.

More information about what can be used as acceptable photo ID, the deadline for applying for a VAC and the application form) can be found at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/elections-and-voting](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/elections-and-voting).

You will also find that poll cards will look different:

- they have been re-designed to list all the acceptable types of photo ID
- they will be printed on A4 paper rather than the traditional smaller card
- they will be enveloped up for ease of delivery

At polling stations, there will be new additional support for you if you have a disability. Another change in the Act is that if you have a disability you can now be assisted by anyone over the age of 18 (not just someone entitled to vote at the election as used to be the case.)

For more information on any of the changes, you can contact the elections team by either emailing [elections@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@eppingforestdc.gov.uk) or calling 01992 564411.