

Photo ID – what you need to know

Voting at polling stations now requires photo ID or a Voter Authentication Certificate



At all elections in Manchester, if you wish to vote in a polling station you must bring a form of photo ID. This fact sheet tells you why this major change has happened, the forms of photo ID you can use, and how to apply for a Voter Authentication Certificate (VAC).

Why do you need ID?

The UK Government has introduced photo ID for all elections in England, claiming it makes elections more secure. If you want to vote at a polling station, you must produce a form of photo ID to receive a ballot paper. On page two are the types of ID you can show at a polling station to vote.

If you do not possess one of these types of photo ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authentication Certificate (VAC) and present it at the polling station to vote.

Without original photo ID (no photocopies are allowed) or a VAC, you will not be able to vote at a polling station. If you do not want to vote in person at a polling station, you can apply to vote by post or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

Applying for a VAC

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you are not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a VAC. You also need to be registered to vote before you apply for a VAC. To do this go to this website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> or ring the Council on 0161 234 1212.

To apply for a VAC go to: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

If you need help filling in the form, email the Council's Digital Inclusion Team at digitalinclusion@manchester.gov.uk or text 07860 064 1228 and they will contact you to assist.

For further information go to the Manchester City Council Voter ID webpage: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100004/the_council_and_democracy/8520/voter_id or ring the Council on 0161 234 1212.

Voter ID information guides are at: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/100004/the_council_and_democracy/8520/voter_id/4

Types of ID you can use

Passports

UK, EU/EEA, Commonwealth country passport

Driving licences

UK, EU/EEA, Commonwealth photocard

UK pass card

National proof-of-age scheme With PASS hologram

UK blue badge scheme

Disabled person parking permit

Senior citizen bus pass

Transport for Greater Manchester photocard

Disabled person bus pass

Transport for Greater Manchester photocard

Biometric resident permit

Overseas resident work permit photocard

Defence veteran card

Known as MOD Form 90

National ID card

Used by Irish/EU/EEA citizens

The full list of acceptable ID can be found on the Electoral Commission's webpage: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id>