

Making elections fair for all

Helping our communities to vote in all elections held in Manchester



We know that recent changes to voting could have an impact on the ability of some of our residents to vote. We actively encourage citizens to register to vote and have trained our polling staff to help you at local, GM mayoral and UK Parliamentary elections.

Helping all our communities to vote

We want all our residents to be able to vote and we know that the changes to voter ID and postal/proxy voting could affect that.

We have worked with community groups from across Manchester in raising awareness of the potential issues and will continue to do this for elections in 2023/4.

If you don't have any photo ID or need assistance, please talk to us – Council staff in the Elections Team, in Libraries, in Neighbourhood Teams, and in the Customer Service Centre. Our Digital Inclusion Team can assist any voter who wants a VAC or support in registering for an election.

What we have done

The Council has:

- Made its polling stations as accessible as possible (see Fact Sheet 3).
- Translated key documents in polling stations into the 22 most used languages in Manchester, as well as providing access to Language Line.
- Set up privacy screens so that ID or other checks can be done in private.
- Supported people whose safety is at risk to register as an 'anonymous voter' so that their details will not be made public when they vote (see Fact Sheet 7).
- Encouraged you to have photo ID for the purpose of voting, and focused on supporting communities that may not possess ID, such as younger people and some older voters (see Fact Sheet 2).

For any further support please ring the Elections Team on 0161 234 1212 or email us at: esu@manchester.gov.uk

Additional information on what the Electoral Commission requests councils to do: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-returning-officers-assistance-voting-disabled-voters/ensuring-voting-accessible>

Useful information

How to register to vote: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

How to register for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) if you don't have photo ID: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Electoral Commission Voter ID guides in different formats: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/partner-charity-or-local-council/voter-id-resources>

MENCAP guide for elections and people with a learning disability: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-mencap/elections>

Learning Disability UK voting resources: <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/news/latest-news/voting-resources-2023/>

RNIB guide for voters who are blind or have a sight disability: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/independent-living/voting-and-elections-what-you-need-to-know/>

Advice for trans people who want to vote: <https://www.lgbthero.org.uk/advice-for-trans-people-voter-id-elections-uk>

If you do not have access to a computer, please visit your local library for assistance. You can also contact the Council's Digital Inclusion Team by ringing or texting them on 07860 064 128 for a call back.