

# Election Act 2022 changes

The Elections Act came into effect in April 2022 and set the scene for a number of changes to the election process.

The biggest change is that in May 2024 all electors will need to show photo identification (ID) when voting at the polling station. Some examples of acceptable ID is to the right. Out of date ID is permissible on the proviso the photo is still a likeness to the person. For the full list of acceptable ID click on the blue link to the right.

If an elector doesn't have the appropriate ID, they will be able to ask for a **Voter Authority Certificate**. They will need to apply for this before the election and will need to verify their identity with their date of birth, national insurance number as well as provide a photo. **Applications can be made online from mid-January. Please contact the Electoral Services team if a paper application form is required.**

The Electoral Registration Officer will need to check each application to make sure the person is registered at the address given, that the details match and that the photo is acceptable i.e. a full face photo has been uploaded.

A certificate will then be posted to the elector for use on election day.

## Links:

[Accepted forms of ID](#)

[Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate](#)

[Electoral Commission](#)

- ◆ PASSPORT
- ◆ DRIVING LICENCE
- ◆ BLUE BADGE
- ◆ BUS PASS

For the full list of acceptable ID click the blue link above.

# Principal Authority

## THE RETURNING OFFICER

Parish and town council elections are run by the Returning Officer who is a senior officer of the local authority in respect of their electoral functions. You will be able to contact the Returning Officer for your area by contacting your local Electoral Services Team.

**The Returning Officer will offer briefings ahead of an election.**

## THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

The Electoral Registration Officer is responsible for maintaining the register of electors and absent voters' lists for their local authority area.

The Electoral Registration Officer is a senior officer in the local authority and may also be the Returning Officer.

## USEFUL CONTACTS:

### The Electoral Commission

Tel: 0333 103 1928

[Contact Form](#)

### National Association of Local Councils

Tel: 0207 637 1865

Email:

[nalc@nalc.gov.uk](mailto:nalc@nalc.gov.uk)



### DORSET COUNCIL:

Electoral Services Team

Tel: 01305 838299

Email

[elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:elections@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

