

Vote your values!

**A toolkit for Poverty Alliance
members to help people vote**



povertyalliance.org/vote

Vote Your Values!

A [recent report from IPPR](#) highlighted a growing turnout gap in elections, and the growing role of money in British politics. This election is predicted to be the most unequal in 60 years, with those living on the lowest incomes least likely to vote.

The Poverty Alliance want to end this injustice.

We are working with Citizens UK's Voter Registration Champions scheme to make sure that 300,000 eligible voters don't lose their right to vote because they aren't registered.

In the lead up to the General Election, which will take place on Thursday 4th July 2024, The Poverty Alliance are inviting members to work with us to raise awareness about how people can register to vote and use that vote to end the injustice of poverty in our wealthy country.

This is a call to action being organised with support from Citizens UK and we wish to support our members to:

- Ensure your employees and those you work with are registered to vote.
- Highlight the need for photo ID and where to get it.
- Encourage those who are eligible to vote their values. Eligible voters must be registered to vote by Tuesday 18th June 2024 or else they cannot vote in the election taking place on Thursday 4th July.

Find out more about the work The Poverty Alliance is doing on the lead up to this General Election: povertyalliance.org/vote

Points to note:

If a person has not registered to vote by Tuesday 18th June at 11:59pm they will not be able to vote in the General Election which takes place on Thursday 4th July

Photo ID is now a requirement to vote at a General Election. There is information on what ID is acceptable here: [How to vote: Photo ID you'll need - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote-photo-id).

Free Photo ID (for voting purposes only) can be accessed here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

If a postal vote is required this should be applied for before Wednesday 26th June, 5pm. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

Practical steps you can take to get involved

Resources you will need:

A laptop with internet connection to enable people to register: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Pens and a stack of paper Voter Registration forms for people who may not want to, or be unable to, register online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-vote-if-youre-living-in-the-uk>

Activities you could host:

Host a Voter Registration drop-in during Voter Registration Week

Voter registration week takes place from Sunday 9th June up until Tuesday 18th June. Hosting a drop-in is a great way to engage with employees in your organisation or people who you work with who may be experiencing poverty.

The drop-in could be a table set-up with various resources to support anyone who wishes to register to vote. Alternatively, you could host an online drop-in with demonstrations of how to use the online voter registration forms.

Be sure to promote your drop-in event! Perhaps choosing a day when your organisation is typically busy and letting local press know that you will be hosting a drop-in. You can find a draft template news release in Appendix 1 below.

Assign your own internal contact for Voter Registration Week

Letting people who visit your organisation or who are employed there know that there is someone they can speak to about registering to vote may be helpful. No expert skills needed, just a friendly face to help those who wish to register to vote know where they can do so.

Share resources and links to useful information on social media

Social media can be powerful! The Poverty Alliance will have graphics and posters ready for you to share across your own social media platforms to highlight your involvement in this call to action. The Poverty Alliance will post useful links to information at www.povertyalliance.org/vote which we hope you will share with your own network.

Create a polling day plan

Make sure everyone you speak to leaves with a plan for polling day. Ensuring eligible voters know where their polling station is and how to get there, the opening and closing times of polling stations is a great way to help to alleviate any worries individuals have about going to vote. You can find a voter plan for you to fill out with those you are working with in appendix 2.

Information for your staff and networks

Registering to Vote

How do I check if I am registered to vote?

There is no simple way to check if you are registered to vote – and if you have moved recently there is a significant chance that you are not registered. The advice is: If in doubt, register to vote! If you have already registered it is not a problem if you re-register – you will only be allowed to vote once.

How do we help people register to vote?

It is very easy to register to vote. It takes five minutes, and you just need to know your name, address, date of birth, nationality, and your National Insurance number (though this is not compulsory, so don't worry if you can't find your National Insurance number).

You can register online www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Or by completing this paper form and sending it to the Electoral Registration Office at your local council: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-to-vote-if-youre-living-in-the-uk>

How do we know who is eligible to register to vote?

You can register to vote if you are resident (usually live) in the UK and aged 16 or over (but you will not be able to vote until you are 18). You must also be either a British, Irish or European Union citizen, or a Commonwealth citizen who has leave to enter or remain in the UK or who does not require such leave.

You can find out if you are eligible to vote by putting in your nationality into this website: <https://canivote.org.uk/>.

The Electoral Commission also has a good information page:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote.

What about people who want to keep their address a secret, are abroad, or have no fixed abode?

It is possible for people to register themselves to vote anonymously if having their name and address on the electoral register could affect their safety, or the safety of someone in their household: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/register-vote/register-vote-anonymously>.

There is an array of guidance for people who might otherwise struggle to register to vote (armed services, people experiencing homelessness, Gypsy or Traveller community etc) on the Electoral Commission's website:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/other-registration-options>

Voter ID

What are the new rules around Voter ID?

The rules are changing for this general election – if you don't take photo ID to the polling station you won't be able to vote. More information here:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id>

What forms of photo ID can I use for the election?

You can check whether you have the right ID here: www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need. The photo on your ID must look like you, but you can still use your ID even if it has expired.

Here is the full list of accepted ID: a UK or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence (full or provisional); a driving licence issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands; a UK passport; a passport issued by an EU country, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or a Commonwealth country; a PASS card (National Proof of Age Standards Scheme); a Blue Badge; a biometric residence permit (BRP); a Defence Identity Card (MOD form 90); a national identity card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein; a Northern Ireland Electoral Identity Card; a Voter Authority Certificate; an Anonymous Elector's Document.

You can also use one of the following travel passes as photo ID when you vote: an older person's bus pass; a disabled person's bus pass; an Oyster 60+ card; a Freedom Pass; a Scottish National Entitlement Card (NEC); a 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card; a Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card; a Northern Ireland concessionary travel pass.

What if I don't have an accepted form of photo ID?

If you don't have one of the forms of photo ID listed above then you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate from your local council. There will be a deadline to apply, normally a few weeks before the election day itself. You can apply for free photo ID from your council here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>. You'll need a recent, digital photo of yourself and your National Insurance number (you can still apply if you do not have a National Insurance number. You'll need to provide other documents to prove your identity, for example a birth certificate, bank statement, or a utility bill).

Appendix 1

Draft template news release

[Yourtown Organisation Logo could go at the top]

News Release

For immediate release / Embargo – date here

Stark warning about wealth voting gap

Anti-poverty campaigners are warning that this election could see the biggest-ever gap in voter turnout based on wealth.

[Yourtown Organisation] says voters on low incomes are being shut out of the political process, which allows politicians to ignore their interests.

Now they are **[organising a voter registration day at ..[time, date, location] / organising a voter drop-in at [time, date, location] / using posters, social media, and polling day plans]** to help people find out about the process of registering, voting with photo ID, and applying for postal votes.

A recent report by think-tank IPPR highlighted figures showing gap of 18% between voters in the top third of incomes, and those in the bottom third in 2020. It warned that this General Election is set to be the most unequal for more than six decades, due to the ballooning turnout gap and the growing role of money in British politics.

[Your spokesperson] of **[Yourtown Organisation]** said: “In a democracy, everyone's voice matters equally. So it's completely unjust that so many people on lower incomes get shut out from using their vote.

“We want to change that. We'll be helping people in **[Yourtown]** find out how to register to vote before the elections, and help them learn how to get a postal vote if they need it.

“But the biggest reason so many people don't use their vote is because politicians ignore them, and keep undermining the freedom and security they need for a better life, through supporting an unjust economy without fair work, and undermining UK social security. That has to change.”

Dr Parth Patel of IPPR said: “For the first time since the birth of democracy in this country, people do not expect their children to be better off than them.

“In the face of insecurity, people naturally want control - to take back control of a political process that has allowed wages to fall after flatlining for a decade, and locked generations out of owning a home.

“There are real differences in who gets their way in our democracy. Policy is more responsive to preferences of the well-heeled than of the worse off, and people know this – but it seems to be a blind spot for most politicians.

“No matter who’s in power, our democratic machine needs rewiring. If people are once again to be authors of their own lives, and to feel secure, they must sense their influence in the collective decision-making endeavour that is democracy.”

[Yourtown Organisation] is a member of The Poverty Alliance – Scotland’s national anti-poverty network, with nearly 500 members across the country. The Poverty Alliance has become an Ambassador for Citizen UK’s Voter Registration Champions programme – but says there also needs to be a fundamental rethink of how politics in the UK is carried out, and who it serves.

Ruth Boyle said: “We want people to register to vote before the 18 June deadline for taking part in the General Election. But we also want politicians to think hard about the direction they are taking us in, the policies they are putting across for and for all of us to come up with ways to renew and restore our democracy, so that it works for all of us.”

ENDS

Notes to editors

- Put details here of your organisation, a contact email, and a mobile phone number.
- Put details of any drop-ins or other events here.
- The Poverty Alliance is Scotland’s anti-poverty network. Together with our nearly members, we influence policy and practice, support communities to challenge poverty, provide evidence through research and build public support for the solutions to tackle poverty. Our nearly 500 members include grassroots community groups, academics, large national NGOs, voluntary organisations, statutory organisations, trade unions, and faith groups.
- IPPR (the Institute for Public Policy Research) is an independent charity working towards a fairer, greener, and more prosperous society. We are researchers, communicators, and policy experts creating tangible progressive change, and turning bold ideas into common sense realities. Working across the UK, IPPR, IPPR North, and IPPR Scotland are deeply connected to the people of our nations and regions, and the issues our communities face. We have helped shape national conversations and progressive policy change for more than 30 years. From making the early case for the minimum wage and tackling regional inequality, to proposing a windfall tax on energy companies, IPPR’s research and policy work has put forward practical solutions for the crises facing society. www.ippr.org
- The Poverty Alliance ‘Vote your values!’ resources are available at <https://www.povertyalliance.org/vote/>
- The IPPR Who Decides report is available at: <https://www.ippr.org/articles/who-decides>
- Information about Citizens UK’s Voter Registration Champions scheme is available here: <https://www.voterchampion.org.uk/>

Appendix 2

Voter plan

This is an example of how the front of the Voter Plan might look once it's been filled in. To get your blank Voter Plans, please print out pages 10 and 11 of this Toolkit as a 2-sided A4 document, and then cut along the dotted line to obtain 2 separate Voter Plans that you can complete with people.



Voter Plan for Thurs, July 4th, 2024

Personal Information

EXAMPLE

Name: *John Doe*

Polling Station Address: *94 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6PH*

Polling Station Hours: **7am to 10pm**

Pre-Election Preparation

Am I registered to vote: **Yes** **No**

What Photo ID will I bring with me: *photocard driving licence*

Election Day

Voting Time: *7am*

Travel to Polling Place: *[Method & Est Travel Time]*

Candidates in my area



<https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>



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Personal Information

Name:

Polling Station Address:

Polling Station Hours: **7am to 10pm**

Pre-Election Preparation

Am I registered to vote: **Yes** **No**

What Photo ID will I bring with me:

Election Day

Voting Time:

Travel to Polling Place:

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Name:

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Vote Your Values!

Have additional **questions about registration** or need **disability accommodations**?
Contact your local Electoral Registration Office

<https://www.gov.uk/contact-electoral-registration-office>

Need to check **eligibility**?

<https://canivote.org.uk/>

or

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote>

What **forms of photo ID** can be used for the election?

<http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need>

Need a **free photo ID**?

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Need to vote by **post**?

<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting>

Need to vote by **proxy**?

<https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-by-proxy>

Important Dates

June 18th: Deadline to register to vote

June 19th by 5pm: Deadline to apply for postal vote, online and by post

June 19th by 5pm: Deadline to apply to vote by proxy by post

June 26th by 5pm: Deadline to apply to vote by proxy online



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