



## Why is the Church of England encouraging its parishes to accredit as Voter Registration Champions?

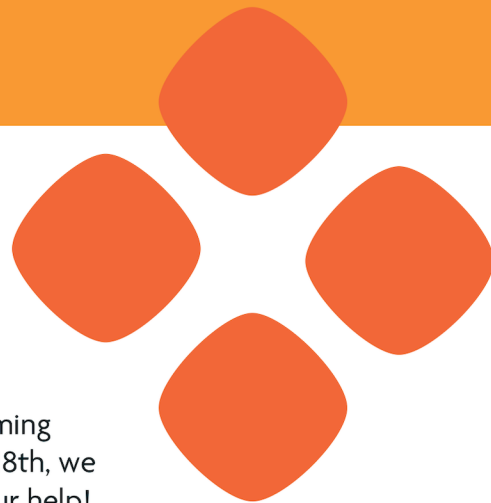
The Church of England is an Ambassador for the Voter Registration Champion scheme because it sees participating in the democratic process as an important civic responsibility, and because it has a particular concern to ensure the inclusion of exactly the groups in society that are most likely to be ‘at-risk’ of not being registered. According to Electoral Commission research, you are at greater risk of not being able to participate in the democratic process if you are: young, a non-UK national, rent your home, have moved recently, live in an economically-disadvantaged community, or are from an ethnic minority. With its presence in every community and commitment to the whole parish beyond the congregation, the Church of England is uniquely placed to serve people by making sure they are registered to vote.

As Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, and one of a group of bishops helping to resource the Church in the lead-in to the General Election, said at the launch of the scheme:

“The Church of England is proud to be a non-partisan Ambassador for the Voter Registration Champions scheme. It is so important to equip people to exercise their democratic rights, and the Church of England is especially concerned to make sure those people who are often excluded from democratic participation are able to be included. We’ll be encouraging our 42 diocese and our congregations across the country to sign up as Voter Registration Champions and do what they can to make sure that everyone in their communities is ready to vote when the election comes.”

The Electoral Commission estimates that 8 million eligible voters will miss out because they are not properly registered. 4 million eligible voters will miss out because they don’t have Photo ID. And 14 million eligible voters won’t see the point of turning out to vote.

The research shows you are at greater risk of not being able to participate in the democratic process if you are young, a non-UK national, rent your home, have moved recently, live in an economically disadvantaged community, or are from an ethnic minority.

VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
CHAMPION

By becoming a Voter Registration Champion, your organisation can make a difference to democratic participation in your community and join a non-partisan movement seeking to make sure 300,000 at-risk voters can exercise their right to vote. With the UK General Election coming up on 4 July, and the deadline for Voter Registration on June 18th, we have only a few weeks to make that happen - so we need your help!

We're asking every organisation that can, to do three simple things in Voter Registration Week (9 - 18 June 2024):

**1. Engage every regular member of your organisation (you can define who this includes) in person (e.g., when they come to your building) or by email:**

- a. encouraging them to register to vote ahead of the deadline (midnight, 18 June)
- b. reminding them of the Voter ID they will need to vote, and how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate by the deadline (5pm, 26 June)
- c. reminding them of the date and time that polling stations are open on election day (7am - 10pm, 4 July) and encouraging them to use their vote.

**2. Support other people in your wider community to get election-ready during Voter Registration Week by putting up a poster, using your social media, or whatever else makes sense in your context**

**3. Measure the impact to the best of your ability:**

- a. tell us how many people you plan to send the email to at the point that you apply to become a Voter Registration Champion;
- b. if you can, measure how many people opened the email, and/or clicked through to the link to register to vote or for a Voter Authority Certificate – and tell us after the election (we will send you a short impact monitoring form).

To become a Voter Registration Champion, simply complete this short form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/UCL7HqT2Z3>

**VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
CHAMPION**

### 1. Voter registration

If you are not registered to vote, you won't be able to vote at the next general election. The deadline to register is midnight, 18 June.

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.

It is easy to register to vote – there's a simple online form or you can fill in a paper version and send it to your council.

Register now: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

### 2. Voter ID

The rules have changed for the general election – if you don't take photo ID to the polling station you won't be able to vote. The deadline to apply for a free photo ID (called a Voter Authority Certificate) is 5pm, 26 June.

Check whether you have the right ID here:  
[www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need](http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need)

Not everyone will have the right ID. You can apply for a free photo ID document from your local council up to a few weeks before election day by going to: [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)



### 3. Voter turnout

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. If people don't vote they won't get a say on who gets to make decisions that affect their lives. Put the date of the election, 4 July, in your diary; work out where your local polling station is (it will be near home), and how you'll find time to vote that day (polling stations open from 7am - 10pm). You can also apply to your local council for a postal vote (deadline 5pm, 19 June) or proxy vote (5pm, 26 June) if you won't be able to vote in person.



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