

ELECTION INFORMATION

April 2024

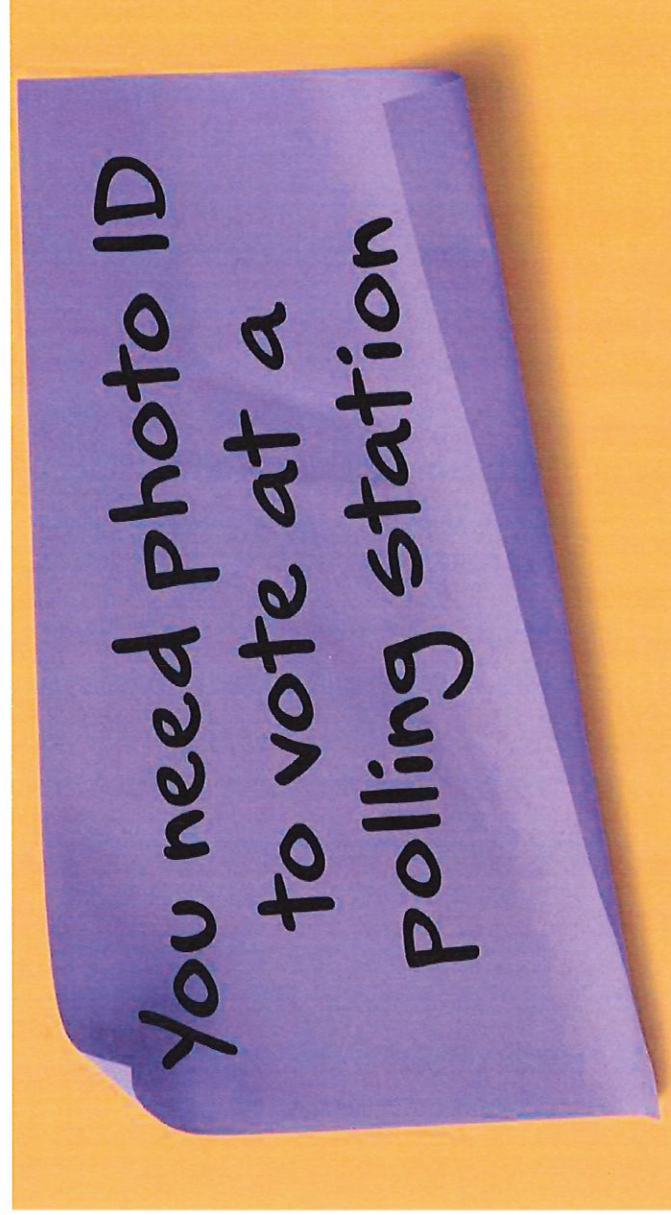


The poll for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight's Police & Crime Commissioner will take place on **Thursday 2 May** and it is the first Island wide election since the Elections Act 2022 came into force. Amongst the most significant changes are:

- The requirement of photo ID at polling stations
- Limits on the number of postal votes that can be handed in by any individual

These changes will also apply to the forthcoming General Election, whenever it is held.

PHOTO ID FOR VOTING



Voters may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable, including the following:

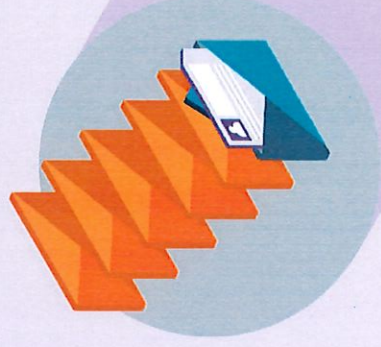
- Passport.
- Driving licence (including provisional licence).
- Blue badge.
- Certain concessionary travel cards (such as an Older Person's Bus Pass or an Oyster 60+ card).
- Identity card with Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) mark.
- Biometric Immigration document.
- Defence identity card.
- Certain national identity cards.

Voters will only need to show one form of photo ID, but it needs to be the **original version** and not a photocopy.

Registered voters without the required photo can apply for a free 'Voter Authority Certificate' and the deadline for applications in the Police & Crime Commissioner election is Wednesday 24 April. Full details can be found on the Council's [photographic voter ID page](#).

NEW POSTAL VOTE RULES

The
Electoral
Commission



The rules on who
can hand in postal
votes in England
have changed

The Electoral Commission says:

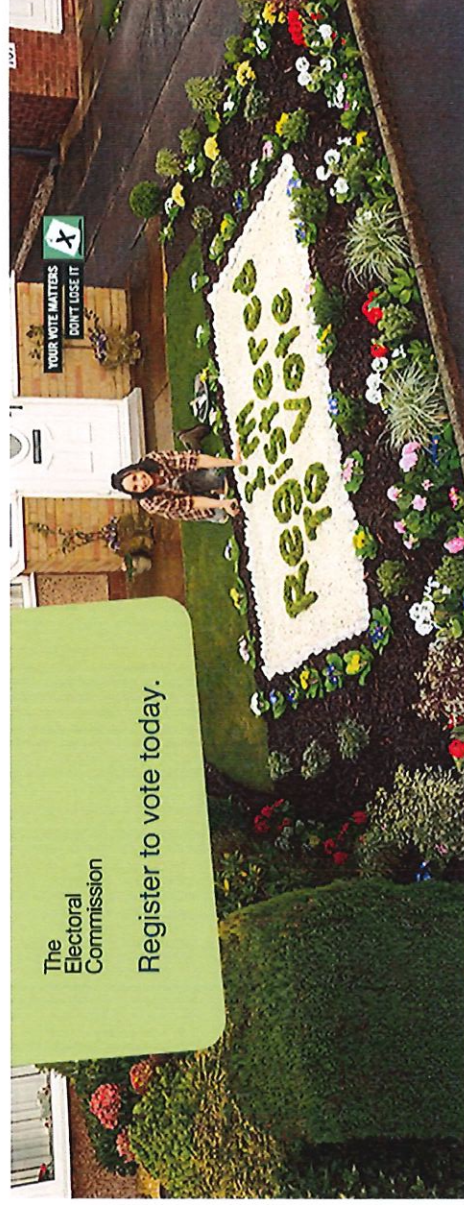
- Voters will be only able to hand in their own postal vote, and the postal votes of up to five other people, at a polling station.
- Campaigners can only hand in their own postal vote, and postal votes for up to five other people that are either close relatives, or someone they provide regular care for.
- All individuals handing in postal votes to local authority offices or polling stations will need to complete a postal vote return form.

Changes to voting by post and proxy

- Voters can now apply online to vote by post and for some types of proxy vote
- Voters need to prove their identity when applying to vote by post and by proxy
- There are changes to how many people someone can act as a proxy for
- Voters need to reapply for a postal vote every three years. Long-term postal votes applied for before 31 October 2023 will now expire on 31 January 2026.

The deadline for applications to vote by post for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police & Crime Commissioner is 5pm on Wednesday 17 April. The deadline to apply to vote by proxy is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April. Information about voting including links to postal and proxy voting can be found on [Isle of Wight Council's Electoral Registration page](#)

REGISTER TO VOTE



Those on the electoral register should have now received polling cards for the election on Thursday 2 May. For those who do not received polling cards, the council has a [Register to vote](#) page with relevant information. The last date to register as an elector for the Police & Crime Commissioner Election is Tuesday 16 April.

WHAT IS A POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER?

Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are still relatively new and this is only the fourth election for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight PCC. Residents may find this explanation from the **Electoral Commission** useful:

PCCs make sure that the local police in their area are meeting the needs of the community.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their police force area. They are elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the police force to account on their behalf.

Police and Crime Commissioners:

- Set the police budget and make sure it's spent effectively
- Appoint the Chief Constables of the local police forces
- Engage with the public and victims of crime to help set police and crime plans and organise projects within the community
- Work closely with the local council and other community organisations on these plans and projects

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. It works to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity. For more information about voting and elections, visit the [Electoral Commission website](#).

Claire Shand, Returning Officer
Isle of Wight Council