

Elections Act 2022

Timetable of events through to 2027

Timetable	Requirement	Task
From 16/01/2023	Elections Act 2022	Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) The Governments Web Portal goes live to enable electors who declare they do not have photographic ID to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) to use in the polling station. The certificate is free of charge.
Within two months of Monday 16/01/2023	Elections Act 2022	To write out to all Anonymous electors - EROs are required to notify all existing qualifying anonymous electors on their register who do not have a postal vote set up of the new requirement to have an Anonymous Elector's Document. This must be completed within two months of The Voter Identification Regulations 2022 coming into force (16 March 2023).
From Thursday 04/05/2023	Elections Act 2022	Requires voters to show photo ID at polling stations before a ballot paper is issued this implemented for the first time. This applies to all relevant polls except for a UK Parliamentary General Election where this provision doesn't apply until 5 October 2023. It does apply for any UK Parliamentary by-elections held from May 2023 until 5 October 2023.
From Thursday 04/05/2023	Elections Act 2022	Accessibility in polling stations is extended requiring Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide support for voters with a disability in polling stations
From Thursday 04/05/2023	Elections	The number of subscribers will be reduced on a nomination paper for principal area elections in England from 10 to 2. This amendment comes into effect for scheduled elections and by-elections on or after 4 May 2023.
From Thursday 04/05/2023	Elections Act 2022	The voting system used for the election of the Mayor of London and local authority Mayor has been changed from the Supplementary Vote to First Past the Post for polls taking place on or after 4 May 2023. This will apply to the local election polls in 2026 in Tower Hamlets.
August - October 2023	Elections Act 2022	Subject to secondary legislation and statutory instruments the following changes are expected to be in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'fifteen-year rule' to qualify to register as an Overseas elector will be scrapped to allow all British citizens living overseas to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, regardless of when they left the UK. The statutory instruments will be made for the changes to take place in January 2024. Electors will be able apply online for an absent vote, with both online and paper applications with an additional requirement that the applicant's identity is verified in a similar way to an application to register to vote. This is expected to be implemented in October 2023 subject to statutory instrument.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All postal voters will be required to reapply for a new absent vote every three years, replacing current rules that only require the refreshing of signatures every five years. (This has now been delayed to January 2026 and no signature refresh to be undertaken in 2024 or 2025) Further limits will be applied relating to the number of people someone may act as proxy for. Voter identification comes into force for UK Parliamentary General Elections held on or after 5 October.
November 2023	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to secondary legislation and statutory instruments the following changes are expected to be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of the extension to the rules relating to undue influence (Corrupt practice) new electoral statutory instruments and sanctions for intimidation come into effect. a new regime relating to digital imprints on campaign literature takes effect. commonly known names and addresses will be extended and will apply from May 2024 polls.
December 2023	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to statutory instruments being made the following change is expected to be in place after the May 2024 polls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU citizen's voting and candidacy rights (EUVCR) – this will be the removal of ineligible EU nationals on publication of revised register
From Thursday 02/05/2024	Elections Act 2022	<p>The following changes are expected to be in place for elections from May 2024 after statutory instruments made in December 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrictions to the handling of postal votes, including limiting the number of postal votes an individual can hand into the polling stations and to the Returning Officer. absent vote secrecy- the secrecy of the ballot requirements in polling stations extended to absent voting. changes to candidates addresses come into force. changes to commonly used names come into force
Thursday 02/05/2024 (Polling Day)	GLA	<p>GLA polls to take place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mayor of London 14 members of the London Assembly that represent London's 14 Constituencies 11 Assembly members (London wide) <p>TH is in the City & East Constituency with Newham the lead authority, Barking & Dagenham, and the City of London.</p> <p>The RO for TH will be the Borough Returning Officer (BRO) with a Memorandum of Understanding agreed with the Newham CRO.</p>
After Thursday 02/05/2024	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to secondary legislation the following change is expected to be in place:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> change voting and candidacy arrangements for EU voters (EUVCR)
January 2025	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to secondary legislation the following transitional arrangements are expected to be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU citizen's voting and candidacy rights (EUVCR) – implementation completed ahead of May 2025 polls.
Must be held by 28/01/2025	General Election	UK Parliamentary General Election – can be held at any point following the repeal of Fixed Term Parliament Act but no later than 28 January 2025
January 2026	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to secondary legislation the following transitional arrangements are expected to be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require postal voters to reapply every three years, replacing current rules of refreshing their signature every five years (reserved polls) This will be the first time this will take place following the changes introduced by DLUHC. Some postal vote identifiers could be 6 years old when this takes place.
Thursday 07/05/2026	Elections	Borough Ward elections and Local Authority Mayor under the new counting system of First Past the Post
January 2027	Elections Act 2022	<p>Subject to secondary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require postal voters to reapply every three years, replacing current rules of refreshing their signature every five years (reserved polls)