



Getting ready for the general election

VOTE

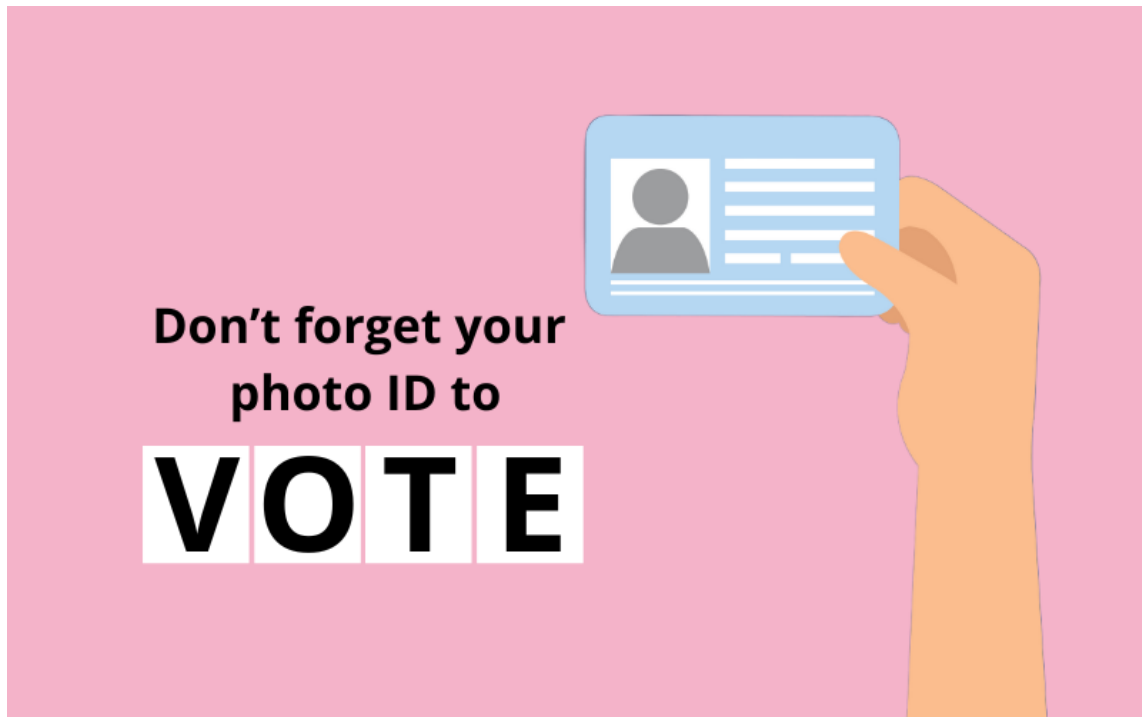
Thursday 4 July

Chelmsford residents who are on the electoral register will be able to **cast their vote in the general election on Thursday 4 July**. For a parliamentary election, Chelmsford residents are divided into 3 different constituencies: Chelmsford, Maldon and North West Essex. We look after the Chelmsford vote, Maldon District Council takes care of Maldon and Uttlesford District Council administers the North West Essex constituency.

If you're registered to vote, you will have received a poll card in the post from the council overseeing your area. This will tell you where your allocated polling station is. **You do not need your poll card to vote** and if you can't find it, don't worry. You can look up your polling station online at <https://wheredoivote.co.uk/>. Polling stations are open between 7am and 10pm.

You can check who is standing in your constituency on the [Who Can I Vote For? website](#) by searching using your postcode.

Bring accepted photo ID to vote in person



In 2022, the government passed a law requiring everyone to show ID when they vote in person at a polling station.

So, if you're planning to vote in person on Thursday, you'll need to **show an accepted form of photo ID** to prove your identity. Lots of different forms of photo ID are accepted, and you can even use an out of date photo ID if it still looks like you and has the same name as the one you used to register to vote. You must have the original version of your photo ID to vote. Photocopies, scans and photos of ID will not be accepted.

Check you have the right ID to vote on the [Electoral Commission website](#) before you head to the polling station.

If you have applied for a [proxy vote](#) and someone is voting on your behalf, they must show their own approved photo ID at the polling station. If you can't vote in person on election day, you may be able to apply for an emergency proxy vote. Find out more about this on the [Chelmsford City Council website](#).

Handing in postal votes



If you live in the Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and have chosen to vote by post but you've run out of time to send it back to us by mail, **you can also drop off your postal vote at our office (at the address on envelope B in your postal vote pack) or [at any polling station operating in our parliamentary area](#)** by 10pm on 4 July.

If you live in the [Maldon](#) or [North West Essex](#) parliamentary constituencies you must drop off your postal vote at a polling station within those boundaries.

If you choose to [hand in your postal vote in person](#), **you'll need to fill out a postal vote handling form** provided by polling station or reception staff, otherwise your vote can't be accepted. This is a new requirement, so please don't drop off your envelope and leave as you may have done in the past, or your vote won't count.

The [rules have also recently changed](#) on how many postal votes can be handed in by a single person. You are only allowed to hand in five postal votes in addition to your own, and candidates, party workers and campaigners are not permitted to handle the postal votes for anyone who is not a close relative or someone they provide care for.

Delayed postal votes: North West Essex



Some Chelmsford residents who are registered to vote **in the North West Essex constituency** have experienced a **delay in receiving their postal votes**. Residents in Writtle, Broomfield and The Walthams, Boreham and The Leighs and Chelmsford Rural West all vote in the North West Essex parliamentary constituency, which is administered by [Uttlesford District Council](#).

If you live in these areas and you haven't yet received your postal vote, you should get it on **Saturday (29 June), or Monday (1 July)** at the latest. This should still give you enough time to return your ballot papers and forms - just **don't wait too long to post them back**.

- If you have not received your postal vote by Monday, please contact Uttlesford District Council on 01799 510510 to request a reissue of your ballot paper.
- If you are going on holiday and are concerned your postal vote will not reach you in time, please [contact Uttlesford online](#) or on the number above as soon as possible.
- If you are worried that you've run out of time to send your vote back by mail, you can also drop off your postal vote at [any polling station in the North West Essex constituency](#) by 10pm on 4 July.
- North West Essex voters affected by this delay can also drop their postal vote at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford (CM1 1JE) on Monday 1, Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 July between the hours of 10am and 4pm. These postal votes will then be collected by Uttlesford District Council. Don't forget, you must fill out a postal vote handling form if you hand in your postal vote in person.

Our polling stations



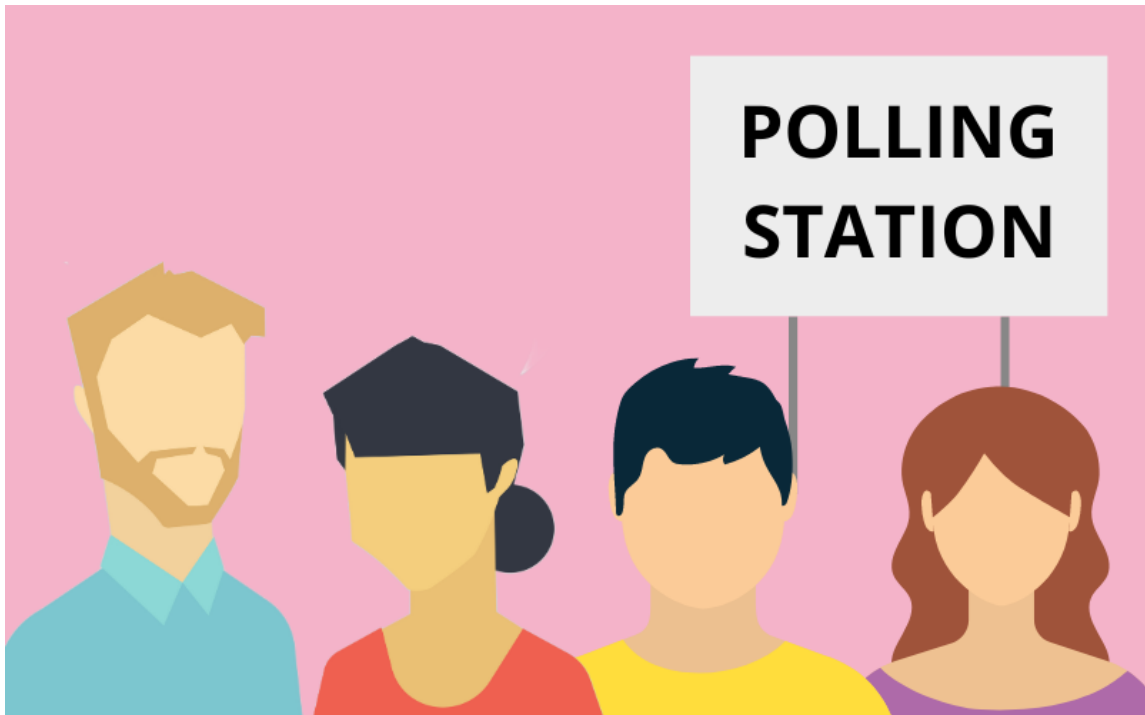
Our polling station teams will do whatever they can to help you on Thursday and if you need extra assistance on the day, just let them know. Please bear with staff if they need to spend some time checking your photo ID, or if they have to let you know that the ID you have brought with you is not accepted.

Filming and photography are not allowed inside polling stations, but you are permitted to take photos outside. Dogs outside polling stations are very popular on social media, so tag us if you would like us to share pictures of your beloved pets accompanying you to vote!

If you have any questions that have not been covered in this email, [take a look at the voting and elections pages of our website](#), which have more information and contact details if you need to get in touch.

We'll share the Chelmsford [election result on our website](#) and we'll also post this on our [social media accounts](#).

Election tellers



Political parties are allowed to assign people called 'tellers' to sit outside polling stations to keep a record of how many people have voted. They may politely ask for your details such as your elector number or name and address as you enter or leave the polling station. This is a normal part of the election process and it is up to you whether you wish to share this information with them.

Tellers are not permitted to ask who you will be voting for, influence or persuade electors how or whether to vote, or promote particular candidates or political parties. If you have any questions about this on 4 July, speak to the presiding officer at your polling station.



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