# **Parish Council Elections 4 May 2023**

Parish Council elections will take place in some areas on Thursday 4 May 2023. If your area parish is contested, you will receive a poll card in April.

These parish council are:

* Arthuret
* Beaumont
* Bewcastle
* Burgh-by-Sands
* Burtholme
* Cummersdale
* Farlam
* Hethersgill
* Irthington
* Kingmoor
* Kingwater
* Kirkandrews -on-Esk
* Kirklinton Middle
* Midgeholme
* Nether Denton
* Nicholforest
* Orton
* Rockcliffe
* Scaleby
* Solport & Stapleton
* St Cuthbert Without
* Stanwix Rural
* Upper Denton
* Walton
* Waterhead
* Westlinton

A poll will only take place in the parishes or parish wards where the number of nominations received by the deadline, is greater than the number of seats. You do **not** need to attend the polling station if the election for your parish is not contested.

## How to stand as a candidate

The Notice of Election will provide the start date for the nomination period, which is the earliest time a candidate can submit their nomination papers. This Notice will be published on Monday 20 March and the deadline to submit nomination papers is 4pm on Tuesday 4 April 2023.

If you’re interested in standing as a candidate, please contact us or the relevant parish clerk.

## Important dates

You can register to vote, apply for postal or proxy vote or apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at any time. However, for this election, the deadlines are as follows:

* Register to Vote: Midnight on Monday 17 April.
* Apply for, change, or cancel a postal vote: 5pm on Tuesday 18 April.
* Change or cancel an existing proxy vote: 5pm on Tuesday 18 April.
* Apply for a voter authority certificate (VAC): 5pm on Tuesday 25 April.
* Apply for a new proxy vote: 5pm on Tuesday 25 April.
* The earliest time we can replace lost postal votes: Thursday 27 April.
* Apply for an emergency proxy vote: 5pm on polling day, Thursday 4 May.
* The latest time we can replace lost/spoilt postal votes: 5pm on polling day, Thursday 4 May.

## Voter photographic identification in polling stations

From 4 May 2023 onwards voters in England will need to show a photographic identity (ID) document to vote at a polling station in most elections, including parish council elections. If you don’t have an acceptable form of photo ID with you, the polling station staff won’t be able to issue you with a ballot paper.

If you don't have acceptable photo ID, you can apply for a free ID document called a Voter Authority Certificate.

## Accepted forms of photo identification

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo identification when voting at a polling station.

* Passport issued in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, British Overseas Territory, a European Economic Area (EEA) state or a Commonwealth country.
* Driving Licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or EEA state
* Blue Badge.
* Older Persons Bus Pass.
* Disabled Persons Bus Pass.
* Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card).

Other government issued documents:

* Biometric immigration document.
* Ministry of Defence form 90 (Defence Identity Card).
* National identity card issued by an EEA state.
* Electoral Identity card issued in Northern Ireland.
* Voter Authority Certificate.
* Anonymous Elector's Document.

You only need to provide one form of photo ID and it must be the original, not a photocopy. If your photo ID has expired, you can still use it as long as the photo still looks like you. The name on the document should be the same name you used to register to vote.

For a full list of other acceptable documents please contact the elections office on the contact details below.

## Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

There are several ways to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate:

* Online [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate)
* Request a paper form to be sent to you by post.
* in person at the Civic Centre, Rickergate, Carlisle. Please contact us to make an appointment.

You only need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if:

* You do not have accepted photo ID.
* You no longer look like the photo on your ID.
* The name on your photo ID is different to your name on the electoral register.

It is free to apply. You will need:

* A recent, digital photo of yourself.
* Your national insurance number.

You can still apply if you do not have a National Insurance number. You will need to provide other documents to prove your identity, for example a birth certificate, bank statement and utility bill.

## Voting by post or proxy

You do not currently need voter ID if you have a postal vote. Applying for a Voter Identification Certificate does not cancel a postal vote. If you want to change from a postal vote to voting at a polling station, you need to contact us to cancel your postal vote. You do not currently need voter ID if you vote by proxy. Your proxy will need to show their photo ID at the polling station to vote on your behalf.

## Contact details:

* **Contact:** Electoral Services
* **Email:** elections@carlisle.gov.uk
* **Telephone:** 01228 817556
* **Address:** Civic Centre, Rickergate, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8QG