

Local Elections - How churches can help!



The Diocese of
Southwark

Local Elections, will take place **7 May 2026**.



**ELECTION
DAY**

Key dates and requirements

These dates apply across England for the 2026 local elections:

- **Election day:** Thursday 7 May 2026
- **Register to vote by:** Monday 20 April 2026 (midnight)
- **Apply for a postal vote by:** 5pm, Tuesday 21 April 2026
- **Apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (photo ID):** 5pm, Tuesday 28 April 2026

How can Churches help prepare?

- **Share practical information** in newsletters, noticeboards, and services about how to register, what ID is needed, and key deadlines.
- **Host non-partisan spaces** such as community Q&A sessions, hustings or candidate forums, ensuring all parties are invited and treated fairly.
- **Support accessibility** by helping people apply for voter ID, offering lifts to polling stations, or signposting accessible voting options.
- **Encourage reflection and prayer** for wisdom, justice, and compassionate leadership in local communities.



How can your church support the local elections?



Is your Church a polling station?



Being a polling station means your church gets to be a hub for the community on election days. This will also bring a large footfall into your church space.

This is a great way to serve and welcome your community in.

Could you **open the church building- non polling space** for quiet reflection?

Could you offer **hospitality** by having tea, coffee and refreshments for the polling day team?

Are your **notice boards** up to date with what is happening in your church and who's who board?

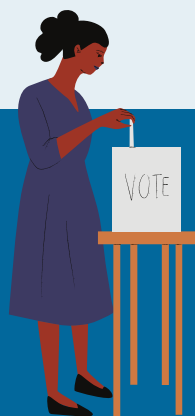
Is your church yard or building **welcoming** visually to those who may come in?

What other activities may be taking place in the other parts of your church on Polling Day, can they be **signposted** for people who might be interesting in joining.



Is your **website** up to date if local individuals google?

For more information around elections for individuals and churches please check out our website page by scanning the QR Code



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