

### **Elections Act 2022**

- Royal Assent April
- Most of the detail will be in secondary legislation which will be introduced over the next two years
- New burdens funding for the additional responsibilities and equipment



**Key features** 

- Introduction of Voter Identification
- Accessibility at polling stations
- Absent voting changes
- EU Citizens' Voting & Candidacy Rights
- Overseas Electors
- Other measures relating to candidacy, campaigning, & offences

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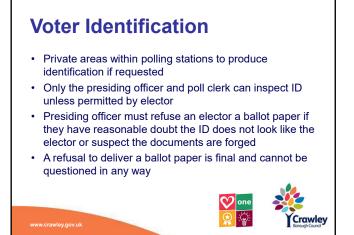
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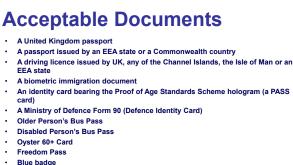


- To be introduced at the May 2023 polls
- SI due on 6 November to be in effect mid January 2023
- · Defined list of acceptable documents
- Any elector can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate – launch January 2023



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- A national identity card issued by an EEA state

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# **Acceptable Documents**

- Appointment of an emergency proxy up until 5pm on polling day in the case of documents lost, stolen, destroyed or damaged beyond use after the application deadline
- Research shows between 96% and 98% have access to these documents. For Crawley we might expect approximately between 1600-3200 electors to need a Voter Authority Certificate.
- · Special arrangements for anonymous electors.



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# Voter Authority Certificate

An A4 paper-based document authorised and issue by the Electoral Registration Officer with inherent security features, displaying:

- The elector's name and Photograph
- Date of issue

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- Issuing local authority
- a reference number and Recommended renewal date
- Applications on-line via gov.uk or by paper form to the Town Hall
- National Insurance number to verify identity
- Deadline for applications 6 working days ahead of a poll
- Temporary certificates can be issued locally
- Research shows between 96% and 98% have access to these documents.
  For Crawley we might expect approximately between 1600-3200 electors to
  need a Voter Authority Certificate.

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# Voter Identification Publicity National publicity by the Electoral commission starts January 2023. No new burdens funding for locally produced publicity. New A4 sized enveloped poll card setting out the requirements.



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- A general responsibility to take all reasonable steps to support voters with disabilities
- The provisions for voters to be assisted by a companion will be extended to allow anyone over the age of 18 to assist
- Expected to be in place at elections taking place from May 2023

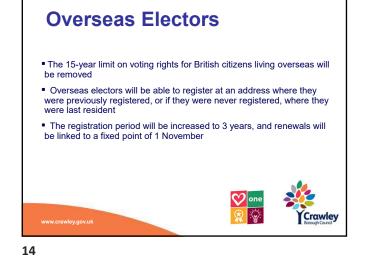


# EU Citizens' Voting and Candidacy Rights

- EU citizens will no longer automatically be entitled to register to vote, and stand for election.
- Two groups of EU citizens will retain their rights:
- 'qualifying EU citizens' from countries with reciprocal agreements, and who have leave, or do not require it, to remain in the UK - currently Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain
- 'EU citizens with retained rights' who were resident in the UK before 1 January 2021

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Campaigning
Changes to the offence of undue influence
Extension of requirement for imprints to electronic material

