Draft Order in Council laid before Parliament under section 84(4) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (c. 47), for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Voter Identification (Amendment of List of Specified Documents) (Local Elections) (Northern Ireland) Order 2026

Made - - - - ***

Coming into force in accordance with article 1(2)

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the day of

Present,

The King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

In accordance with section 84(4) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998(**a**) a draft of this Order has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

In accordance with section 7(3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000(**b**) the Electoral Commission has been consulted prior to this Order being laid before Parliament.

Accordingly, His Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred on him section 84(1) and (2) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, is pleased, by and with the advice of His Privy Council, to order as follows.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Voter Identification (Amendment of List of Specified Documents) (Local Elections) (Northern Ireland) Order 2026.

(2) This Order comes into force on the day after the day on which it is made.

(3) This Order extends to Northern Ireland.

(**a**) 1998 c. 47.
(**b**) 2000 c. 41.

Amendment of rule 34(6) of Local Elections Rules

2.—(1) Rule 34(6) of Schedule 5 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (Local Elections Rules: voting procedure and voter identification requirements)(**a**) is amended as follows.

(2) After sub-paragraph (b) (**b**)insert—

"(ba) a passport or passport card issued by a country listed in Schedule 3 to the British Nationality Act 1981 (countries whose citizens are Commonwealth citizens)(**c**);".

(3) After sub-paragraph (m)(**d**) insert—

"(n) an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card);

(o) a badge of a form prescribed under section 21 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970(**e**) or section 14 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 (Blue Badge Scheme)(**f**);

(p) a Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veteran Card).".

Amendments of Forms used in Local Elections

3. Schedule 5 (Local Election Rules) to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 is amended as follows—

(a) for Form 6 (elector's official poll card) in the Appendix of Forms(**g**) substitute the form in Schedule 1;

(b) for Form 7 (proxy's official poll card) in that Appendix substitute the form in Schedule 2.

Name
Clerk of the Privy Council

(**a**) 1962 c. 14 (N.I.). Schedule 5 was substituted by S.I. 1985/454.
(**b**) Rule 34(6)(b) was amended by S.I. 2010/2977 and 2022/47.
(**c**) 1981 c. 61.
(**d**) Rule 34(6)(m) was inserted by paragraph 14 of Schedule 6 to the Elections Act 2022 (c. 37).
(**e**) 1970 c. 44.
(**f**) 1978 c. 53.
(**g**) Forms 6 and 7 of that Appendix were substituted by S.I. 2023/1083.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Article 3(a)

Form 6 (Elector's official poll card)

Form 6
Front of Card

Poll card

Local Council Election
[insert name of District Council] **District Council**
[insert name of District Electoral Area] ***District Electoral Area]***

Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Your polling station will be	

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.

Your details:

[Elector's name and qualifying address details here]

Number on register:

Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification:

- **A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence**
- **A UK, Irish, EU or Commonwealth passport**
- **An Electoral Identity Card**
- **A Translink Senior SmartPass**
- **A Translink 60+ SmartPass**
- **A Translink War Disabled or War Disablement SmartPass**
- **A Translink Blind Person's or Registered Blind SmartPass**
- **A Translink Half Fare SmartPass**
- **A biometric immigration document**
- **A Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veterans Card)**
- **An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)**
- **A Blue Badge**

It is an offence to:

- **vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person**
- **vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector)**
- **vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote**

Please turn over

Back of Card

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] you can do one of the following:

- Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must be returned **by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]**. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this election.

OR

- Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behalf). Completed applications must be returned **by 5pm on [day] [date of deadline].**

An application form is available on the website or can be requested from the helpline.

If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

[Insert helpline and other contact details including website]

Electoral fraud is a crime

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

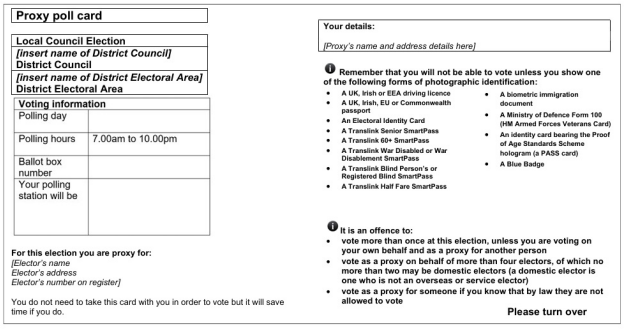
If undelivered return to: *[Insert return address]*

SCHEDULE 2

Article 3(b)

Form 7 (Proxy's official poll card)

Form 7
Front of Card



Proxy poll card

Local Council Election
[insert name of District Council]
District Council
[insert name of District Electoral Area]
District Electoral Area

Voting information	
Polling day	
Polling hours	7.00am to 10.00pm
Ballot box number	
Your polling station will be	

For this election you are proxy for:
[Elector's name
Elector's address
Elector's number on register]

You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote but it will save time if you do.

Your details:
[Proxy's name and address details here]

Remember that you will not be able to vote unless you show one of the following forms of photographic identification:

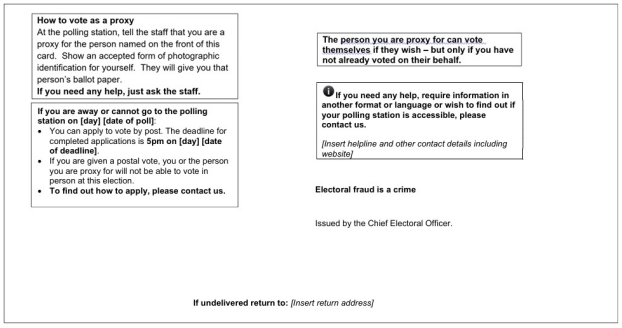
- **A UK, Irish or EEA driving licence**
- **A UK, Irish, EU or Commonwealth passport**
- **An Electoral Identity Card**
- **A Translink Senior SmartPass**
- **A Translink 60+ SmartPass**
- **A Translink War Disabled or War Disablement SmartPass**
- **A Translink Blind Person's or Registered Blind SmartPass**
- **A Translink Half Fare SmartPass**
- **A biometric immigration document**
- **A Ministry of Defence Form 100 (HM Armed Forces Veterans Card)**
- **An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)**
- **A Blue Badge**

It is an offence to:

- **vote more than once at this election, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person**
- **vote as a proxy on behalf of more than four electors, of which no more than two may be domestic electors (a domestic elector is one who is not an overseas or service elector)**
- **vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote**

Please turn over

Back of Card



How to vote as a proxy
At the polling station, tell the staff that you are a proxy for the person named on the front of this card. Show an accepted form of photographic identification for yourself. They will give you that person's ballot paper.
If you need any help, just ask the staff.

If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll]:

- You can apply to vote by post. The deadline for completed applications is **5pm on [day] [date of deadline]**.
- If you are given a postal vote, you or the person you are proxy for will not be able to vote in person at this election.
- **To find out how to apply, please contact us.**

The person you are proxy for can vote themselves if they wish – but only if you have not already voted on their behalf.

If you need any help, require information in another format or language or wish to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us.

[Insert helpline and other contact details including website]

Electoral fraud is a crime

Issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If undelivered return to: *[Insert return address]*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order in Council)

This Order makes changes to the list of the types of photographic identification that can be used by an individual wishing to vote in person at a polling station at Local Elections in Northern Ireland.

Article 2 amends the list set out in rule 34(6) of Schedule 5 to the Electoral Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (c. 14 (N.I.)), adding the PASS card, the Blue Badge, the Veteran card and Commonwealth passports to the list.

Article 3 and the Schedules replace the Elector's and Proxy's poll cards to reflect the changes to the acceptable photographic voter identification.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.

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