# Voters warned against taking photos inside polling stations in England



On 1 May 2025, voters across England will participate in local elections, including mayoral races and elections for nearly two dozen local authorities. As citizens prepare to cast their ballots, experts are cautioning against a common practice that could lead to significant legal consequences: taking photographs within polling stations.

Carlos Duhney, Director of security systems provider Telcam, highlighted the risks associated with this behaviour. He stated, "We know people want to encourage others to vote, especially on social media. But snapping a photo in the polling booth could accidentally reveal someone else’s vote, which is a serious breach of election laws."

Under Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, it is illegal to photograph a ballot paper, even one's own, if it risks disclosing how someone voted. The Electoral Commission, which oversees UK elections, has emphasised that such actions could result in a fine of up to £5,000 or six months in prison. This legislation is designed to protect the secrecy and integrity of the ballot, ensuring that voters can participate without fear of judgment or exposure.

The Electoral Commission advises voters who wish to share their participation to do so outside the polling station. For example, they suggest taking a photo of the polling station sign or with the polling card, thereby avoiding any risk of revealing how someone voted.

It's also important to note that while taking selfies or photos outside the polling station is permitted, any photography inside the polling station is strongly discouraged. The Electoral Commission has stated, "Due to the potential breach of the law, intentionally or not, we strongly advise against any form of photography taken inside a polling station." ([bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-43983595?utm_source=openai))

By adhering to these guidelines, voters can help maintain the integrity of the electoral process and avoid potential legal repercussions.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-returning-officers-administering-local-government-elections-england/polling-station-voting/information-voters/taking-selfies-polling-stations> - The Electoral Commission advises against taking selfies or other photos inside polling stations due to the risks of breaching election laws.
2. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-returning-officers-administering-local-government-elections-england/polling-station-voting/information-voters/taking-selfies-polling-stations> - The Electoral Commission recommends voters share their participation by taking photos outside the polling station to avoid legal issues.
3. <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-returning-officers-administering-local-government-elections-england/polling-station-voting/information-voters/taking-selfies-polling-stations> - The Electoral Commission emphasizes that photography inside polling stations is strongly discouraged to prevent accidental disclosure of voting choices.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43983595> - The BBC reports that the Electoral Commission strongly advises against any form of photography inside polling stations to protect the secrecy of the ballot.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43983595> - The BBC highlights that revealing how someone voted, even unintentionally through a photograph, is a serious breach of election laws.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43983595> - The BBC notes that taking photos inside polling stations could lead to a fine of up to £5,000 or six months in prison, as per election laws.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2048012/brits-warned-simple-mistake-could-land-fine> - Please view link - unable to able to access data