# Dogs and democracy: voters bring pets along to England’s 2025 local elections



Voters across England participated in local elections on 5 May 2025, with many seizing the opportunity not only to cast their ballots but also to enjoy a leisurely walk with their canine companions. The elections offered the chance to elect councillors and mayors across various local authorities, reflecting community engagement in governance.

In Runcorn, polling station attendees included Lucy, a Yorkshire Terrier, who accompanied her owner to the Royal British Legion polling station. This particular by-election in Runcorn and Helsby was prompted by the conviction of former MP Mike Amesbury for assault against a constituent, highlighting the local context in which voters were casting their votes.

Photographs from various polling stations showcased a range of dogs patiently waiting alongside their owners. In Gloucestershire, an Airedale Terrier named Margo maintained her composure outside a polling station, while other dogs, such as a 13-year-old Chinese Crested Powderpuff named Yoshi, were spotted in Rothwell, West Yorkshire.

The atmosphere remained light-hearted at other locations as well. A three-year-old Sprocker named Gib appeared less than enthusiastic about the outing, as owner David Majarich noted, perhaps presuming that the visit was intended for a cake sale rather than voting.

In St Anne's, Lancashire, a smaller dog was seen standing watch outside another polling station, while Maxi, a Jack Russell from St John's Chapel in County Durham, appeared momentarily dazed early in the day. Photos captured Oliver in Northamptonshire striking a pose, showing the whimsical side of the election day experience.

Amelia Halls brought her dog Heather along to vote in Cambridgeshire, reinforcing the idea that for many voters, the day was as much about their pets as it was about civic duty.

These images and moments emphasise the community atmosphere of the elections, showcasing a blend of serious civic engagement and the everyday joys of pet ownership. The event serves as a reminder of how local electoral activities can intersect with daily life, seen through the lens of the unique interactions between voters and their dogs.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/6f6b69b9-cf85-48e7-b4e8-b1fe43114032> - This article discusses the 2025 UK local elections, highlighting the election of councillors and mayors across various local authorities, reflecting community engagement in governance.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/fba12ccc-f7a9-4293-8c9c-12cee76662e6> - This piece covers the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, prompted by the conviction of former MP Mike Amesbury for assault against a constituent, providing context to the local elections in Runcorn.
3. <https://www.bluecross.org.uk/advice/dog/dogs-at-polling-stations-can-i-take-my-dog-with-me-to-vote> - This resource from Blue Cross provides guidance on bringing dogs to polling stations, noting that dogs, apart from assistance dogs, are generally not allowed inside polling stations, aligning with the article's mention of dogs accompanying owners to polling stations.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/dogs-at-polling-stations-in-pictures-the-canine-tradition-returns-for-local-election-2018-a3830341.html> - This article showcases photographs of dogs at polling stations during the 2018 local elections, illustrating the tradition of dogs accompanying voters, as mentioned in the article.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/dogs-polling-stations-best-photos-election-day-2024-london-mayoral-vote-b1155302.html> - This piece features photos of dogs at polling stations during the 2024 London mayoral election, highlighting the light-hearted atmosphere at polling stations, as described in the article.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-68942528> - This BBC News article presents images of dogs at polling stations during the 2024 local elections, emphasizing the community atmosphere and the blend of civic engagement and pet ownership, as noted in the article.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx27z5dldzzo> - Please view link - unable to able to access data