# Millions of UK Voters Head to Polls in First July General Election Since 1945



Millions of UK voters will cast ballots in the first July general election since 1945, with polling stations open from 07:00 to 22:00 BST on Thursday. Approximately 46 million voters are eligible to elect 650 members of Parliament to the House of Commons. The election was called by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in May and features new constituency boundaries. England has gained 10 seats, now totaling 543, while Wales and Scotland have seen reductions.

For the first time, voters in England, Wales, and Scotland must show photo ID to vote in person. There are 22 acceptable forms of ID in these regions, and nine in Northern Ireland, where photo ID has been required since 2003. Those without proper ID could apply for a free voter authority certificate. Postal votes remain an option, with outstanding ballots accepted at polling stations or local council offices until the polls close.

The Met Office forecasts winds up to 40mph, with particularly strong gusts in coastal western Scotland and the northwest. Southeastern England will experience warmer temperatures, reaching up to 22°C around London.

The BBC will observe broadcasting restrictions, avoiding election-related content during polling hours. Despite potential weather challenges, historical data suggests voter turnout is generally unaffected by such conditions.