



Voter Registration Champions

A guide for schools and colleges seeking accreditation with Citizens UK

www.voterchampion.org.uk



There will be a UK General Election by January 2025. The Electoral Commission estimates that 8 million eligible voters will miss out because they are not properly registered...



What's the problem we are trying to solve?

Research from the Electoral Commission suggests:

- **8 million eligible voters** may not vote at the next General Election because they **didn't register to vote in time**;
- **4 million eligible voters** may not vote at the next General Election because they **do not have appropriate Photo ID**;
- **14 million eligible voters** may not vote at the next General Election because they are not motivated to **turn out to vote on election day**.
- You are at greater risk of not being able to participate in the democratic process if you are: **young, a non-UK national, rent your home, have moved recently, live in an economically-disadvantaged community, or are from an ethnic minority.**

[Source: Electoral Commission - 2023 Report: Electoral Registers in the UK](#)



Citizens UK has demonstrated that we can register tens of thousands of people to vote through community organising...



We know how to do Voter Registration

- Citizens UK has over a decade's experience of registering people to vote through community organising;
- We are recognized as an organisation that can reach those communities most likely to be excluded from the democratic process: young people, migrant communities, and diverse & economically-disadvantaged inner-city areas;
- Voter Registration links to our 3 Strategic Aims:
 - **Developing Leaders:** we train leaders to register others to vote;
 - **Strengthening Institutions:** we focus voter registration campaigns around civil society organisations;
 - **Making Change:** we have registered tens of thousands of people to vote over the years.



...and we've also shown that we can
accredit tens of thousands of
organisations as Living Wage
employers...



We know how to accredit organisations that are doing good

- The Living Wage campaign has grown from a campaign rooted in community organising to a movement of over 14,000 employers now accredited by the Living Wage Foundation;
- The Living Wage campaign is one of the leading examples of 'voluntary regulation' in the UK - it works because we recognise employers for doing the right thing;
- We have developed an effective system of accreditation that has enabled the campaign to achieve scale - and influence the debate on low pay in the UK.



...so now we are combining
community organising with an
accreditation scheme that will
enable any organisation to accredit
as a 'Voter Registration Champion'!



Voter
Registration
Champions

What is the ‘Voter Registration Champion’ scheme about?

- ▲ **GETTING A BADGE:** A ground-breaking non-partisan accreditation scheme that offers a *Voter Registration Champion* badge to organisations that take simple steps to ensure their members can participate in democracy;
- ▲ **SKILLING UP:** A one-stop shop to **equip organisations** to register people to vote, educate people about the new Voter ID requirements, and encourage turnout on election day;
- ▲ **MAKING A DIFFERENCE:** A way to join a movement to make sure 300,000 at-risk voters are registered and equipped to cast their vote ahead of the next General Election.

What three things do all 'Voter Registration Champions' do?

Voter registration



**VOTER
REGISTRATION
CHAMPIONS**

**Registering your
people to vote**

Voter ID



**↑ Educating your
people about Voter
ID**

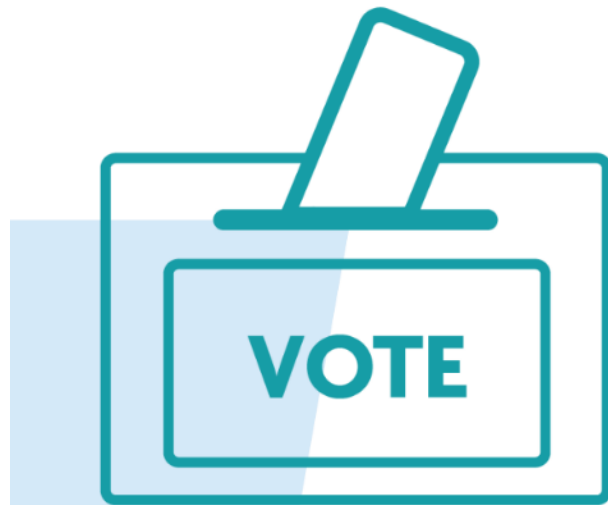
Voter turnout



**↑ Encouraging your
people to exercise
their democratic
right**

1. VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIONS

Voter registration



Registering your
people to vote

VOTER
REGISTRATION
CHAMPIONS

- **WHAT?** Run an annual Voter Registration campaign in your organisation.
- **WHY?** If you are not registered to vote, you won't be able to vote at the next general election. We are aiming to make sure that 300,000 eligible voters don't lose their right to vote because they aren't registered.
- **HOW?** It is easy to register to vote - there's a simple online form or you can fill in a paper version and send it to your council. Your organisation will need to work out the best way to reach your members and help them to register.
- **WHEN?** Any time before the voter registration deadline (which tends to be a few weeks before the election). Work out when best suits your organisation. Make sure you take advantage of Voter Registration Week (March 4th - 10th 2024).

2. VOTER ID ACTIONS

Voter ID



- **WHAT?** Make sure all your people are aware of the new Voter ID regulations, and what ID they will need in order to vote.
- **WHY?** The rules are changing for the next general election - if you don't take photo ID to the polling station you won't be able to vote. We need to remind people, and help those without ID to apply for a free photo ID document from their council.
- **HOW?** You will know best how to get the message to the people you need to reach in your organisation. We'll provide the materials to help you.
- **WHEN?** Any time before the voter registration deadline (which tends to be a few weeks before the election). Work out when best suits your organisation. Voter Registration Week (March 4th - 10th 2024) would be a good time to do this.

↑ Educating your
people about Voter
ID

3. VOTER TURNOUT ACTIONS

Voter turnout



↑ Encouraging your people to exercise their democratic right

- **WHAT?** Remind your people about the general election and encourage them to use their vote.
- **WHY?** Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. If people don't vote they won't get a say on who gets to make decisions that affect their lives.
- **HOW?** Again, you are the experts on your organisation. We'll have provide some ideas in the training, but think about how to get the message across.
- **WHEN?** In the run-up to election day - we don't know when that will be exactly.

What are the accreditation criteria for a Secondary School or College?

- **VOTER REGISTRATION:** Run an annual Voter Registration campaign that aims to register 100% of your organisation's eligible students before the deadline (with a 90% success rate).
- **VOTER ID:** Educate every student about the Voter ID requirements, and make sure they have the photo ID they need in order to vote before the deadline.
- **VOTER TURNOUT:** Remind your students about the election date, and encourage them to use their vote.
- **VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK (MARCH 4th - 10th):** Help build the movement by participating in Voter Registration Week activities.

A teal-colored trapezoidal shape pointing to the right, containing the text "VOTER REGISTRATION CHAMPIONS" in white, uppercase, sans-serif font.

VOTER
REGISTRATION
CHAMPIONS



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT

Secondary School or College Case Study

- St Gabriel's High School in Newcastle decided it wanted to become a Voter Registration Champion;
- A senior leader from the school worked with a team of pupils, staff and parents to work out their plan and get permission from the Headteacher;
- They realised that they could register all of their students aged 16 and over to vote, even though the voting age is 18. They set up an automated system that included a Voter Registration Form as part of their Sixth Form registration process - which they could also measure. This mechanism secured them a 92% registration rate.
- They trained a team of pupils in the Voter ID requirements, and had them run sessions on how to apply for photo ID and use it on election day through a series of tutorials in Voter Registration Week.
- They sent a communication to every eligible pupil on election day, reminding them to vote.

VOTER
REGISTRATION
CHAMPIONS



What if my organisation wants to go even further?

- For organisations that want to go further than the basic accreditation criteria (Bronze) for their sector, Silver and Gold Voter Registration Champion status will also be available;
- Silver Voter Registration Champion status is awarded to organisations that fulfil the basic criteria (Bronze) and also support other organisations in their area to register people to vote;
- Gold Voter Registration Champion status is awarded to organisations that fulfil Bronze and Silver criteria, and in addition register 5,000 people to vote each year.



What does my organisation need to do to accredit as a 'Voter Registration Champion'?

- ▲ **ESTABLISH ORGANISATIONAL BUY-IN:** Make sure your organisation is willing to take an active role in registering your people to vote, encourage democratic participation, and fulfil the relevant accreditation criteria.
- ▲ **BUILD A TEAM:** As well as getting buy-in from the key decision-makers, you'll need a named senior contact and a team of people who are willing to do the work - including at least one person to attend an online training with Citizens UK.
- ▲ **WORK OUT A PLAN:** Decide how your organisation will go about achieving each of the accreditation criteria, as well as how you will gather the data to demonstrate that you have met the accreditation criteria.
- ▲ **SUBMIT YOUR LICENSE APPLICATION:** Send us the information we need to accredit you as a Voter Registration Champion. We will ask you to send us an update each year to renew your accreditation.
- ▲ **CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!:** You'll be able to use the Voter Registration Champion badge and logo to show your leadership in promoting democratic participation.

What support will Citizens UK provide ‘Voter Registration Champions’?

- ▲ **A SIMPLE ACCREDITATION PROCESS:** Based on the successful Living Wage Foundation accreditation process, organisations will find a simple accreditation process on our website.
- ▲ **COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCES:** Our website will be a one-stop shop for resources to help you become a Voter Registration Champion, including 'how-to' guides, case studies, and sector-specific guidance.
- ▲ **REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS:** Our monthly updates will offer the latest news & resources.
- ▲ **REGULAR TRAINING:** We'll offer free online training on a regular basis led by experienced experts to help you fulfil the requirements of the Voter Registration Champion scheme.
- ▲ **BESPOKE SUPPORT FOR LARGE ORGANISATIONS:** If your organisation will impact more than 10,000 people then we can provide bespoke staff support if needed.
- ▲ **RESOURCES TO CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENT!:** We'll provide a resource pack to help accredited organisations to celebrate and promote their Voter Registration Champion status.
- ▲ **VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK:** We'll organise a week of activities each year (March 4th-10th 2024) that will celebrate accredited Voter Registration Champion organisations.

citizensUK

We're looking to work with a pilot cohort of organisations to be the first 'Voter Registration Champions'.

Get in touch with your Organiser if you'd like to be involved.

www.voterchampion.org.uk

 Citizens UK Charity is a registered charity, no. 1107264.

 citizensuk.org

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