

# Voter Registration and Political Participation Project

The Runnymede Trust, a leading race equality think tank and Voice4Change England, a race equality charity are together conducting independent research on the activities that Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) undertake to raise awareness of voter registration and participation of ethnic minority electors in their local authority.

This online survey forms an important part of a Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust funded project to increase black and ethnic minority voter registration and participation of ethnic minority groups in the electoral process. We are interested in all the activities which EROs undertake to enhance voter registration and turnout, but we would value any specific information about activities which EROs undertake to raise awareness of voter registration and turnout among ethnic, faith or racial groups (including Commonwealth citizens).

This survey will take under 10 minutes to complete. Please answer as honestly as possible. Your responses will be completely confidential unless you agree to us using your responses in our final report.

*In accordance with Article 9 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) you may contact the Runnymede Trust, [info@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:info@runnymedetrust.org), the data controllers, at any time, to withdraw consent for the use of identifiable data, although please note once again, we are not asking for your name or address.*

1. For which local authority are you an Electoral Registration Officer/member of staff responsible for ensuring the electoral registration of electors? Please specify local authority

2. What is your total local government electorate – this will include EU nationals and is the higher electorate figure

3. How many full-time equivalents are there working in your team?

- Alone
- 2-3 people in my team including me
- 4-5 people in my team including me
- More than 6 people
- Don't know

4. What legal and non-legal methods/initiatives do you undertake locally to raise awareness of the eligibility to register for those who have not yet done so? Tick all that apply

- HEF (Household Enquiry Form)
- Emails to unregistered electors notifying them of their eligibility to register
- Letters to unregistered electors notifying them of their eligibility to register
- Press releases in local/community newspapers
- Door to door knocking as part of the canvass to get people registered on the electoral register
- Translated leaflets/letters for community centres, shops, libraries etc.
- Other (please specify)

5. Are there specific groups within your local authority who are more at risk of not being on the electoral register? Tick all that apply

- Specific age groups
- Specific ethnic/racial groups
- Private/Local tenants who move regularly
- Commonwealth citizens
- Homeless people
- People in institutional care settings/homes etc
- Other (please specify)

6. As this survey questionnaire relates to a project about ethnic minority voter registration and political participation, can we ask if you undertake any specific activities to target unregistered ethnic minority voters?

- No, we undertake the same activities to enhance the registration of all electors
- Yes, we use different methods and activities to increase the voter registration of specific ethnic or racial groups
- Don't know

7. Are there specific ethnic minority voters that you are concerned are not on the electoral register? If yes, please tick all that apply

- White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White: Irish
- White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background (please specify)
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African
- Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian
- Any other Mixed/multiple ethnic background (please specify)
- Asian/Asian British: Indian
- Asian/Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian/Asian British: Chinese
- Any other Asian background (please specify)
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African
- Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean
- Any other Black/African/Caribbean background (please specify)
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group (please specify)

8. What methods do you use to assess the completeness of your register e.g. comparison to local population data etc? Tick all that apply

- Local census/annual population survey statistics
- Information from the Electoral Commission
- Information from third sector/civil society organisations
- Other (please specify)

9. Thinking about the initiatives/activities which you undertake to ensure the completeness of the electoral register (registration) of ethnic minorities which activities, if any, do you think work well? Tick all that apply

- HEF (Household Enquiry Form)
- Emails to unregistered electors
- Letters to unregistered electors notifying them of their eligibility to register
- Press releases in community newspapers
- Door to door knocking as part of the canvass to get people registered on the electoral register
- Other, e.g. posting (translated/non translated) leaflets at places of worship, shops, community centres, GP surgeries, libraries etc. (please specify)

10. Do you monitor/evaluate which activities, if any, worked well to increase the registration of ethnic minority voters?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other parts of the local authority do (please specify)

11. Thinking about voter turnout, are there any activities that you undertake to encourage or increase voter turnout? Tick all that apply

- General press releases reminding/encouraging voters
- Use social media content including videos to remind/encourage voters
- Advertisements using slogans in local papers
- Print posters, postcards etc. and place them in community centres, libraries, shopping centres, cafes etc.
- Other (please specify)

12. Do you feel we have missed out any important issues or considerations in relation to increasing voter registration and voter turnout for ethnic minorities? If so, please feel free to add this in the box below.

13. Would you agree to take part in a short confidential and anonymous telephone interview about the different methods that you use to register voters?

No thank you

Yes, I would be happy to help with your study

If yes, please leave your email and/or telephone number below:

14. May we reference your local authority in our final report if we think you are using innovative or good practice methods to increase awareness and registration of voters in your local authority? Please note if you do not agree to be a case study, we will keep all the information provided in this survey anonymous.

No thank you

Yes, I would be happy for you to publish any information from this survey in relation to our local authority