

# Policy Brief: Compulsory Voting with Civic Recognition – A Meeting with the King

## Overview

This policy introduces **compulsory voting** in all **UK general and local (council) elections**, paired with a **modest fine for non-participation** and a **symbolic reward**: one voter per local council will be randomly selected to **meet the King** following each election cycle. The initiative aims to strengthen democratic participation, reinforce the dignity of citizenship, and connect everyday voters with national institutions.

## Why This Enhances Dignity

- **Universal Voice:** Every citizen's participation is equally valued.
  - **Civic Honour, Not Coercion:** The fine is minimal; the recognition is meaningful.
  - **Reinforces Democratic Belonging:** Meeting the King links voting to national identity and pride.
  - **Non-Partisan and Inclusive:** The policy honours the act of voting itself, beyond politics.
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## Key Features

### Compulsory Voting

- All eligible citizens will be required to vote in **general and local elections**.
- Voters maintain full freedom of choice — including the right to spoil their ballot — as the legal obligation is to **participate**, not support any party or candidate.

### Modest Fine for Non-Participation

- A **£15 fine** will apply for failure to vote without valid excuse (e.g., illness, travel, religious observance).
- The system is **modeled on Australia's approach**, which maintains high turnout and low-cost enforcement through respectful civic engagement.
- Fine revenue will fund administration, ensuring the policy remains **cost-neutral**.

### The People's Recognition: Meet the King

- After each election, **one voter per local council area** will be randomly selected to **meet the King** at a ceremonial event.

- This meeting is a **symbolic recognition of civic responsibility**, not a material prize.
  - Winners will represent the diverse fabric of the electorate and be publicly celebrated as **ambassadors of democracy**.
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### Why This Enhances Dignity

- **Universal Voice:** Everyone's participation is equally valued — no one is left out or left behind.
  - **Civic Honour, Not Coercion:** The fine is light; the recognition is meaningful.
  - **Reinforces Democratic Belonging:** Meeting the King connects voting to a broader sense of national identity and pride.
  - **Non-Partisan and Inclusive:** The policy is about **process, not politics** — honouring the act of voting itself.
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### Implementation

- Administered by the **Electoral Commission** with local authority support.
  - Digital systems will allow simple exemption claims and fine payments.
  - Winners selected through **publicly verifiable, randomized draws** from among registered voters who participated.
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### Conclusion

This proposal restores dignity to democratic life by making voting **universal, accessible, and meaningful** — not through compulsion alone, but by **recognizing every citizen's role** in shaping their society. A symbolic meeting with the King turns routine participation into a national honour, reinforcing that **in a democracy, every voice counts — and every voter matters**.

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