

The Electoral Commission

The Scottish Parliament election on Thursday 6 May 2021 will take place at a time when Covid-19 continues to present risks to public health. The information below aims to support you in making the right decision for you about how to vote in May.

There are different ways to vote – you can vote by post, or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote. You may also prefer to vote in person at your polling place.

Please also remember that, in order to vote – whether at a polling station, by post, or by proxy – you must first be registered to vote by **Monday 19 April**. You can do this online in just 5 minutes at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Your local electoral registration office will have written to you recently to confirm whether you are registered to vote, and if you are registered for a postal vote. If you are still unsure about whether you are registered or not you can contact your local office to check. Their contact details are at the end of this letter.

We hope this information helps you in choosing the way to vote which suits you this May.

Voting by post

If you are not already registered for a postal vote and want to vote by post, please apply now. This will help ensure that your postal vote will be sent out more quickly once the candidates for the elections are confirmed.

When you apply you will be asked to give your date of birth and signature. This is a security measure, used to confirm your identity when you send in your completed postal voting pack. This information does not affect the secrecy of your vote. If you have difficulty in providing a consistent signature because of ill health or disability you can contact your electoral registration office and ask for this requirement to be waived.

Once you have completed the application form and signed it, send it to your local electoral registration office. The deadline to apply to vote by post is **5pm on 6 April**.

If you register to vote by post, you will be sent a postal voting pack before the election which will include your ballot papers and instructions for how to complete and return your vote.

You can ask your electoral registration office to send you a postal vote application form. Their contact details are below. You can also download and print a form and find more information on the Electoral Commission's website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/postalvote

Proxy voting

If you aren't able to vote in person, you can ask someone you trust to cast your vote for you. This is called a proxy vote and the person casting your vote is often referred to as your proxy. They can either go to your polling station to cast your vote, or can apply to vote for you by post.

To apply for a proxy vote, complete the proxy vote form explaining why you can't get to your polling station in person. Once you have completed the form and signed it, send it to your local electoral registration office by the deadline of **5pm on 27 April**.

You can ask your electoral registration office to send you a proxy vote application form. Their contact details are below. You can also download and print a form and find more information on the Electoral Commission's website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/proxyvote

Voting in person

Polling stations will be open on 6 May and will have safety measures in place; so should you wish, you will still be able to vote in person. If voting in person, you are encouraged to keep yourself and others safe at the polling station by:

- wearing a face covering
- bringing your own pen or pencil
- cleaning your hands when entering and leaving the polling place
- keeping a safe distance

Further information

For further information and to request postal or proxy vote application forms please contact your local electoral registration office. Their contact details are:

Electoral Registration Office for <<Insert Council name>> Council

Telephone: <<insert number>>

<<insert e-mail>>

Alternatively you can access information and download forms from the Electoral Commission website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

This resource may also be made available on request in the following formats



✉ **PHS.HealthData@phs.scot**

☎ **0800 111 4000**

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