

A guide to voting in the Scottish Parliamentary Election

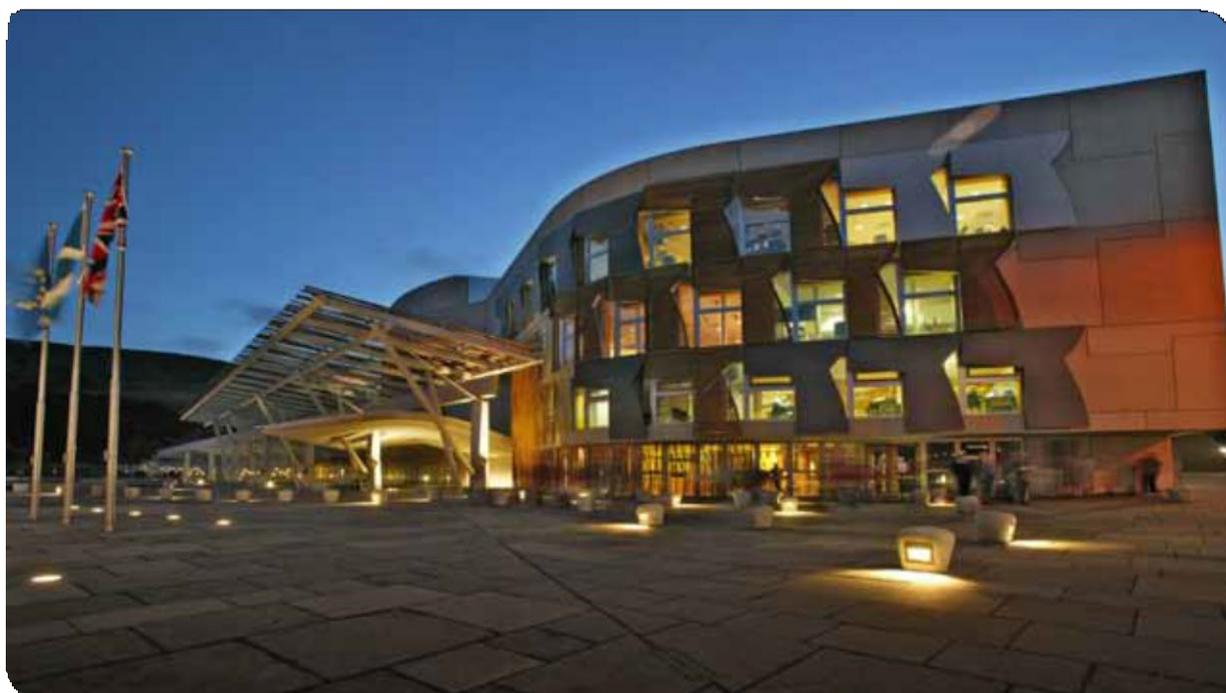
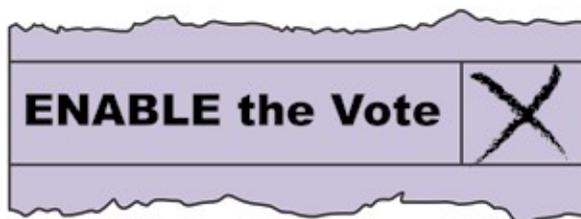


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Easy Read



The
Electoral
Commission

What is the Scottish parliamentary election all about?

This election is where people in Scotland vote for who they want to be in the Scottish Parliament.



The Scottish Parliament makes decisions about things that affect people all over Scotland, like:

- health and social care
- housing
- council tax
- schools and colleges.
- police, courts and jails.



This election is your chance to have a say about how Scotland should be run.

In this election you get **2 votes**.



1 vote is to vote for a person to speak up for the local area where you live.



1 vote is to vote for a party or person to speak up for the bigger area where you live.



A party is a group of people who work together on the same issues.



After the election they count up how many people from each party won the vote in their area.

The party with the most people gets to make the Scottish Government.

And they choose the First Minister of Scotland.

How to vote in the election

Step 1

Put your name on the list of people who can vote.

Step 2

Decide how you want to vote.

There are 3 ways you can vote:

- Go to a voting place to vote
- Send your vote by post
- Ask someone else to vote for you

Step 3

Decide who you want to vote for.

Step 4

Vote!

Step 1

Put your name on the list of people who can vote

There is a list of people who can vote. You have to put your name on the list before you can vote.



This is called registering to vote.

You might already be on the list if you have voted before.

If you are not sure you should still put your name on the list.

You can't vote if you're not on the list!

How to put your name on the list

You can use the internet to add your name to the list.



The website is **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

You can ask someone to help you with this.

You can also fill in a form to register to vote.

You can get the form from the website

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



If you don't have the internet you can phone

Family Connect.

They will send you the form to fill in.



0300 303 0228

You can ask someone to help you fill in the form
and send it back.

Important date



You have to put your name on the
list by the 19th of April 2021.

Step 2

Decide how you want to vote

Go to a voting place to vote

The building where you go to vote is called the polling place.

It is usually somewhere like a school or community centre.

You will get a poll card through the post.

It will look like this:



It will arrive a few weeks before voting day.

It will tell you where to go to vote.

Thursday 6th May is voting day!



Go to the place it says on your poll card.

It is open from 7 in the morning to 10 at night.



Tell the person at the desk your name and address.

Or you can give them your poll card.

The person at the desk will give you 2 voting papers.

They will look like this:



Take your voting papers to the voting booth.

On the peach paper there is a list of parties.

There might also be people who are not part of a party.

Write an X in 1 box to vote for the party or person you want to vote for.



The purple paper has a list of people.

Write an X in 1 box to vote for the person you want to vote for.



Fold up your voting papers.

Put them in the ballot boxes.



What support can I get at the voting place?



You can take someone with you to the voting place.

They can read out the voting papers and explain them to you.



They can write on your voting papers if you want them to.



The staff at the voting place might ask the person supporting you to fill in a form before they help you.

You can ask the staff at the voting place for help too.

Important date



Voting day!

Step 2

Decide how you want to vote

Send your vote by post

You can choose to send your vote by post instead of going to a voting place.

This is called a **postal vote**.

If you want to get a postal vote you have to ask to do this.



How to ask to send your vote by post

When you register to vote you can tick a box to ask to send your vote in a letter.



They will send you another form to fill in.

You must fill this form in and sign it.



Then post it back to the address it says on the form.

Important date



If you want to send your vote by post you have to send the form back before 6th April 2021.

How to send your vote in a letter

You will get 2 voting papers in the post.

They will arrive about a week before voting day.

The voting papers will look like this:



Regional ballot paper	
Glasgow Region	
Division of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the GLASGOW REGION	
You will vote by putting an 'X' in the box next to the party or candidate you want to vote for.	
A Party	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D (Independent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E (Independent)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Constituency ballot paper	
Glasgow	
Division of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the GLASGOW CONSTITUENCY	
You will vote by putting an 'X' in the box next to the candidate you want to vote for.	
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Candidate B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate C	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E	<input type="checkbox"/>

On the peach paper there is a list of parties.

There might also be people who are not part of a party.

Write an X in 1 box to vote for the party or person you want to vote for.

The purple paper has a list of people.

Write an X in 1 box to vote for the person you want to vote for.

Post your voting papers back in the envelope.

Important date



Make sure you send your voting papers back in plenty of time.

They have to get there before 6th May.

Step 2

Decide how you want to vote

Ask someone else to vote for you

If you have a disability you can get someone else to vote for you if you want.



This is called a **proxy vote**.

If you want someone else to vote for you, you have to ask to do this.

How to get someone else to vote for you

You have to fill in a form if you want someone else to vote for you.



You can get the form on the internet:

www.gov.uk/apply-vote-proxy



If you don't have the internet you can phone Family Connect.

They will send you the form to fill in.



0300 303 0228

How someone else votes for you



Decide which party or person you want to vote for on the peach voting paper.

Decide which person you want to vote for on the purple voting paper.

Tell the person who is voting for you who you want to vote for.

The person who is voting for you will go to the voting place.

They will vote for you.

Important dates



If you want someone to vote for you, you have to ask to do this by 27th April.



If someone is voting for you, they go to the voting place to vote on 6th May.

Step 3

Decide who you want to vote for

It can be hard to know who you want to vote for.

Here are some things you can do to help you decide.



Read what different parties say

Parties write down what they think about issues like health and schools.

They write down what they will do about things like this if they win the election.

This is called a **manifesto**.

Look out for manifestos in April.

Some parties write an Easy Read version of their manifesto too.

You can look for these on the internet.



Ask people questions

You can ask friends, family and support workers about the election.



People might come to your door or call you on the phone to ask who you're voting for.



You can ask these people questions too.

Go to a meeting

You can go to a meeting to talk to politicians.

You can find out what they think about things that matter to you.



You can find out what they would do if they get voted in. This might help you decide who you want to vote for.

ENABLE Scotland is putting on meetings like this in April and May.



You can find more information about these meetings on our website:



www.enable.org.uk/enablethevote



Or call Family Connect on **0300 303 0228**



What the words mean

There are lots of hard words to do with elections.

Here are some of them and what they mean.

Ballot box The box where you put your voting paper after you have voted.

Ballot paper Another word for voting paper.

Constituency The smaller area of Scotland where you live.

Election Where people vote on something.

Government The politicians in charge of the country.

Manifesto A booklet that says what a party will do if they get in government.

Party	A group of people who work together on the same issues.
Poll card	The card that says where you should go to vote.
Polling booth	The desk where you write on your voting paper.
Polling place	The building where you go to vote. It is usually somewhere like a school or community centre.
Postal vote	Sending your vote in a letter.
Proxy vote	Asking someone else to vote for you.
Region	The bigger area of Scotland where you live.
Register	When you register to vote, you put your name on the list of people who can vote.