

The
Electoral
Commission

Your guide tae votin in the Scots Pairlament election

Thursday 7 Mey 2026



On Thursday 7 Mey 2026, there'll be an election for the Scots Pairlament

The Scots Pairlament haes the pouer to mak laws for Scotland anent sindry subjects comprehendin the follaein:

- health
- scuils an lare
- hoosing
- justice
- the natural surroonds

The laws an decessions the Scots Pairlament maks will hae an affcome to you an yer community.

This buikie sets oot whit ye'll want to ken afore the election, an tells ye whaur ye can speir-oot mair.

Wha can vote?

Ye can vote in this election gin ye'r inrowed to vote in Scotland, will be **16 year auld or ower** on Thursday 7 Mey 2026 or ye'r

- a UK or Irland ceetizen, or
- a Commonwealth ceetizen that qualifies, or
- a fremmit national that's qualified an is allowed ingait or to bide in the UK or that needsna sic freedom, EU ceetizens comprehendit

Breetish ceetizens that bides owerseas **canna vote** in the Scots Pairlament election.

For mair information anent whit fowk's habile for the vote please gae til electoralcommission.org.uk/who-can-vote

Hoo div A inrowe for the vote?

Ye maun be inrowed for the vote bi midnicht on Monanday 20 Aprile 2026 for to hae a vote in this election.

It's important that ye inrowe as soon's ye can in case yer election inrowement office haes to speir at ye aboot ony parteelars.

Gin ye'y never inrowed or ye'y no lang flitit or changed yer name, ye can inrowe for the vote online at gov.uk/register-to-vote or bi speirin at the election inrowement office whaur ye bide.

Gin ye'r awready inrowed for the vote, ye will'a been sent a voter caird. Yer voter caird tells ye whaurabouts an whan to vote.

Ye can airt-oot yer ain election inrowement office bi typin in yer postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/voter or bi cawin **0800 3 280 280**

Hoo div A vote?

1. At yer voting station on Thursday 7 Mey 2026

Voting stations is open fae 7am tae 10pm.

Ye will be sent a voter caird that tells ye whaurabouts yer voting station will be. Ye needna yer voter caird tae vote, an gin ye loss it, or didna get ane tae stert wi, ye can find yer voting station by typin in yer postcode at electoralcommission.org.uk/voter or bi speirin at the elections office at yer council hame-aboot.

A body **needna** shaw ony photie ID for tae vote in the Scots Pairlament election.

2. Bi proxy (lattin a body ye can lippen on cast the vote on your behauf)

For tae pit in for a proxy vote, fill oot an application form an send it tae the election inrowement office for whaur ye bide.

It maun win at them bi 5pm on Tuesday 28 Aprile 2026.

In a sair-fit

Gin ye find yersel in a sair-fit, an canna get tae the voting station, ye can pit in for a aince-errant proxy (lattin a body ye can lippen on cast the vote on your behauf).

Ye'll want tae pit in for this afore 5pm on the day o votin, Thursday 7 Mey 2026.

3. Bi post

For tae pit in for the vote bi post, ye'll want tae fill oot an application an send it tae yer election inrowement office hame-aboot. **It maun win at them bi 5pm on Tuesday 21 Aprile 2026.**

Gin ye awready hae a postal vote, mak shair it's for the Scots Pairlament election. It might be that yer postal vote is jist for the UK Pairlament general election. Gin ye haena haed a **voter caird that confirms ye hae a postal vote for this election**, speir at yer election inrowement office tae see whither ye'll want tae pit in for a postal vote for the Scots Pairlament ane.

Ye'll get yer voting lines an postal vote statement throu the post.

Fill oot an return yer postal vote pack, makkin shair that ye gie eneuch time for yer papers **tae win back bi 10pm on Thursday 7 Mey 2026.**

Ye can haun in yer postal vote pack forby at yer voting station bi 10pm on the day o votin.

Feenish the postal vote statement usin the same signature an date o birth that ye gied whan ye pit in for yer postal vote. Yer postal vote isna habile athoot this form. This is tae mak shair that yer postal vote is siccar. Gin ye think that yer signature haes chenged fae ye first pit in, speir at yer election inrowement office anent this.

For mair wittins o this or tae airt-oot postal or proxy vote forms, gae til electoralcommission.org.uk/voter or gie oor helpline a caw on **0800 3 280 280**.

Whit am A votin for?

You are votin for the representars that will wirk on your behauf in the Scots Pairlament.

The Scots Pairlament haes the pouer tae mak laws for Scotland anent sindry subjects comprehendin health, scuils an lare, hoosing, justice an the natural surroonds.

You will be representit bi echt Memmers o the Scots Pairlament (MSPs): ane for your vote districk (or area hame-aboot) an seeven for the braider election region that ye bide in.

The'r 129 electit MSPs that comprehends:

- 73 vote districk MSPs, sae ane for ilk ane o the 73 vote districks
- 56 regional MSPs, sae seeven for ilk ane o the echt election regions o Scotland

For mair information anent the Scots Pairlament, gae tae parliament.scot

Haes yer vote districk or region chenged?

Yer vote districk (or area hame-aboot) an the election region that ye bide in nicht'a chenged.

This is acause the boonds o the Scots Pairlament vote districks haes been pit throu hauns.

The boonds is pit throu hauns for tae mak shair that ilk vote districk haes mair or less the same nummer o electors.

Ye can get mair wittins o yer vote districk an region bi typin in yer postcode at boundaries.scot.

Hoo div A fill in the voting lines?

Ye maun be inrowed for tae vote.

Ye'll be gien twa voting lines.

Ye vote aince on ilk paper.

Please tak tent an read the instructions on baith yer voting lines.

Vote districk voting line (yer area hame-aboot)

**Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament
for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Constituency**

Vote for **only one candidate** by putting
a cross in the box next to your choice

Candidate A A Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate B B Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate C Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D D Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>

On this voting line ye vote for a leetit body tae represent yer vote districk. For tae vote, mark a cross (X) in the kist forenent the name o ae body.

Regional voting line (braider election area)

**Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament
for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Region**

Vote **only once** by putting a cross
in the box next to your choice

A Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
B Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
C Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>

On this voting line ye either vote for a pairty, or for a body on the leet that's no thirlt til ony pairty, tae represent yer region.

For tae vote, mark a cross (X) in the kist forenent the name o ae pairty or unthirlt body.

Jist pit ae cross [X] on ilk voting line. Gin ye pit a cross [X] by mair nor ae kist, yer vote will be taen for a 'spylt vote' an winna be coontit.

Hoo can A speir-oot mair?

Gin ye'd like a dooble o this buikie set oot some ither gait, gae til electoralcommission.org.uk/booklet

Scan the QR code for ingait tae this information set oot ither gait



Gin ye hae ony questions, gie oor helpline a caw on **0800 3 280 280**

Tae speir at us usin BSL, gae til electoralcommission.org.uk/BSL for mair

Instagram: **@ElectoralCommissionUK**

Facebook: **/ElectoralCommissionUK**

X: **@ElectoralCommUK**

This buikie wis pit thegither bi the Commission Anent Elections.

The Commission Anent Elections is the freestauning body that haes owerance o elections an the spennin o political siller in the UK. We wirk tae mak shair that the publict can lippen on the democratic process an that hit is mensefae.