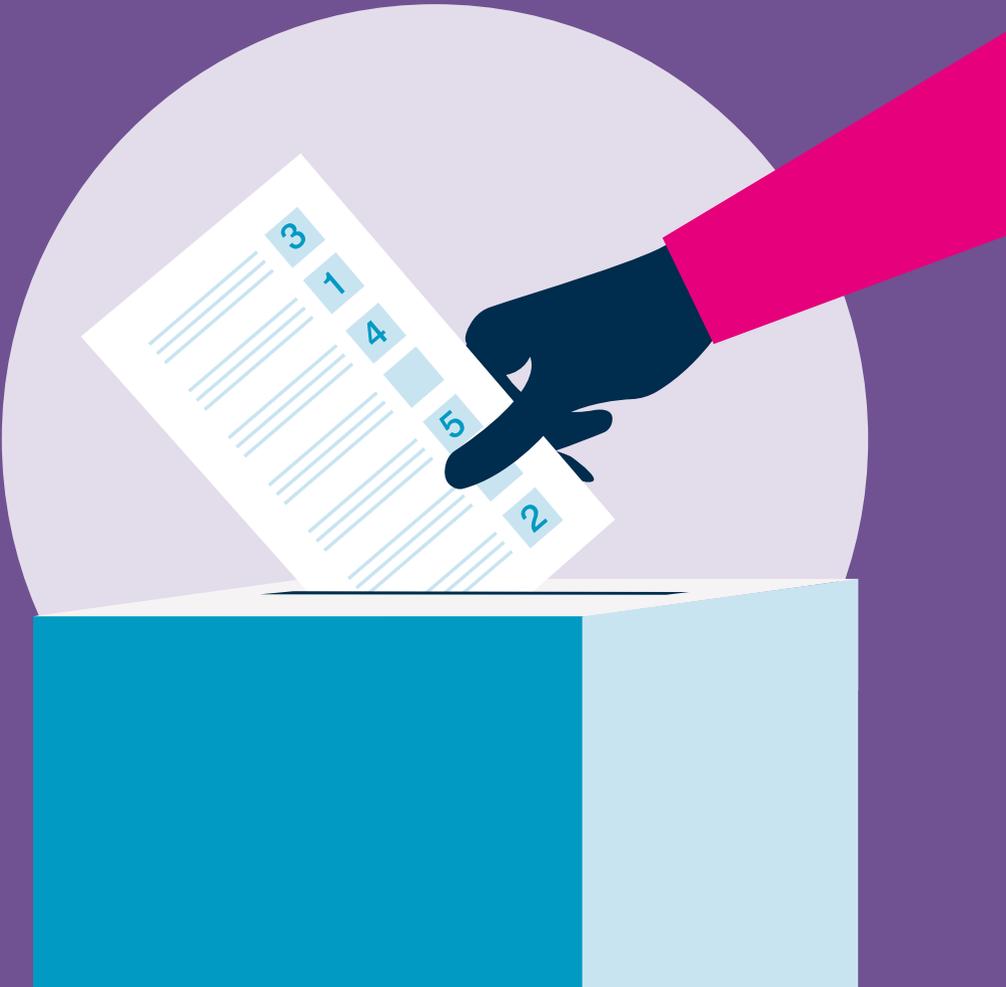




# Your guide to the Scottish council elections

THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022



**On Thursday 5 May 2022, council elections are taking place across Scotland.**

**In this election you **vote using numbers** on the ballot paper.**

**This booklet will explain what you need to know before the election, and how you can find further information.**

This information is correct at the time of print on 1 February 2022.

For the latest information about the elections and Covid-19 safety measures, go to **[electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)** or contact your council.

## How do I register to vote?

To vote in this election, you must be registered to vote by midnight on **Monday 18 April 2022**. If you're not already registered to vote, it's important that you register as early as possible in case your local electoral registration office needs to check any details with you.



If you've never registered or have recently moved to a different address, register to vote online at **[gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote)** or call **0800 3 280 280** for more information.

If you have recently received a poll card at your current address, you are registered to vote and do not need to register again.

If you are unsure whether you are registered to vote, contact your local electoral registration office.



To find the contact details for your local electoral registration office, visit **[electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)**

## Can I vote in this election?

You can vote in this election if you are registered to vote in Scotland and will be aged 16 or over on Thursday 5 May 2022.

You must also be either:

- a British or Irish citizen, or
- a Commonwealth or European Union citizen, or any other foreign national who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission

British citizens living overseas can't vote in Scottish council elections.

## What am I voting for?

When you vote in this election, you are voting for candidates who are standing to be elected as councillors. Elected councillors will represent you on your local council. Local councils are responsible for making decisions about how money is spent to provide local public services.

These include:

- education
- social care
- housing
- roads and public transport
- the environment
- leisure and library services
- cultural services
- waste management

Each council in Scotland is divided into smaller areas called wards. Each ward will be represented by up to five councillors.



You can find more information on your council's website. To find your local council website visit **[mygov.scot/find-your-local-council](https://mygov.scot/find-your-local-council)**

## How do I fill in the ballot paper?

For this election you vote **using numbers**. Your ballot paper will list all the candidates standing to be councillors in your ward. You will be asked to number the candidates in order of your choice using **1, 2, 3 and so on**.

## How many candidates can I vote for?

In this election you can make as many or as few choices as you wish.

- Put the **number 1** in the voting box next to your **first choice**.
- Put the **number 2** in the voting box next to your **second choice**.
- Put the **number 3** in the voting box next to your **third choice**.

**And so on.**

You **don't** have to number every candidate.

If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, you can ask for a new one.



To find out more about the voting system for Scottish council elections and how votes are counted go to [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)



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## What will the ballot paper look like?

You will receive a ballot paper that looks similar to the one pictured below:



[NAME OF COUNCIL] – [NAME OF WARD]	
<b>[Number to be elected] of the candidates listed below will be elected. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish.</b> Put the number <b>1</b> in the voting box next to your <b>first</b> choice. Put the number <b>2</b> in the voting box next to your <b>second</b> choice. Put the number <b>3</b> in the voting box next to your <b>third</b> choice. <b>And so on.</b>	
<b>ANDERSON</b> Hans 57 Easter Road, Anytown Rowan Party	<input type="text" value="2"/>
<b>CRANSTON</b> Helen 912 Main Street, Anytown Beech Party	<input type="text"/>
<b>FLEMING</b> Douglas Martin 112 South Street, Anytown Independent	<input type="text" value="4"/>
<b>HAMILTON</b> Flora 45 Hill Place, Anytown Willow Party	<input type="text" value="1"/>
<b>KUMAR</b> Kuldip 3 Castle Wynd, Anytown Elm Party	<input type="text" value="3"/>
<b>MACDONALD</b> Donald Alexander 4 Elgin Ave, Anytown Oak Party	<input type="text"/>
<b>MACKENZIE</b> Robert William Sutherland 192 Blackhall Road, Anytown Independent	<input type="text"/>
<b>MASTERS</b> Susan Caroline 93 Holyrood Road, Anytown Sycamore Party	<input type="text" value="5"/>

Use numbers to vote.

Number the candidates in order of your choice using 1, 2, 3 and so on.

You don't have to number every candidate.

# What are the different ways to vote?

## At your polling station

on Thursday 5 May

Your poll card tells you where your polling place is. You don't need your poll card to vote and if you lose it, or don't receive it, you can visit our website to find out where your polling place is.

Polling places are open from 7am to 10pm.

## By post

To apply to vote by post, complete a postal vote application form and send it to your local electoral registration office to arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 19 April.

You will receive your ballot paper by post. Complete and return your ballot paper, ensuring you leave enough time for it to arrive at your local council by 10pm on Thursday 5 May.

## By proxy

(allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf)

To apply to vote by proxy, complete an application form and send it to your local electoral registration office to arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.

In an emergency where you cannot go to the polling place in person, you can apply for an emergency proxy up to 5pm on Thursday 5 May.



For more information or to get to a postal or proxy application form, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter) or call our helpline on **0800 3 280 280**

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# What can I expect at the polling place?

## Polling places will be safe places to vote during Covid-19 and will comply with Public Health Scotland guidance.

A number of measures will be in place to help you stay safe when voting in person.

At the polling place, you may find many of the safety measures that have been in place in other indoor spaces such as banks and shops.

You will be expected to use the hand sanitiser provided when you enter and exit the polling place and you must wear a face covering at all times (unless you are exempt).

There will be enhanced ventilation and regular cleaning of surfaces. There may be plastic screens. You are welcome to bring your own pen or pencil to mark your ballot papers.

Physical distancing measures will be in place and there may be a one-way system. You may have to queue to enter the polling place as there will be a limit to the number of voters allowed in the building at any one time.



## Other ways to vote

If you do not want to vote in person, you can vote by post or by proxy (asking someone that you trust to vote on your behalf).

If you are required to self-isolate due to Covid-19, you can apply for an emergency proxy up to 5pm on Thursday 5 May.



For the latest information about the elections and Covid-19 safety measures, go to [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter) or contact your local council.

# How can I find out more?

If you have any questions, or would like to obtain this information in an accessible format, go to **[electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)** or call our helpline on **0800 3 280 280**

Charities and other organisations can access additional resources at **[electoralcommission.org.uk/democratic-engagement-resources](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/democratic-engagement-resources)**

Click [here](#) to access the latest information about the elections

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**



This booklet has been produced by the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission is the independent body which oversees elections and regulates political finance in the UK. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity.

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