

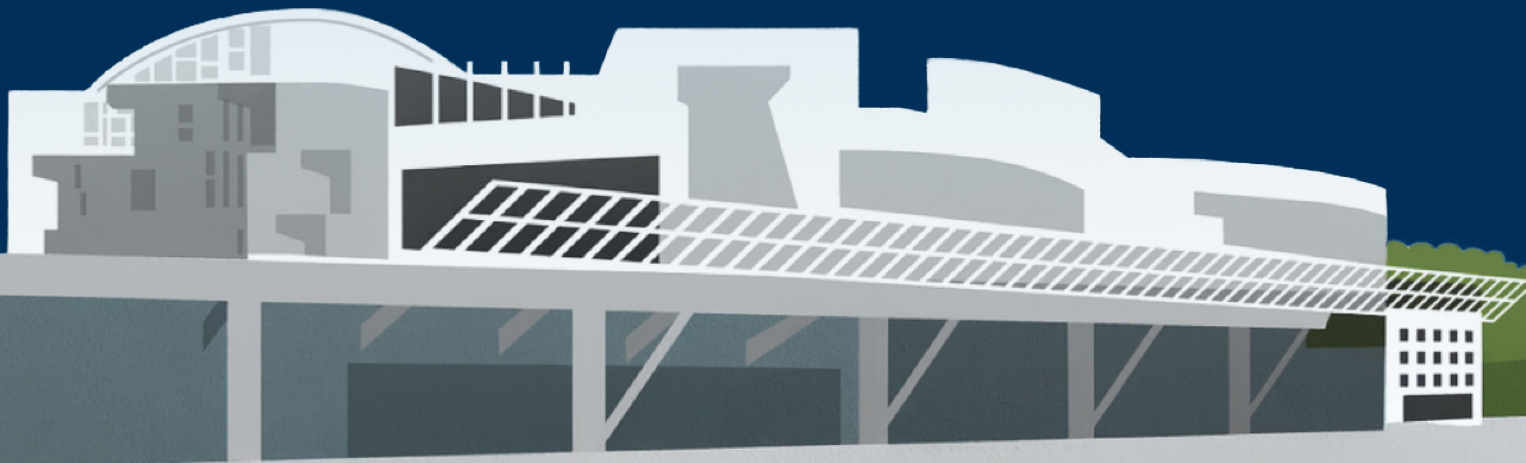
The
Electoral
Commission



**Easy
Read**

How to vote in the Scottish Parliament election

Thursday 7 May 2026



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information.

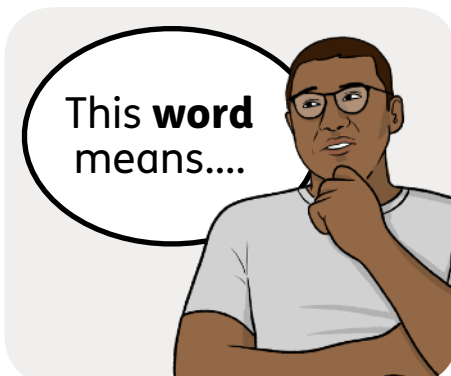
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this booklet

About this booklet	4
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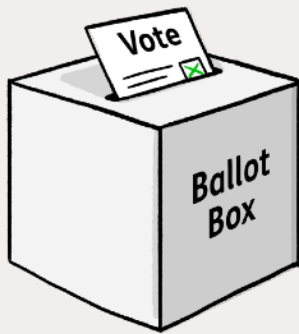


You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet: <https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey>

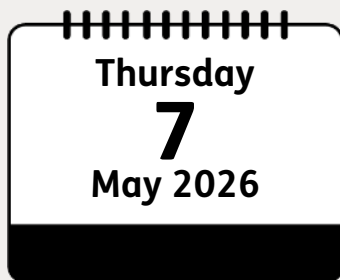
About this booklet

The
Electoral
Commission

We are the **Electoral Commission**.
We make sure elections are run
fairly and follow the law.



Elections are where the public
chooses who will make decisions
about their country.



On Thursday 7 May 2026, there
will be an election to the Scottish
Parliament.



This booklet explains what you
need to know before the election.

The Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament makes laws for Scotland about things like:



- Health.



- Schools and universities.



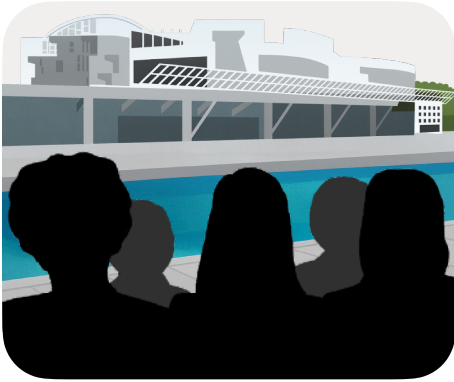
- Homes.



- Courts and the law.



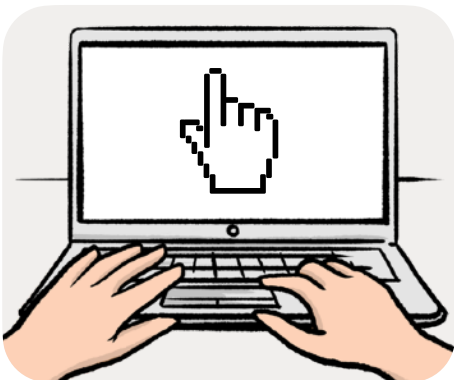
- The **environment**. This is the land, sea and everything that lives on it.



There are 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament.



8 Members will speak up for people in your area.



You can find out more about the Scottish Parliament on this website: parliament.scot



In Parliament, we call the different areas of Scotland **constituencies** and **regions**.

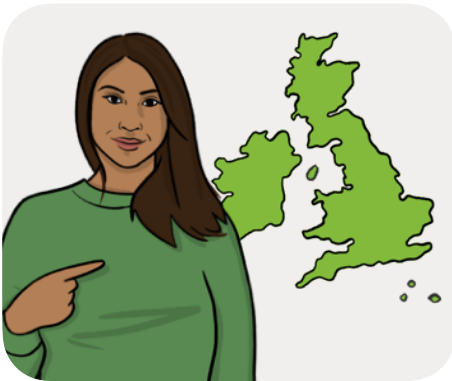
You can find out which **constituency** and **region** you live in on this website: boundaries.scot

Who can vote?



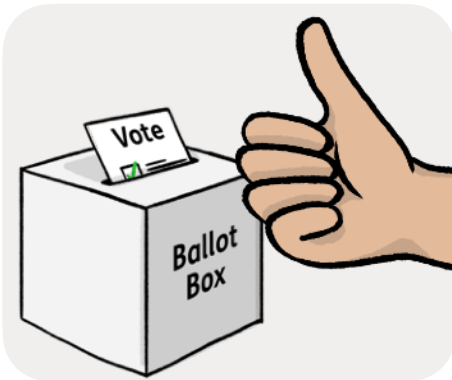
If you want to vote, you must **register**.

We explain what this means on the next page.

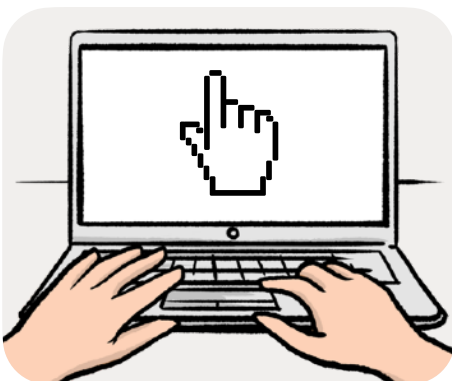


You can vote if you will be **16 or older** on 7 May 2026, are registered to vote in Scotland and:

- You are from the UK or Ireland.



- You are from another country, but you are allowed to vote in Scotland.



You can find out more about who can vote by going to this website: electoralcommission.org.uk/who-can-vote

Register to vote



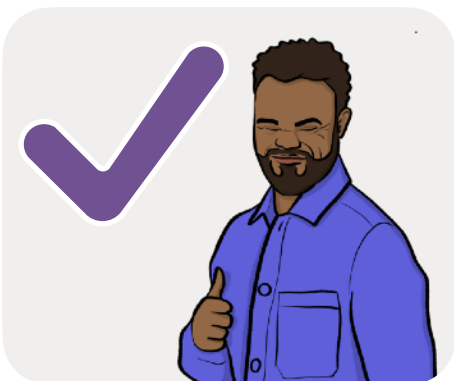
Registering to vote means signing up to vote.



You must register before you vote.

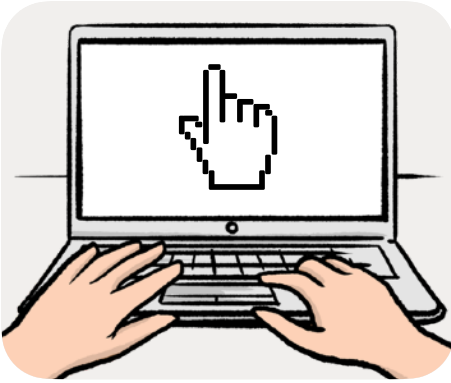


If you want to vote in the election on 7 May 2026, you must register by midnight on **Monday 20 April 2026.**



But it is important to register as early as you can.

If you need to register to vote, you can:

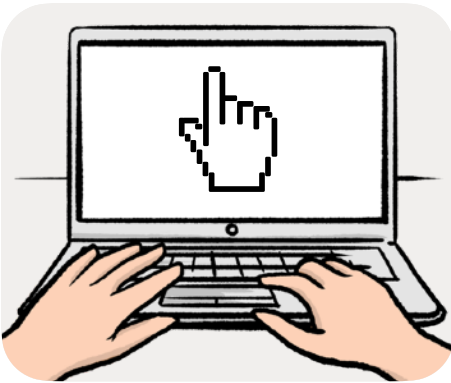


- Register online at this website: [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



- Call, email or visit your **local electoral registration office.**

You can find your **local electoral registration office** by:



- Going to this website: [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)



- Calling us on 0800 3 280 280



Once you have registered to vote, you will get a **poll card** in the post.



A **poll card** is a piece of card that tells you:

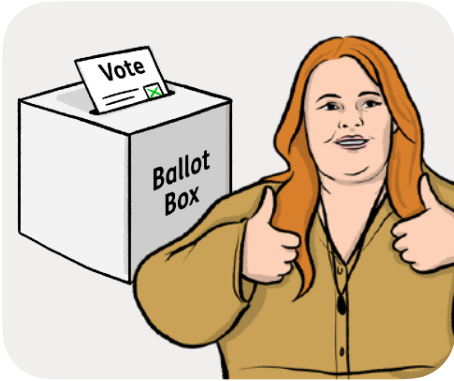
- Where to vote.



- When to vote.

Ways that you can vote

There are 3 ways that you can vote:



- You can vote in person by going to your polling station.



- You can allow someone to vote for you.

This is called **voting by proxy**.



- You can vote by post.

We will explain more about this over the next 5 pages.



Vote in person

Your poll card will tell you where your **polling station** is.

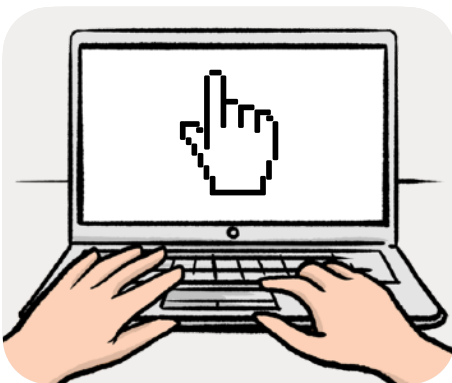
This is the place you go to vote.



You can vote between 7am and 10pm on Thursday 7 May 2026.



You do not need to bring anything with you.



If you lose your poll card, you can find your polling station on this website:

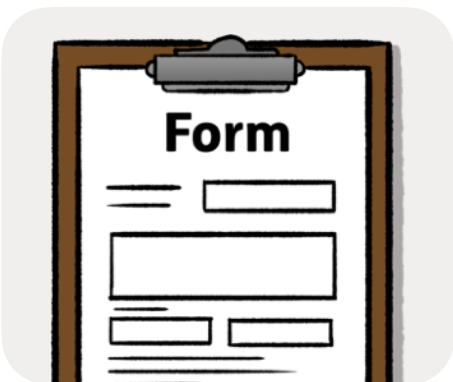
electoralcommision.org.uk/voter

Vote by proxy



You can ask someone you trust to vote for you.

This is called **voting by proxy**.



If you want to do this, you must send a form to your local electoral registration office.

This form is called a **proxy vote application form**.



It must arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 28 April 2026.



If there is an emergency, you can ask for an **emergency proxy**.

You will need to apply for this before 5pm on Thursday 7 May 2026.

Vote by post

If you want to send in your vote by post, you must:



- Fill in a form called a **postal vote application form**.



- Send it to your local electoral registration office.



It must arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026.



You should get a poll card that says you have a postal vote for this election.



You will be sent your voting papers by post before the election.



You should vote and then send the papers back in the post.

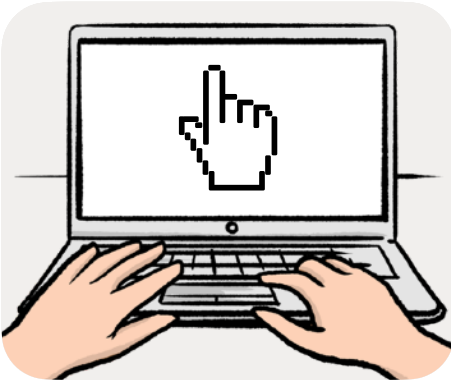


They must arrive by 10pm on Thursday 7 May 2026.



You can also hand in your papers at your polling station on Thursday 7 May 2026.

To find out more about voting by proxy or voting by post, you can:

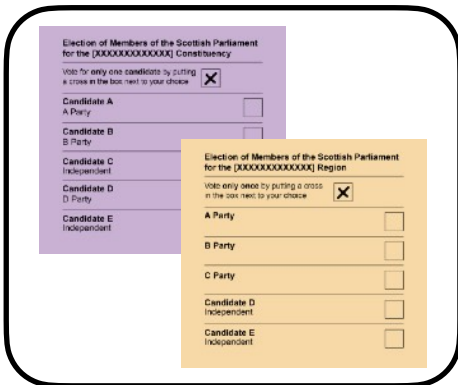


- Visit our website:
[electoralcommission.org.uk/
voter](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter)

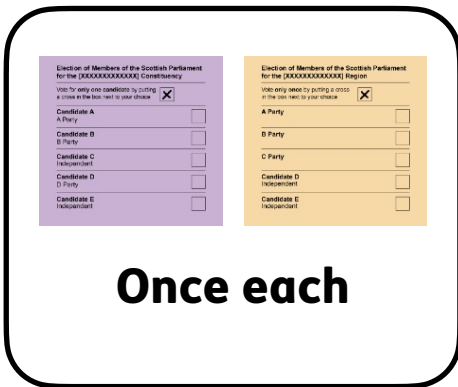


- Call us: 0800 3 280 280

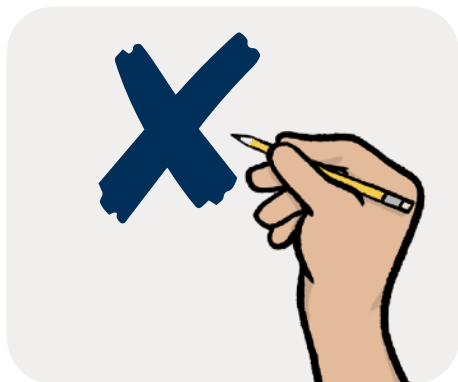
How to vote



You will get 2 pieces of paper, called **ballot papers**.



You vote once on each paper.



Only put 1 cross on each ballot paper. Your cross should look like this: **X**



Please make sure you read the instructions on both your ballot papers before you vote.

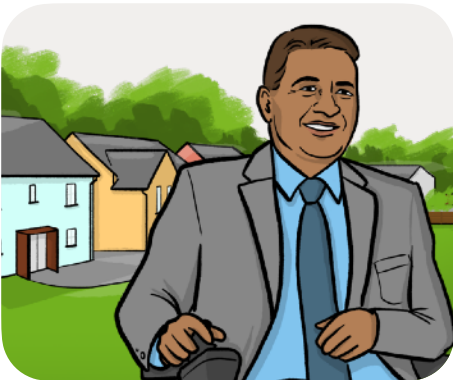
Constituency ballot paper

The constituency ballot paper looks like this:

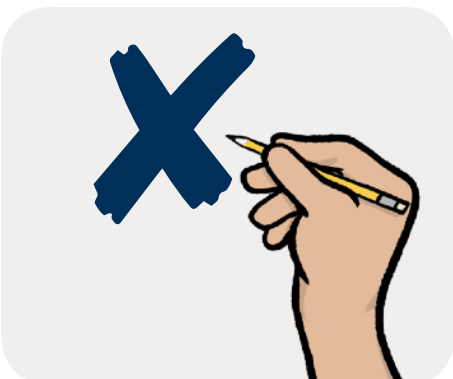
Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament
for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXX] Constituency

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 ballot paper, you vote for someone to speak up for your **constituency**, or local area.



To vote, mark a cross (X) in the box next to the name of 1 person.

Regional ballot paper

The regional ballot paper looks like this:

**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

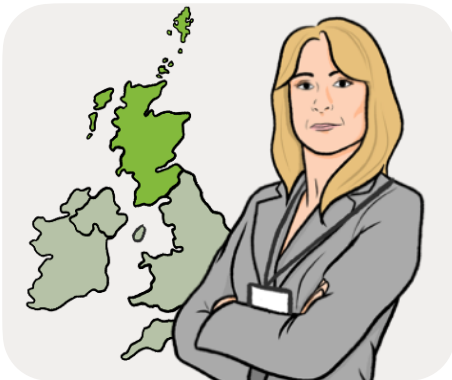
A Party

B Party

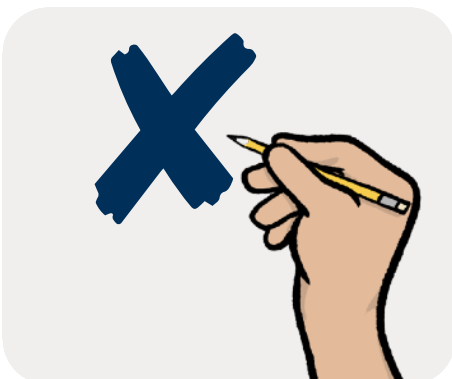
C Party

Candidate D
Independent

Candidate E
Independent



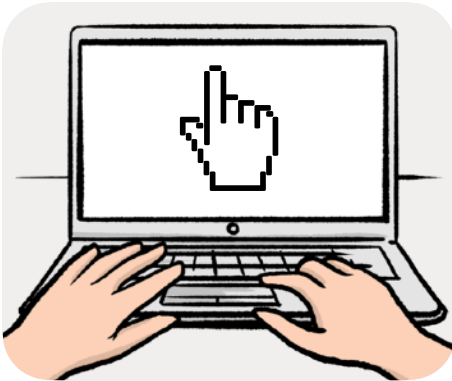
On this ballot paper, you vote for a party or person to speak up for your **region**. This is an area bigger than a constituency.



To vote, mark a cross (X) in the box next to the name of 1 person or party.

Find out more

If you would like this information in a different way, you can:



- Go to our website:
[electoralcommission.org.uk/
booklet](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/booklet)



- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code on the left.



If you point the camera on your phone at the QR code, your phone will read the little dots.



If you have any questions, call us on 0800 3 280 280.



To contact us using British Sign Language, go to our website: electoralcommission.org.uk/BSL

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