

Your 5 May 2016 Scottish Parliament election voting guide



The
Electoral
Commission

Who can vote?



You can vote in this election if you are registered to vote in Scotland and will be 16 or over on **Thursday 5 May 2016** and are:

- a British or Irish citizen, or
- a Commonwealth citizen who has leave to remain in the UK or who does not require leave to remain in the UK, or
- a citizen of another European Union country

British citizens living overseas can't vote in the Scottish Parliament election.

This is the first Scottish Parliament election in which 16 and 17 year olds are eligible to vote.

You must be registered to vote by midnight on **Monday 18 April 2016** to vote in this election. It's important that you register as early as possible in case your registration office needs to check any details with you.

If you have recently received a poll card you are registered to vote.

Your poll card tells you where and when to vote and you will receive one before an election if you are registered.

Register to vote online at:
gov.uk/register-to-vote
or by calling **0800 3 280 280**



How do I vote?



There are three ways to vote:

1. At your polling station on Thursday 5 May 2016

You will be sent a poll card telling you where your polling station is. You don't need your poll card to vote and if you lose it, or don't receive it you can contact your local council to find out where your polling station is.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm.

2. 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 2016.**

You will receive your ballot papers by post. Complete and return your ballot papers, ensuring you leave enough time for them to arrive **by 10pm on Thursday 5 May 2016.**

3. 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 2016.**

In an emergency where you cannot go to the polling station in person you can apply for an emergency proxy **up to 5pm on Thursday 5 May 2016.**

For more information or to get a postal or proxy application form, go to **aboutmyvote.co.uk** or call our helpline on **0800 3 280 280**

How do I fill in the ballot papers?

You will receive two ballot papers:

Constituency ballot paper

(Local area)

Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Constituency	
Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross in the box next to your choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 a candidate to represent your constituency. Mark a cross (X) in the box opposite the name of **one candidate**.

Regional ballot paper

(Larger electoral area)

Election of Members of the Scottish Parliament for the [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX] Region	
Vote only once by putting a cross in the box next to your choice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 ballot paper you vote for a party or independent candidate to represent your region. Mark a cross (X) in the box opposite the name of **one party or independent candidate**.

Scottish Parliament election

On **Thursday 5 May 2016**, there will be an election to the Scottish Parliament.

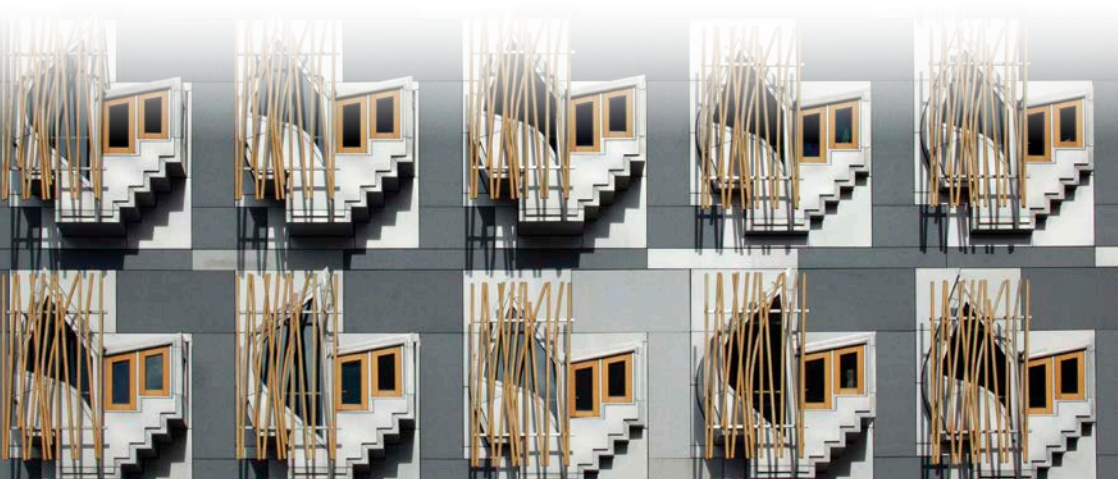
The Scottish Parliament has powers to make laws for Scotland in a range of areas including health, education, housing, justice and the environment.

Everyone in Scotland is represented by eight Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs): one for their constituency (or local area) and seven for the larger electoral region in which they live.

There are 129 elected MSPs including:

- 73 constituency MSPs, one for each of the 73 constituencies
- 56 regional MSPs, seven for each of the eight electoral regions in Scotland.

For more about the Scottish Parliament, go to **scottish.parliament.uk**



How to find out more

If you have any questions, or would like to obtain this leaflet in a different language or alternative format go to **aboutmyvote.co.uk** or call our helpline on **0800 3 280 280**.

 @ElectoralCommUK

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