

Voting in the Scottish Parliament Election 5 May 2016

The
Electoral
Commission

Easy Read



About this booklet



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

This easy read booklet tells you about the election.



An **election** is a public vote when you are asked to choose people to **represent** you.

Represent means speaking up for you in the Scottish Parliament

The **Scottish Parliament** makes laws for Scotland and checks on the Scottish Government.

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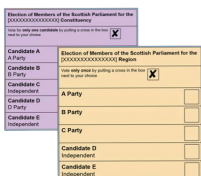
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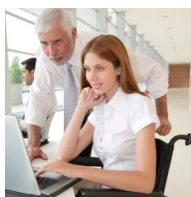
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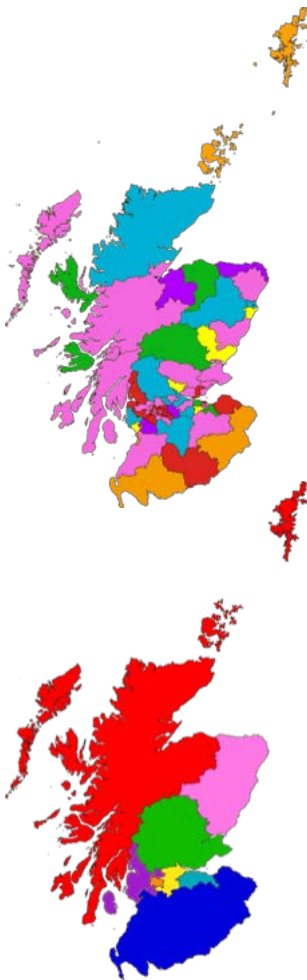
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Election for the Scottish Parliament



There are 129 **Members of the Scottish Parliament**.

They have been elected to represent people in **constituencies** or **regions**.



Constituencies are areas made up of towns, cities or countryside.

There are 73 **constituencies** in Scotland.

Regions are larger areas. There are about seven **constituencies** in each region.

There are eight **regions** in Scotland.



If you live in Scotland, there are 8 Members of the **Scottish Parliament** who are there for you.

1 Member is for the **constituency** where you live.

The other 7 Members are all for the **region** where you live.

The **Scottish Parliament** can make some of the laws for Scotland about:



► Health



► Education



► Housing



► Justice



► Environment

Who can vote?



You can vote in the **election** if you are:

- ▶ Registered to vote in Scotland, and
- ▶ Aged 16 or over on **Thursday 5 May 2016**.



You must also be:-

- ▶ A British **citizen**, or
- ▶ A citizen of the Irish Republic, or
- ▶ A Commonwealth **citizen**, or
- ▶ A **citizen** of another European Union country



A British citizen is someone who was born in Britain or has become a citizen by law.



You cannot vote in these elections if you are a **British citizen** living in another country.



You must be **registered to vote** by **midnight on Monday 18 April 2016** to vote in this **election**.

Don't leave it to the last minute.
Register early to vote!



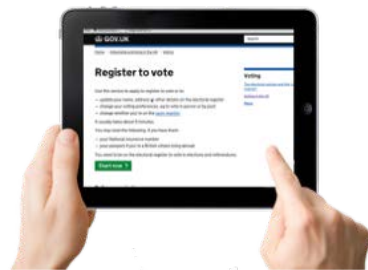
Registered to vote means that the local council has you on their list of people who are allowed to vote.

If you don't know if you are registered to vote you should phone your local council.

How do I register to vote?



Register as soon as possible in case your information needs to be checked.



There are two ways to register:

1. Online at:
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
2. At your local council

Borders Council	
Voting on Thursday 5th May 2016	
Election to the Scottish Parliament	
Voting information	
Electoral Area	Borders - Dumfries
Polling Day	Thursday 5th May 2016
Polling Hours	7am to 10pm
Your polling station will be	Dumfries Primary School School Lane Dumfries
Your details: John Another 12 Three Road Dumfries Number on Register: AB - 123	

If you are registered you will get a **poll card** in the post before the election.

Borders Council	
Voting on Thursday 5th May 2016	
Election to the Scottish Parliament	
Voting information	
Electoral Area	Borders - Dumfries
Polling Day	Thursday 5th May 2016
Polling Hours	7am to 10pm
Your polling station will be	Dumfries Primary School School Lane Dumfries
Your details: John Another 12 Three Road Dumfries Number on Register: AB - 123	

Your **poll card** tells you where and when to vote.

How do I vote?

There are three ways to vote. You can choose one:

1. Vote by going to the polling station on Thursday 5th May



A **polling station** is a public building near your home used for people to vote – for example, a school or library.



Voting at the **polling station** is easy and there will be staff there to help you if you are not sure what to do.



Polling stations are open from **7am to 10pm on Thursday 5 May 2016.**

Make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

Staff will give you 2 ballot papers:



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"/>

- ▶ a lilac-coloured ballot paper for your **constituency**



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"/>

- ▶ a peach-coloured ballot paper for your **region**

You will go to a booth to put one cross **X** against the name you want to support on each ballot paper.



There will be two ballot boxes one for the peach ballot paper and one for the lilac ballot paper.



Put the ballot papers into the box.

You have voted!

How do I fill in the ballot papers?

You will get 2 ballot papers:

- ▶ a lilac-coloured ballot paper for your constituency

- ▶ a peach-coloured ballot paper for your region

A ballot paper is a form you can use for voting. The ballot paper has the names of candidates and political parties on it.

Candidates are the people who want to be Members of the Scottish Parliament.

All the candidates want you to vote for them.

Go to page 15 for how to fill in a ballot paper.

2. Vote by post

To get a postal vote either:



► Go to: **www.aboutmyvote.co.uk**

- Complete the online form
- Print and sign it
- Post it back to the address on the form



► Call **0800 3 280 280** and ask for a postal vote form to be sent to you.



To vote by post you must send your form back by 5pm on **Tuesday 19 April 2016**.

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"/>

You will get 2 ballot papers by post:

► a lilac - coloured ballot paper for your constituency

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"/>

► a peach - coloured ballot paper for your region

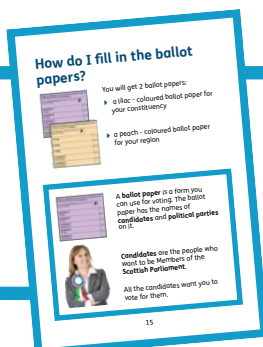


Put one cross **X** against the name you want to support on each ballot paper.



Post your ballot papers back by **10pm on Thursday 5 May 2016.**

You have voted!



Go to page 15 for how to fill in a ballot paper.

3. By proxy

Vote by **proxy** this means getting somebody you trust to vote on your behalf if you can't vote for yourself.



To do this:

► Go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

- Complete the online form
- Print and sign it
- Post it back to the address on the form



► Or call **0800 3 280 280** and ask for a **proxy form** to be sent by post.



To vote by proxy you must send your form back by **5pm on Tuesday 26 April 2016.**

How do I fill in the ballot papers?

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"/>

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"/>

You will get 2 ballot papers:

- ▶ a lilac - coloured ballot paper for your constituency
- ▶ a peach - coloured ballot paper for your region

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"/>

A **ballot paper** is a form you can use for voting. The ballot paper has the names of **candidates** and **political parties** on it.



Candidates are the people who want to be Members of the **Scottish Parliament**.

All the candidates want you to vote for them.

The constituency ballot paper



To vote put a cross ✕ in the box next to the **candidate** you want to vote to win.

Only put one cross on this ballot paper.

The Candidate with the most votes wins.

The regional ballot paper



To vote put a cross ✕ in the box next to the **political party** or **candidate** you want to win.

Only put one cross on this ballot paper



A **political party** is a group of people and candidates who work together and have similar ideas.

In your region, a party or a candidate wins a place in the **Scottish Parliament** based on:



- ▶ The number of votes they get in the region, and
- ▶ The number of **constituency** places that parties win in the region



To find out more about the **Scottish Parliament** go to the website called www.scottish.parliament.uk

More information

Online



Information about voting:
www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

Registering to vote:
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

The Scottish Parliament
www.scottish.parliament.uk



Telephone

0800 3 280 280



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