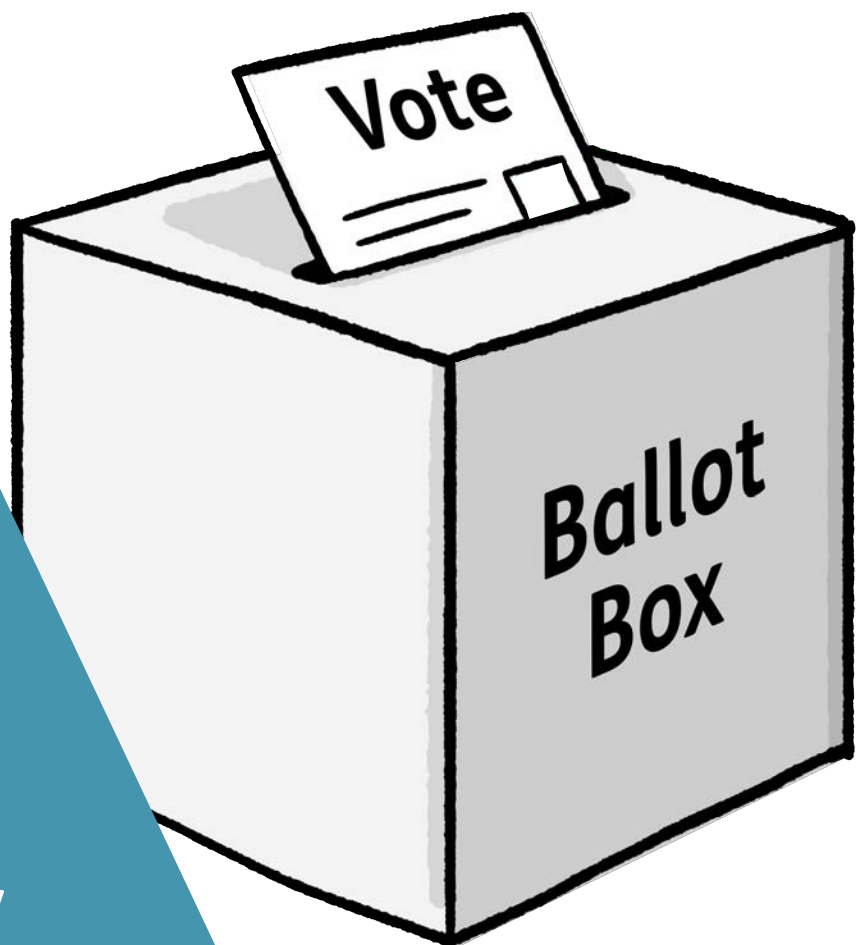




How you can vote on Thursday 5 May

Scottish council elections



easy
read

What's in this booklet?

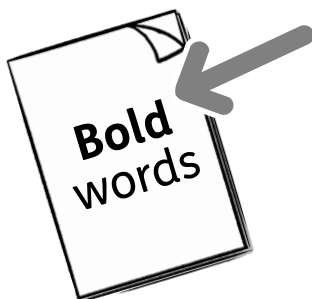
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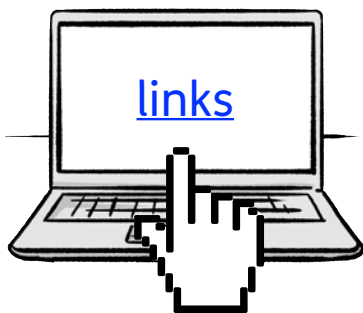
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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

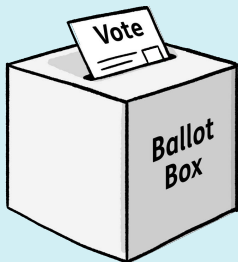


Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



On Thursday 5 May 2022 there will be **council elections** in Scotland.



A **council election** is where you vote for the people you want to be **councillors** in your area.



Councillors are people who sit on a local council. Each area has its own councillors.



This Easy Read information explains:

- why you should vote in this election.
- what you need to do before you can vote.
- how to vote.

Why you should vote in this election



When you vote in this election, you are voting to choose who should be on your local council.

Local councils choose how to spend money on local services. These include:



- schools.



- social care.



- housing.



- some roads and buses.



- parks and leisure centres.



- activities and libraries.



- theatres and art galleries.



- dealing with rubbish.



You can find out more on your local council's website.

To find your local council's website, go to:

mygov.scot/find-your-local-council

What you need to do before you can vote



Before you can vote, you need to register. This means your name is added to a list of people who are allowed to vote.



You must register to vote before midnight on Monday 18 April 2022.



If you have been sent a **poll card**, you are already registered.



A **poll card** tells you where you go to vote. It will have your name and address on it.



If you have registered before but since moved house, you will need to register again.



You are allowed to vote in this election if you are aged 16 or over on Thursday 5 May and you live in Scotland.



If you are allowed to vote, you can register online:

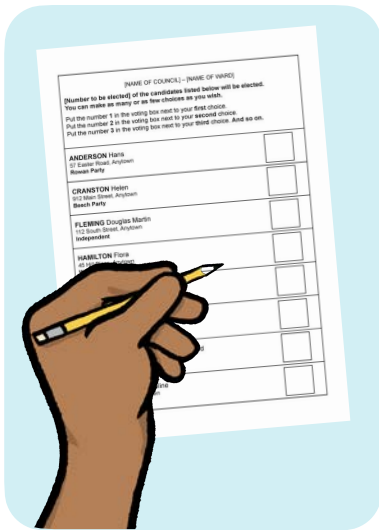
www.gov.uk/register tovote



Or call the Electoral Commission helpline:

0800 3 280 280

How to vote



You will vote by filling in a **ballot paper**.

A **ballot paper** has the names of the people you can choose from on it. There is a box next to each name and you put a number next to your choices.

Your ballot paper will look like this:

[NAME OF COUNCIL] – [NAME OF WARD]	
<p>[Number to be elected] of the candidates listed below will be elected. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish.</p> <p>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.</p>	
ANDERSON Hans 57 Easter Road, Anytown Rowan Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRANSTON Helen 912 Main Street, Anytown Beech Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
FLEMING Douglas Martin 112 South Street, Anytown Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAMILTON Flora 45 Hill Place, Anytown Willow Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
KUMAR Kuldip 3 Castle Wynd, Anytown Elm Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
MACDONALD Donald Alexander 4 Elgin Ave, Anytown Oak Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
MACKENZIE Robert William Sutherland 192 Blackhall Road, Anytown Independent	<input type="checkbox"/>
MASTERS Susan Caroline 93 Holyrood Road, Anytown Sycamore Party	<input type="checkbox"/>

You should:

Donald Alexander	7
William Sutherland	
	1

- put a number 1 next to your first choice.

Put the number 2 in the voting box next to your third choice. And so on.

Donald Alexander	
Robert William Sutherland	2
Caroline Anytown	4

- put a number 2 next to your second choice.

Donald Alexander	
Robert William Sutherland	3
Caroline Anytown	5

- put a number 3 next to your third choice.
- carry on putting numbers next to your choices, in order.

(NAME OF COUNCIL) - (NAME OF WARD)
 (Number to be elected) of the candidates listed below will be elected.
 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.

ANDERSON Hans 27 Green Road, Anytown Labour Party	
CRANSTON Helen 52 Elm Street, Anytown Labour Party	2
FLEMING Douglas Martin 111 Oak Street, Anytown Independent	4
HAMILTON Flora 45 Hill Street, Anytown Labour Party	
KUMAR Kuldip 22 Maple Street, Anytown Labour Party	1
MACDONALD Donald Alexander 15 Maple Street, Anytown Independent	
MACKENZIE Robert William Sutherland 100 Beech Street, Anytown Independent	3
MASTERS Susan Catherine 88 Victoria Road, Anytown Labour Party	5

You can make as many or as few choices as you like.

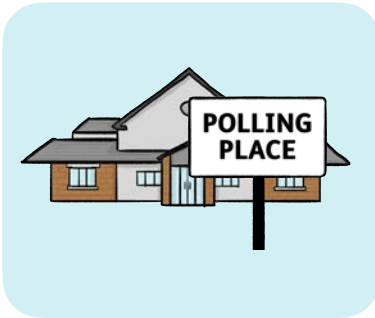
You don't have to put a number in every box.



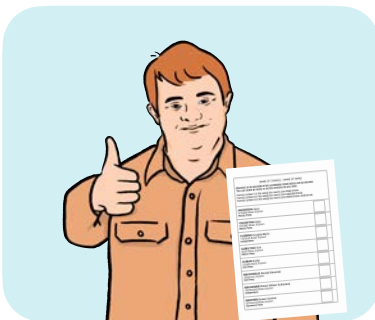
If you make a mistake on your ballot paper, you can ask for a new one.

There are 3 ways to vote:

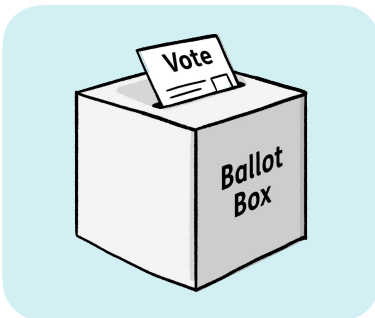
1. Voting at a polling place



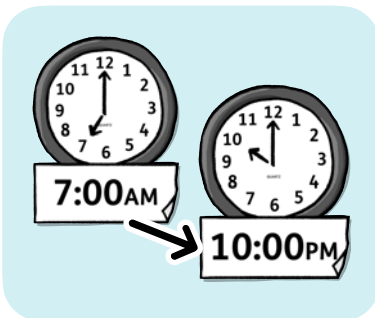
A **polling place** is somewhere that has been set up for people to go and vote.



They will give you your ballot paper and a private space to fill it in.



You then put your ballot paper into a ballot box.



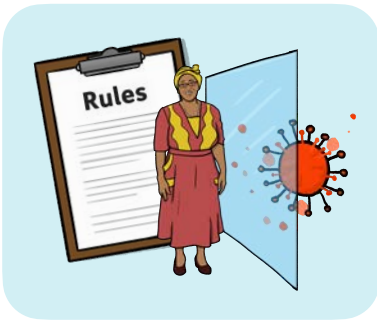
The polling places will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 5 May 2022.



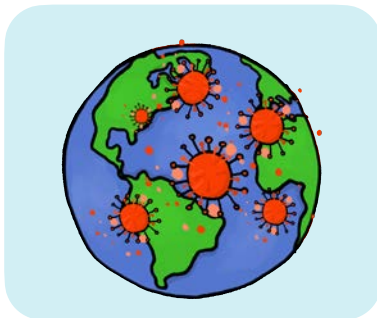
Your poll card will tell you which polling place you can vote at.



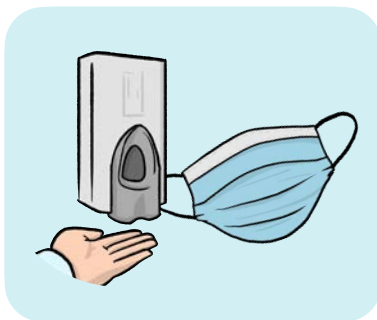
If you have lost your poll card you can contact your local council to find out where your polling place is.



There may be rules to follow at the polling place to help keep everybody safe from **Covid-19**.

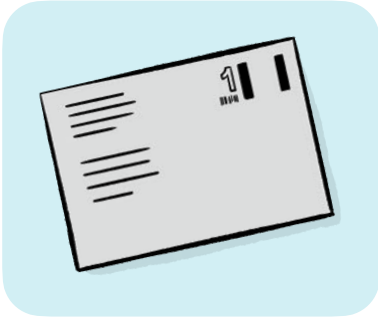


Covid-19 is also called coronavirus. It is an illness that has spread around the world.



The rules may include using the hand sanitiser that is provided and wearing a face covering, unless you can't wear one.

2. Voting by post



If you don't want to go to a polling place you can vote by post instead.



You need to apply to vote by post by filling in a postal vote application form.

You can get an application form from this website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

Or call the helpline: 0800 3 280 280



You then need to send the application form to your local electoral registration office to arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 19 April.



They will send you your ballot paper and details of where to post it to.

You need to post your ballot paper back before the election.



3. Voting by proxy

Voting by proxy means allowing somebody you trust to vote for you.



You need to apply to vote by proxy by filling in an application form.

You can get an application form from this website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

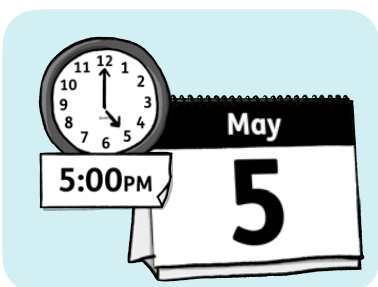
Or call the helpline: 0800 3 280 280



You then need to send the application form to your local electoral registration office to arrive by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.



You can apply for someone to vote for you if you have an emergency that stops you from going to the polling place.



This is called an 'emergency proxy' and you can apply for this up until 5pm on Thursday 5 May.

For more information



If you need any more information go to the website:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voter



Or call the helpline: 0800 3 280 280

This Easy Read information has been produced by easy-read-online.co.uk