

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

I, Derek Brown, the Returning Officer for the Highland Council, hereby give notice that a by-election is to be held to fill the following vacancy: -

Electoral Ward Name	Number of Councillors to be elected
Ward 3 – Wick and East Caithness	1

If the by-election is contested the poll will be held on **Thursday 1 October 2026 between 7am and 10pm.**

Nomination Papers

1. Candidate Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.highland.gov.uk/byelection or by contacting the Election Office.
2. Completed nomination papers must be delivered by hand to the **Returning Officer** by prior appointment between the hours of 10am and 4pm on any working day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) after the date of this notice but no later than 4pm on Monday 31 August 2026 at the following Highland Council location:
 - Highland Council Headquarters, Meeting Room (2), Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX
3. Prior to lodging papers Candidates and Agents should email election@highland.gov.uk or contact 07496 176004 or 07345 447416 to arrange an appointment.
4. Before the original documents are officially lodged by hand to the Returning Officer, Candidates can scan and email their forms to election@highland.gov.uk for an informal check.
5. Polling will take place between the hours of 7am and 10pm on Thursday 1 October 2026 unless the election is uncontested.

Registering to Vote

6. Applications to register to vote must reach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer, as undernoted, by 12 midnight on Tuesday 15 September 2026. Online applications to register can be made at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Postal or Proxy Voting

7. If unable to or if your preference is not to attend the polling station, any elector may apply for a postal or proxy vote at this election.
8. Applications for new postal votes, or amendments or cancellations of existing postal or postal proxy votes must reach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer, as undernoted, by 5pm on Wednesday 16 September 2026.

9. Applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy), except for emergencies, must reach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer, as undernoted, by 5pm on Wednesday 23 September 2026.
10. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election, i.e., made after Wednesday 23 September 2026 deadline must reach the office of the Electoral Registration Officer, as undernoted, by 5pm on Thursday 1 October 2026 on the following grounds:
- in the case of a medical condition, illness or disability arising after the deadline for ordinary proxy applications.
 - are a mental health patient detained under civil powers.
 - if your occupation, service or employment means you cannot go to the polling station in person and you only become aware of this after the deadline for ordinary proxy applications.
 - for Scottish local council elections, an elector may be able to change their proxy if their appointed proxy's circumstances have changed and they cannot reasonably be expected to vote at the polling station.
 - if you are a Scottish prisoner serving a sentence of 12 months or less.
11. For advice on postal or proxy voting, please contact the office of the Electoral Registration Officer.

Contact Details of Electoral Registration Office	
Electoral Registration Officer, Moray House, 16-18 Bank Street, Inverness, IV1 1QY	Telephone: 0800 393783 (weekdays 9am to 5pm) Website: www.saa.gov.uk/h-wi-vjb Email: ero@highland.gov.uk

DEREK BROWN
Returning Officer for the Highland Council

Election Office
Council Headquarters
Glenurquhart Road,
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Tel: 01349 886657
Web: www.highland.gov.uk/byelection
Email: election@highland.gov.uk
Dated: Friday 14 August 2026

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