

Timetable for Scottish council elections on 6 May 2027

The days which are disregarded in calculating the timetable are Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday¹, any bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

Please be aware that the timetable may change in the event of days being appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

The timetable contains the statutory deadlines as set out in the election rules. Directions and events which may be issued by the Convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland appear in boxes shaded in blue.

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date
Publication of notice of election	Not earlier than the thirty-fifth day before the date of the poll and not later than the twenty-eighth day before the date of the poll	Not earlier than Monday 15 March and not later than Wednesday 24 March
Dispatch of poll cards to electors	As soon as practicable after the issue of notice of election	
Delivery of nomination papers	Not later than 4pm on any working day from the day after the publication of notice of election until 4pm on the twenty-third day	Not later than 4pm on any working day after the publication of the notice of election until 4pm on Friday 2 April
Deadline for withdrawals of nomination	23 days (4pm)	4pm on Friday 2 April

¹ Although disregarded in relation to calculating the election timetable, Easter Monday is not a disregarded day in Scotland in relation to calculating the registration deadline.

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date
Deadline for the notification of appointment of election agents	23 days (4pm)	4pm on Friday 2 April
Publication of notice of poll, including situation of polling stations	As soon as practicable after the deadline for withdrawals	As soon as practicable after 4pm on Friday 2 April
Publication of the first interim notice of alteration	23 days	Friday 2 April
Publication of the second interim notice of alteration	Between 22 days and 6 days	Between Monday 5 April and Tuesday 27 April
First dispatch of postal ballot packs		
Deadline for receiving applications for registration	12 days	Monday 19 April
Deadline for receiving new postal vote and postal proxy applications, and for changes to existing postal or proxy votes	11 days (5pm)	5pm on Tuesday 20 April
Deadline for new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxies)	6 days (5pm)	5pm on Tuesday 27 April
Final dispatch of postal ballot packs		
Publication of final election notice of alteration	5 days	Wednesday 28 April
Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents	5 days	Wednesday 28 April

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date	
POLLING DAY	0 (7am to 10pm)	7am until 10pm on Thursday 6 May	
Deadline for emergency proxy applications	0 (5pm)	5pm on Thursday 6 May	
Last time that electors can apply for a replacement for a lost and spoilt postal vote	0 (5pm)	5pm on Thursday 6 May [as set out in The Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026]	
Last time to alter the register due to clerical error or court appeal	0 (9pm)	9pm on Thursday 6 May	
Verification and count			
Latest date for candidates to submit their return and agent declaration	35 calendar days*	If the result is declared:	Deadline for return:
		Thursday 6 May	Thursday 10 June
		Friday 7 May	Friday 11 June
		Any declaration made on 8 May or 9 May	Monday 14 June
Sending postal vote identifier rejection notices	Within 3 months beginning with the date of poll	Friday 6 August	

*Although these deadlines are calculated on calendar days, the deadline cannot fall on a dies-non. The deadline will in that case be the next working day.