

Scottish Local Government Elections 2017

Glasgow City Council Election Office

FAQs

(frequently asked questions)

1 How/where to vote

Issue/question	Answer
Date of election?	Thursday 4 May 2017 (polling hours: 7am to 10pm).
How do I find out where my polling station is?	<p>Your poll card will tell you the location of your polling station.</p> <p>Alternatively, contact the elections office on 0141 287 4151.</p> <p>Electors are encouraged to check their poll card carefully, as some polling facilities have changed due to recent Local Government Boundary Review.</p>
Polling hours?	Polling hours are between 7am – 10pm.
What methods of voting are there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person at the polling station • By post • By proxy (need to give particular reason for one-off; need to meet certain criteria to vote by proxy for a period of time)
How do I fill in the ballot paper?	<p>You fill in the ballot paper using numbers. Put the number 1 next to your first choice candidate, the number 2 next to your second choice candidate, the number 3 next to your third choice candidate and so on. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish.</p> <p>Further information on how to vote is provided at http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/how-do-i-vote</p> <p>Information will be provided by the poll clerk at the polling station or, if you opted to vote by post, it will be in your ballot pack.</p> <p>There will also be instructions on the top of the ballot paper which you should read as well as on display within polling stations.</p>
My whole block/street haven't had their poll cards.	<p>This may not necessarily mean that you cannot vote.</p> <p>Check that you are registered with the Electoral Registration Officer on 0141 287 4444.</p> <p>If you are registered, you do not need your poll card to vote. Your local elections office (0141 287 4151) can tell you where your polling station is located.</p>

2 Access issues

Issue/question	Answer
What provision is made for disabled people?	<p>There are different options for casting your vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at a polling station - by post - by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf. <p>Most polling stations will be fully accessible. The staff should be trained and have access to equipment to assist disabled electors to vote independently or with the assistance of polling station staff.</p> <p>Disabled electors may also bring a companion to assist them to vote at the polling station.</p> <p>Contact the elections office (0141 287 4151) for details of the access to any particular polling station and the assistance that will be available.</p>
What provisions are made for blind or visually impaired voters?	<p>Tactile voting templates and large print versions of ballot papers that can be used for reference are available at all polling stations.</p> <p>You can take a companion with you (close relative or elector qualified to vote) to assist you, or ask the presiding officer at the polling station for help.</p>
What provision is there for non-English speakers?	<p>Ballot papers cannot be printed in languages other than English.</p> <p>However, there may be guidance notes available in other languages. These may be available in the polling station.</p>
What provision is there for wheelchair users?	<p>Each polling station is different. You can obtain more details from the elections office on 0141 287 4151.</p>

3 The elections in your area

Issue/question	Answer
Who is standing in the elections?	<p>Details of the notice of poll once available will be published on the council website and displayed in local offices and libraries. The notice will be published as soon as practicable after 4pm on 29 March 2017.</p> <p>Refer also to next question below.</p>
Where can I get information about the candidates?	<p>See answer above.</p> <p>You can also contact the candidates. Most candidates/parties post leaflets through letter boxes during election time, hold meetings, knock on doors or have websites with information.</p>

4 Count, results, etc.

Issue/question	Answer
How are the votes counted?	<p>The ballot papers will be scanned and counted electronically.</p> <p>The Single Transferable Voting system is used to allocate seats.</p> <p>Voters rank the candidates in order of preference.</p> <p>The votes are counted in stages. At the first stage only first preferences are counted. Anyone who reaches a set amount of votes (the quota) is elected.</p> <p>Any votes received over the quota are not needed by the elected candidate and so are transferred to the second preference (and so on until all seats are filled).</p>
When will the results be announced?	<p>The counting of the votes will start on the morning of Friday 5 May, with the results declared following the count.</p> <p>Contact your local elections office (0141 287 4151) for more information, or visit your local council's website.</p>
What about recounts?	<p>It is the responsibility of the Returning Officer to decide if a re-count is necessary.</p>

5 Candidates at the election

Issue/question	Answer
How do I stand as a candidate at a council election in Scotland?	<p>You need to meet certain qualifying criteria to stand as a candidate, and must not be disqualified.</p> <p>You will also need to submit nomination papers to the Returning Officer by the nomination deadline (4pm on Wednesday 29 March 2017).</p> <p>Refer to candidates' guidance on Electoral Commission website: www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-council-elections-in-scotland-2017</p>

6 The Electoral Commission

Issue/question	Answer
What is the Electoral Commission?	<p>An independent body, not part of government, that regulates party and election finance and sets standards for well-run elections and electoral registration.</p> <p>If you want further information, visit, www.electoralcommission.org.uk or call 0800 3 280 280.</p>