

# Timetable for the Scottish Parliament election on Thursday 7 May 2026

*Under the [Scottish Elections \(Reform\) Act 2020](#), an ordinary general election to the Scottish Parliament is required to **be held no later than Thursday 7 May 2026**. The date of the poll [may be varied by up to a month](#) by the monarch, on proposal by the Presiding Officer.  
New legislation may affect the times and dates set out below.*

The days which are disregarded in calculating the timetable are Saturday, Sunday, bank holidays and any day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning. The timetable may change in the event of days being appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

| <b>Event</b>                               | <b>Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)</b>                            | <b>Date (deadline if not midnight)</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| Publication of notice of election          | Not later than 28 days and not earlier than 35 days                                   | Between Monday 16 March and Wednesday 25 March   |
| Delivery of nomination papers              | From the day after the publication of the notice of election until the 23rd day (4pm) | Not later than 4pm on any working day after publication of notice of election until 4pm on Wednesday 1 April |
| Deadline for delivery of nomination papers | 23 days (4pm)   | 4pm on Wednesday 1 April   |
| Deadline for withdrawals of nomination     | 23 days (4pm)   | 4pm on Wednesday 1 April   |

| Event   | Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)  | Date (deadline if not midnight)   |
|---|--|---|
| Making objections to nomination papers  | <p>During the hours allowed for delivery of nomination papers on the last day for their delivery and the hour following.</p> <p>No objection may be made in the afternoon of the last day except to a nomination paper delivered within 24 hours of the last time for its delivery</p> | <p>Objections can only be made on Wednesday 1 April (until 5pm).</p> <p>Until 12 noon on Wednesday 1 April objections can be made to all delivered nominations</p> <p>Between 12 noon and 5pm on Wednesday 1 April objections can only be made to nominations delivered after 4pm on Tuesday 31 March</p> |
| Deadline for the notification of appointment of election agent  | 23 days (4pm)  | 4pm on Wednesday 1 April  |
| Publication of statement of persons nominated, including notice of poll and situation of polling stations | <p>If no objections: on 23 days (at 5pm)</p> <p>If objection(s) are made: Not before objection(s) are disposed of but not later than 24 hours after the last time for delivery of nomination papers</p>  | <p>If no objections: at 5pm on Wednesday 1 April</p> <p>Objection(s) made: not before objection(s) are disposed of but not later than 4pm on Thursday 2 April</p>   |

| <b>Event</b>  | <b>Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)</b> | <b>Date (deadline if not midnight)</b>                    |
|---|--|---|
| Publication of first interim election notice of alteration  | 23 days <sup>i</sup>                                       | Wednesday 1 April   |
| Deadline for receiving applications for registration  | 12 days  | Monday 20 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 21 April                                   |
| Deadline for receiving new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxies)                        | 6 days (5pm)   | 5pm on Tuesday 28 April                                   |
| Publication of second interim election notice of alteration   | Between 22 days and 6 days                                 | Between Thursday 2 April and Tuesday 28 April (inclusive) |
| Publication of final election notice of alteration  | 5 days   | Wednesday 29 April  |
| Deadline for notification of appointment of polling and counting agents   | 5 days   | Wednesday 29 April  |

| <b>Event</b>  | <b>Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)</b> | <b>Date (deadline if not midnight)</b> |
|---|--|--|
| Deadline for notification of appointment of sub-agents                | 2 days   | Tuesday 5 May                          |
| <b>Polling day</b>  | <b>0 (7am to 10pm)</b>                                     | <b>7am to 10pm on Thursday 7 May</b>   |
| Last time for re-issue of spoilt or lost postal votes                 | 0 (5pm)  | 5pm on Thursday 7 May                  |
| Deadline for emergency proxy applications                             | 0 (5pm)  | 5pm on Thursday 7 May                  |
| Last time to alter the register due to clerical error or court appeal | 0 (9pm)  | 9pm on Thursday 7 May                  |

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<sup>i</sup> Calculated in accordance with RPA 1983