

INFORMATION PACK

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION EAST LOTHIAN COAST AND LAMMERMUIRS CONSTITUENCY 7 MAY 2026

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EC Guidance for Candidates and Agents

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-scottish-parliament-elections>

Scottish Parliament election Constituency
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Withdrawal of candidate

Constituency name	East Lothian Coast & Lammermuirs	Date of election	7 May 2026
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To the Constituency Returning Officer for the above constituency

Candidate's name	
Address	

Having been nominated as a candidate at the above election I hereby give you notice that I withdraw my nomination as a candidate

Candidate's signature	
Date	

Witness

The above-named candidate signed this document in my presence

Name of witness	
Signature of witness	
Date	

This form must be delivered by hand or by post to the Constituency Returning Officer by the close of nominations.

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
EAST LoTHIAN COAST & LAMMERMUIRS CONSTITUENCY
7 MAY 2026**

**LODGING A DEPOSIT/
RETURN OR FORFEITURE OF DEPOSIT**

LODGING A DEPOSIT

For a candidate's nomination to be valid, the sum of £500 must be deposited with the Constituency Returning Officer by the deadline for nominations (4pm on 1 April 2026).

The deposit can be made by:

- Legal tender (cash)
- Credit/debit card (in person)
- Electronic transfer (East Lothian Council, 30-18-05, 10026368) with appropriate reference, ie SPE26 followed by candidate's surname
- UK banker's draft

RETURN OR FORFEITURE OF DEPOSIT

Candidates who poll more than 5% of the total valid votes cast in the constituency will have their deposit returned. The deposit will be repayable in accordance with the legislation.

The repayment will be by electronic transfer, please give us your bank account details

Those candidates who have polled less than, or equal to, 5% of the total votes cast will lose their deposit.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION – 7 MAY 2026

Request for Free Supply of Full Register of Electors and/or Absent Voters Lists

Separate requests are required to be made to Electoral Registration Officer for each of the above documents. This form has been produced to try to simplify the request process by ensuring the statutory requirements are met and that the registers and lists issued are in the format the applicant requires, subject to the Electoral Registration Officer's ability to meet that request. The legislation requires only that the data is provided in a format held by the Registration Officer.

PART 1 - REQUEST FOR FREE COPY OF THE ELECTORAL REGISTER

The Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 (as amended) provide for the supply of the Full Register of Electors at elections.

The entitlement is conferred on candidates and agents. Scottish Parliament candidate includes a constituency candidate and an individual regional candidate. In the case of a registered political party which submits a list of candidates as regional members, the entitlement otherwise conferred on a candidate is conferred on the election agent of that party.

This means that the appropriate boxes below must be completed to indicate the capacity of the person making the application. **The form also requires to be signed in Part 3 by that person.**

Candidates and agents should note the following restrictions on the use of registers provided to them.

THEY MAY NOT SUPPLY A COPY OF THE FULL REGISTER TO ANY PERSON, DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN IT THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE OPEN (EDITED) REGISTER OR MAKE USE OF ANY SUCH INFORMATION OTHER THAN FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES.

I,

Name:

a candidate at the election

OR

an Election Agent for a candidate standing nominated/Registered Party submitting a list

(please enter an "X" in the appropriate box)

standing for the Scottish Parliamentary
Constituency/Region of

wish to request a copy of the register of electors and any notice of alteration to it in paper/data* format. I understand that this will be provided in the form of a consolidated register subject to the fact that further alterations may take place after the supply of the register. **delete as appropriate*

In either case above, please enter the name of the relevant political party, or "Independent", in this box

**CONFIRMATION
BY RETURNING
OFFICER**

To speed up the processing of a request a candidate or agent may seek the signature of a member of the Returning Officer's staff. In the absence of such a signature the candidature will require to be confirmed by the ERO prior to the issue of the register.

Returning Officer's Signature

Cont'd Over/....

Any paper format will be issued as an electronic PDF (by secure transfer portal SharePoint). Data will be supplied in CSV format.

Please provide an e-mail address in the box below.

E-mail address (BLOCK LETTERS):

PART 2 - REQUEST FOR FREE COPY OF ABSENT VOTERS LISTS

These are supplied free of charge by the ERO on written request under Regulation 61(1) of The Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (as amended). In this case, the qualifying applicants are as described in Part 1 above. If you wish to request the issue of Absent Voting Lists, please enter an "X" in the box opposite. It will, whenever possible, be issued in the same format (either data or PDF) as the register.

PART 3 - CANDIDATES OR AGENTS DETAILS

Candidate's or Agent's Name	<input type="text"/>		
Candidate's or Agent's Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
Contact Telephone No	<input type="text"/>		
Contact E-Mail Address if different from above	<input type="text"/>		

NOTE - WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATES

Should a candidate to whom a register and or absent voters lists have been issued subsequently not stand or withdraw from an election, any register or lists supplied in paper format should be returned to the ERO. Any copy provided electronically should be destroyed. In such circumstances any usage of the register, for any purpose, may be in contravention of the legislation.

PART 4 - DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS

Copies of the register and absent voters lists will be issued as soon as possible after the receipt of your request.

**Please send this form to:
THE ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER
17A SOUTH GYLE CRESCENT
EDINBURGH, EH12 9FL**

or as an e-mail attachment to: enquiries@lothian-vjb.gov.uk

If you need additional information, please telephone 0131 344 2500

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
EAST LoTHIAN COAST & LAMMERMUIRS CONSTITUENCY
7 MAY 2026**

CONTACT DETAILS

East Lothian Council Election Team

The Constituency Returning Officer (CRO), Laurence Rockey, is responsible for running the election in the East Lothian Coast & Lammermuirs constituency. The Depute Constituency Returning Officer is Hayley Barnett.

Depute CRO:	Hayley Barnett	07768 838031 (calls only)
Election Office:	General Enquiries	01620 820185
	Hazel Boak	07725 223554
	May Turner	07860 593346
	Fiona Currie	07834 614499
	Katie Young	07813 366894

Email: elections@eastlothian.gov.uk

Website: www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Also, part of the core team in relation to overseeing the counts and opening of postal votes is the Count Manager, Alan Cruickshank.

Public helpline – **01875 824300** – active from 1 March to 7 May (inclusive).

Regional Returning Officer

The Regional Returning Officer (RRO) is responsible for dealing with nominations for the regional election for the Edinburgh & Lothians East list and for the allocation of regional seats. The RRO is Paul Lawrence (City of Edinburgh Council).

Email – elections@edinburgh.gov.uk

Electoral Registration Office

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is responsible for maintaining the register of electors and absent voters' lists.

Telephone – 0131 344 2500

Email – enquiries@lothian-vjb.gov.uk

Website – www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk

Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission's responsibilities include the registration of political parties, the regulation of spending on election campaigns, promoting voter awareness, providing advice and assistance to political parties/candidates and to Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers.

Telephone – 0131 225 0200/0333 103 1928

Email – infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

Website – www.electoralcommission.org.uk

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
EAST LOTHIAN COAST & LAMMERMUIRS CONSTITUENCY
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KEY INFORMATION

Nomination Papers

Nomination papers may be lodged with the Constituency Returning Officer from **17 March**, between 10am to 4pm, up to close of nominations at **4pm** on **1 April**.

It is recommended that nomination papers are emailed initially to the Elections Office (elections@eastlothian.gov.uk); these will be checked and candidates/agents contacted to advise if they have been completed correctly or if alterations are required. Once this has been done an appointment should then be made to physically lodge the nomination papers.

Postal Votes – Opening Sessions

The first opening of postal votes will be held on 27 April. There will be daily openings, on working days, up to and including polling day. The final opening will be held following close of poll to deal with postal votes handed in to polling stations. The venue for all sessions will be **Meadowmill Sports Centre**. All openings will commence at 9am. The duration of each opening session will vary according to the volume of postal ballot packs returned. The Constituency Returning Officer reserves the right to cancel any planned opening in light of the number of packs received.

A form for the appointment of postal vote agents is contained within this pack. The maximum number of postal vote agents that may be appointed is one per candidate per opening session. Forms should be returned to the Election Office (email preferably) before the start of any session(s) an agent may wish to attend.

The Counts

The venues for the counting of votes will be **East Lothian Indoor Bowling Club and Meadowmill Sports Centre**.

Pre-Count Verification will take place at Meadowmill Sports Centre following close of poll on Thursday 7 May. The counting of votes will commence at 9.00am on Friday 8 May.

The number of counting agents is dependent upon the number of candidates standing and the number of count assistants appointed and is therefore yet to be determined. Forms for the appointment of counting agents will be issued to election agents following conclusion of the nominations process and must be returned by 29 April – earlier return is always appreciated. Admission passes for the counts will be issued at the count venues. Those authorised to attend the count can also attend the pre-count verification session.

Please note that security will be in place and entry to the count venues will not be permitted to anyone not on the admission list.

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.

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date (deadline if not midnight)
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>

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date (deadline if not midnight)
Publication of first interim election notice of alteration	23 days ⁱ	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

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date (deadline if not midnight)
Deadline for notification of appointment of sub-agents	2 days	Tuesday 5 May
Polling day	0 (7am to 10pm)	7am to 10pm on Thursday 7 May
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

ⁱ Calculated in accordance with RPA 1983



The location of each Polling District by reference to Scottish Parliamentary Constituency & Region, UK Parliamentary Constituency and Local Government Ward and Polling Place is as follows: -

Scottish Parliamentary Constituency: **East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs**
 Scottish Parliamentary Region: **Edinburgh and Lothians East**

Polling District: EL2A
Polling Place: Pennypit Centre
 No. of Stations: 3
 Address: Double Dykes, Rope Walk, Prestonpans, EH32 9BN

Polling District: EL2B & EL3G
Polling Place: Prestonpans Community Centre
 No. of Stations: 4
 Address: Preston Road, Prestonpans, EH32 9QS

Polling District: EL2C
Polling Place: Port Seton Community Centre
 No. of Stations: 5
 Address: South Seton Park, Port Seton, EH32 0BQ

Polling District: EL2D
Polling Place: Longniddry Community Centre
 No. of Stations: 2
 Address: Seton Road, Longniddry, EH32 0LD

Polling District: EL3D
Polling Place: Macmerry Miners' Welfare Club
 No. of Stations: 1
 Address: Main Road, Macmerry, EH33 1QF

Polling District: EL4A
Polling Place: The Stables
 No. of Stations: 1
 Address: Main Street, Aberlady, EH32 0RB

Polling District: EL4B
Polling Place: Gullane Community Association Hall
 No. of Stations: 2
 Address: Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA

Polling District:	EL4C
Polling Place:	Dirleton Church Hall
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	5d Manse Road, Dirleton, EH39 5EL
Polling District:	EL4E
Polling Place:	North Berwick Sports Centre
No. of Stations:	6
Address:	Grange Road, North Berwick, EH39 4QS
Polling District:	EL4F
Polling Place:	Whitekirk Village Hall
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	Whitekirk, EH42 1XS
Polling District:	EL5A
Polling Place:	Humbie Village Hall
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	Humbie, EH36 5PJ
Polling District:	EL5D
Polling Place:	Aubigny Sports Centre
No. of Stations:	7
Address:	Mill Wynd, Haddington, EH41 4DB
Polling District:	EL5E
Polling Place:	Athelstaneford Village Hall
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	Main Street, Athelstaneford, EH39 5BE
Polling District:	EL5G
Polling Place:	Gifford Bowling Club
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	Station Road, Gifford, EH41 4QL
Polling District:	EL5H
Polling Place:	Garvald Village Hall
No. of Stations:	1
Address:	Garvald, EH41 4LN
Polling District:	EL5I
Polling Place:	Ormiston Community Centre
No. of Stations:	2
Address:	George Street, Ormiston, EH35 5JB
Polling District:	EL5J
Polling Place:	Pencaitland and Winton Bowling Club
No. of Stations:	2
Address:	Easter Pencaitland, Pencaitland, EH34 5DN

Polling District: EL6B
Polling Place: East Linton Community Association Hall
No. of Stations: 2
Address: 73 High Street, East Linton, EH40 3BQ

Polling District: EL6D
Polling Place: Stenton Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Stenton, EH42 1TE

Polling District: EL6E
Polling Place: West Barns Bowling Club
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Edinburgh Road, West Barns, EH42 1UH

Polling District: EL6F
Polling Place: Bleachingfield Centre
No. of Stations: 7
Address: Countess Crescent, Dunbar, EH42 1DX

Polling District: EL6H
Polling Place: Innerwick Old Schoolhouse
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Innerwick, EH42 1SE

Article 64

Schools and rooms for Scottish parliamentary election meetings: constituency candidates

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a candidate for return as a constituency member at a Scottish parliamentary election is entitled for the purpose of holding public meetings in furtherance of candidature to the use free of charge of reasonable times between the last day on which the notice of election may be published and the day preceding the date of the poll of:
 - (a) a suitable room in the premises of a school to which this section applies;
 - (b) any meeting room to which this article applies.
- (2) This article applies to any school of which the premises are situated in the constituency or an adjoining constituency, not being an independent school within the meaning given in section 135 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980(b), but a candidate is not entitled under this article to the use of a room in school premises outside the constituency if there is a suitable room in other premises in the constituency which are reasonably accessible from the same parts of the constituency as those outside and are premises of a school to which this article applies.
- (3) This article applies to meeting rooms situated in the constituency, the expense of maintaining which is payable wholly or mainly by –
 - (a) the Scottish Ministers or any other part of the Scottish Administration; or
 - (b) any Scottish public authority with mixed functions or no reserved functions (within the meaning of the 1998 Act).
- (4) Where a room is used for a meeting in pursuance of the rights conferred by this article, the person by whom or on whose behalf the meeting is convened—
 - (a) shall defray any expenses incurred in preparing, warming, lighting and cleaning the room and providing attendance for the meeting and restoring the room to its usual condition after the meeting; and
 - (b) shall defray any damage done to the room or the premises in which it is situated, or to the furniture, fittings or apparatus in the room or premises.
- (5) A candidate is not entitled to exercise the rights conferred by this article except on reasonable notice; and this article does not authorise any interference with the hours during which a room in school premises is used for educational purposes, or any interference with the use of a meeting room either for the purposes of the person maintaining it or under a prior agreement for its letting for any purpose.
- (6) For the purposes of this article and article 65 (except those of paragraph (4)(b) of each), the premises of a school shall not be taken to include any private dwelling, and in this article—
 - (a) the expression “meeting room” means any room which it is the practice to let for public meetings; and
 - (b) the expression “room” includes a hall, gallery or gymnasium.
- (7) The provisions of Schedule 7 (use of school rooms and meeting rooms for election meetings) have effect with respect to the rights conferred by this article and article 65 and the arrangements to be made for their exercise.

Article 65 applies to candidates for return as regional members

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this article - (b) a registered party submitting a regional list is entitled for the purpose of holding public meetings for the purpose of promoting or procuring the giving of votes for that registered party

EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL LIST OF PREMISES

Use of schools and rooms for Scottish Parliamentary election meetings*

SCHOOLS (Primary)

Aberlady	Haddington (Infants campus)	Pencaitland
Athelstaneford	Haddington (Upper campus)	Preston Tower
Blindwells	Humbie	Saltoun
Cockenzie	Innerwick	St Gabriel's RC
Dirleton	Law	St Mary's RC
Dunbar (John Muir campus)	Letham Mains	Stenton
Dunbar (Lochend campus)	Longniddry	West Barns
East Linton	Macmerry	Yester
Gullane	Ormiston	

To book a room in any of the schools contact 01620 827811

NOTE: the right to use rooms in a school does not include hours during which a room is used for educational purposes. Any prior letting of a room takes precedence.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

Bleachingfield, Dunbar	Bridge Centre, Haddington
Longniddry CC	North Berwick CC
Ormiston CC	Pennypit Centre, Prestonpans
Port Seton Centre	Prestonpans CC

HALLS

Macmerry Village Hall	Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland
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To make enquiries or to arrange a booking in a community centre or hall, please e-mail bookings@eastlothian.gov.uk

LIBRARIES

Dunbar	East Linton	Gullane
Haddington (JGC)	Longniddry	North Berwick
Ormiston	Port Seton	Prestonpans

To contact a library, please phone 01620 827827 and ask for the location you require.

NOTE: Any prior letting of a room takes precedence

* In terms of the legislation candidates are entitled to use publicly maintained accommodation for public meetings in support of their candidature between the last day for publication of the Notice of Election (**25 March**) and the day preceding the date of the poll (**6 May**). Use of the accommodation is to be free except for expenses involved in preparing, heating, lighting and servicing the accommodation or in rectifying any damage done to it. Candidates and election agents, and persons authorised by them, are entitled to inspect this list.

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POSTER DISPLAY GUIDANCE

The display of election posters is not a matter for the Returning Officer. Consent for the display of posters and advertisements relating to an election must be obtained from the owner of the land (or other person entitled to grant consent).

Street furniture (any structure from back of pavement to back of opposite pavement inc. lamp posts, signposts etc.) is owned by the Local Authority.

In accordance with our working practices regarding the display of election posters, please note that **the display of election posters on road lighting columns within East Lothian Council area is not permitted.**

Display of posters on other columns in central reservations, on pedestrian refuge islands in the centre of roadways, on traffic signal posts or on control boxes is **also not permissible** under relevant statutory provisions.

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APPOINTMENT OF POSTAL VOTE AGENTS

I, *(name)*

election agent for *(name of candidate)*

appoint the following persons as postal vote agents for the opening of postal votes in the East Lothian Coast & Lammermuirs Constituency at **Meadowmill Sports Centre** (the maximum number that you may appoint is one postal vote agent (per candidate) per opening session *):

Name <i>(please print)</i>	Opening Session(s) <i>(specify date(s))</i>

(Signature of election agent)

(Date)

* **Note:** Rules 69(1) and 80(2)(b) of the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
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ARRANGEMENTS IN FORCE AT THE POLL

At this election the following arrangements will apply:

(1) Entitlement to attend the polling station

Candidates and election agents are entitled to visit any polling station within the East Lothian Coast & Lammermuirs Constituency during polling day; polling agents may also attend at the polling station(s) for which they have been appointed. Only one polling agent on behalf of a named candidate or a registered party shall be admitted at the same time to a polling station. Those attending must have received notification, in writing, of the requirement of secrecy, and must hold the appropriate admission pass from me otherwise admission to the polling stations or the count respectively will not be allowed.

(2) What does a polling agent do?

The main duties and responsibilities of polling agents on polling day are:-

- ◆ to observe the Presiding Officer showing the empty ballot box prior to sealing (but agents are not permitted to attach their seal);
- ◆ to detect personation and prevent people from voting more than once at the same election;
- ◆ to report to their election agent any improper occurrences;
- ◆ to be present when the Presiding Officer marks ballot papers at the request of electors;
- ◆ to be present at the close of poll when the various packets of documents are sealed (agents may if desired attach their seal);
- ◆ to maintain the secrecy of the ballot.

An election agent can also do any of the things that a polling agent is authorised to do. However, just because a polling agent is entitled to witness various aspects of the polling procedure, the procedure is not invalidated if they have not witnessed it.

Any number of people may be appointed as a polling agent to attend any particular polling station, although only one polling agent per named candidate or registered party will be allowed into a particular polling station at any time. A person may be appointed as a polling agent for more than one polling station.

(3) Display of advertisements

The display of all advertising is regulated by legislation although practice can vary between local authorities depending on where advertisements are to be displayed. Parties, individual candidates and agents should ensure that all election advertisements, including any bills, placards and posters, comply with the Council's guidelines for display of posters on street furniture. In particular, remember that no advertisement should be displayed without the permission of the owner of the site or anyone else with an interest in the site.

(4) Campaigning on polling day

Campaigning cannot happen within a polling station or polling place. Presiding Officers must ensure that electors can quietly and privately cast their vote free of any intimidation and provide a space where the secrecy of the ballot will be respected. Electors should be able to enter the surrounding area in the same manner.

(5) Signs and Notices

The Presiding Officer at Station No 1 will ensure that signs and notices are in place to provide information for voters. The following notices will be in place:-

- ◆ Guidance for Voters to be displayed outside and inside every polling station.
- ◆ Instructions for Voters to be displayed in every polling booth.
- ◆ A large sample copy of the ballot paper will be displayed inside the polling station and an enlarged hand-held copy marked 'sample' will also be available in the polling station.

No party posters or other material that might be construed as supporting the views of any party or candidate involved in the election should be displayed in or on the premises. If any such materials are found, they must be removed or covered up.

(6) Tellers and Rosettes

Tellers should wear coloured rosettes of a reasonable size, as this assists electors by making it clear that they are party workers and not electoral officials. Tellers must not wear, carry or display any headwear, footwear or other apparel that carried any writing, picture or sign relating to any candidate or party apart from a rosette. In exercise of my discretion under the appropriate legislation, I have meantime decided that no polling agent on duty within a polling station for the purpose of detecting personation shall be allowed to wear a rosette or other means of political party or candidate identification. For this purpose, the polling station is the classroom or other room in which the actual voting takes place. There will, however, be no restriction on the wearing of rosettes or other means of party political or candidate identification within a polling station by (a) a candidate or election agent or polling agent making a brief visit to a polling station or (b) any person entering a polling station for the purposes of (i) voting personally or (ii) assisting another voter to vote where permitted so to do by Statute or Regulation.

(7) Cars

There should be no long-term parking of vehicles used for campaign purposes, for example displaying election materials or using loudspeakers, immediately outside the entrances or within a reasonable distance of the entrance. Cars being used in campaigns that are also being used to transport voters may need to wait for the voter while they visit the polling station, but this should not be unduly prolonged.

(8) Disabled Voters

Disabled voters may request the assistance of the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper for them. Alternatively, they may be assisted by a companion, with the permission of the Presiding Officer who must be satisfied that the voter's disabilities would prevent them from casting their vote unaided. The companion of a disabled voter must be either a close relative (father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, civil partner, son or daughter – if they are aged 18 years or over) or a qualified elector. Presiding Officers should pay particular attention to disabled voters and should familiarise themselves with the arrangements for disabled access.

(9) Voting Information

While there is no specific entitlement to candidates or agents to be informed of the numbers of persons who have voted, it will be permissible for Presiding Officers to give candidates or agents a note of the actual number of persons who have voted from time to time throughout the day. Information as to whether or not a particular person has or has not voted shall not be given although such information may be necessary in a case where an agent has raised a question of personation. The Presiding Officer shall ensure that meeting these requests does not interfere with his/her official duties.

(10) Press and Media

Accredited press and media representatives will be allowed within the premises where the counting of the votes is taking place provided prior notification has been received by the Constituency Returning Officer and they have received notification of the requirement of secrecy and have given undertakings not to approach the tables.

(11) Admission to the Count

The following people are entitled to attend the verification and the count:-

- ◆ the Constituency Returning Officer and staff
- ◆ the Regional Returning Officer and staff
- ◆ each candidate and one guest
- ◆ election agents
- ◆ appointed counting agents
- ◆ representatives of the Electoral Commission
- ◆ accredited observers

The Constituency Returning Officer may also permit other people to attend, such as the media and the police, at his/her discretion, but is not obliged to do so. His/her decision as to who may attend the count is final.

(12) Conduct of the Poll

Any matters relating to the conduct of the poll should be referred to the election office in the first instance.

**Laurence Rockey
Constituency Returning Officer**

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
EAST LoTHIAN COAST & LAMMERMUIRS CONSTITUENCY
7 MAY 2026**

SPENDING LIMITS

East Lothian Coast & Lammermuirs is designated as a county constituency.

Regulated periods

The regulated period is a set time when the spending limits and rules apply. The regulated period is divided into two periods: the 'long campaign' and the 'short campaign'.

Long campaign

The long campaign begins on 7 January 2026. It will end on the day you officially become a candidate*.

Short campaign

The short campaign begins on the day **after** you officially become a candidate* and ends on polling day.

Usually, the earliest date you can become a candidate is the day of the dissolution of the Scottish Parliament (9 April 2026). It is expected that the Scottish Parliament will legislate to change the earliest date that you can become a candidate to 27 working days before the date of poll (26 March 2026). You will become a candidate on this date if you, or others, have already announced your intention to stand - for example your party may have issued a press release when you were selected or you may have announced your intention at a public meeting. If your intention to stand has not been announced by the day of dissolution of the Scottish Parliament you will officially become a candidate on a) the date such a declaration is made or b) the date you submit your nomination papers – whichever is the earlier.

Spending limits

There are different spending limits for each campaign. The spending limit is calculated by adding together a fixed amount plus a variable amount.

Long campaign – fixed amount of £21,500 + 6.3p per elector**

Short campaign – fixed amount of £8,700 + 9p per elector **

***The number of electors in a particular constituency is based on the electoral register as it stands on the last date for publication of the notice of election (25 March 2026). You will be advised of the electorate figure in due course.*

PLEASE REFER TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION'S GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATES AND AGENTS ON SPENDING AND DONATIONS

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-scottish-parliament-elections>

Guidance for Permit Applications

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION		
A	Roads (Scotland) Act 1984	
A1	Excavations	Detailed drawings showing the location and/or route of the opening. NRSWA accreditation certificates for Works Supervisor and Works Operative. Current Public Liability Insurance. Traffic Management Drawings. Applications will only be accepted by the Contractor undertaking the works.
A2	Occupations	Detailed drawings the showing extent of occupation. AND For Scaffolding, Hoarding & Staging: Approved plans from the Public Utility Services or Recorded Delivery Slip of their submission. Purpose of use, Type of Scaffolding and Class of protection fan (see Clause 25.1 Class A,B, C or D), and Current Public Liability Insurance. By submission the applicant certifies that the scaffolding will be adequately supported on firm ground of the required bearing capacity, or otherwise adequately supported. Details to be provided if Scaffolding is suspended, or cantilevered from buildings or over cellars, stairs, roofs or deck structures etc. The scaffolding will be added on our inspection list, and our inspector will be attending after the erection date. Please note inspections cover the footway occupation and safety for pedestrians only. Structural inspections are <u>not</u> undertaken by the Council. Applications will only be accepted by the Contractor undertaking the works. For Temporary Furniture: Structural Report for building adjacent to location. Planning permission for food vans, Following approval from the Council as Roads Authority, and pursuant to Section 140 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 all expenses reasonably incurred for site inspection associated with the issue of permits under Section 58 Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 will be recovered by means of a charge payable by the applicant at the time of permit issue.
A3	Scaffolding	
A4	Tower/ Mobile Cranes	
A5	Temporary Furniture	
A6	Fencing	Detailed drawings.
A7	Skips	Skip shall not exceed 5 metres in length and 2 metres in width. Skip Hire Company details to be provided. Drawing showing location of skip.
A8	Temporary Traffic Control	Traffic Management drawings.

Applications to be submitted via:

Email : Roadworks@eastlothian.gov.uk

B		Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (Section 14)		
B1	TTRO for less than 5 working days	Drawing showing the extent of the restriction.
B2	TTRO for more than 5 working days	TTROs for more than 5 days are subject to advertising costs.
C		New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991
C1	Works related to Apparatus	<p>Detailed plans showing location and/or route of the opening. NRSWA accreditation certificates for Works Supervisor and Works Operative. Current Public Liability Insurance. Traffic Management Drawings.</p> <p>Applications will only be accepted by the Contractor undertaking the works.</p> <p>By signing the Application Form you agree to the following:</p> <p>You will pay any additional inspection fees that will arise due to inspections being undertaken by the Roads Authority in order to comply with the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.</p> <p>You will pay any Fixed Penalty Notices that might be generated for non-compliance with the Code of Practice for the Co-ordination of Works in Roads.</p> <p>You will ensure works are supervised by a person having a prescribed qualification as a supervisor, and that there is on site at all times, when the works are in progress, at least one person having a prescribed qualification as a trained operative.</p> <p>You will abide by the inspection process over the course of the guarantee period and carry out remedial works as directed.</p>

Notice in Advance of Intended Start Date		
Permit Type (See above)	Traffic Sensitive Road	Non- Traffic Sensitive Road
A1 – A4	6 weeks	4 weeks
A5 – A7	1 week	1 week
B1 – Road Closure	6 weeks	3 weeks
B2 – Road Closure	8 weeks	6 weeks
B1 – B2 Parking Suspension	2 weeks	2 weeks
C1	8 weeks	6 weeks

IMPORTANT NOTICE: By signing and submitting this application, the applicant agrees to comply with the conditions pertaining to a permission granted as a result of this application and the legislation relating to their permission.