

## THE SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE

STV is the voting system used to cast and count your vote at Scottish council elections. It's a form of proportional representation which means that each party's share of seats in any given council more closely reflect its share of overall votes.

STV is a voting system where instead of casting a single vote for a single candidate; you can express a list of preferences by numbering the candidates on your ballot paper **1, 2, 3 and so on**. In Scottish council elections 3 or 4 councillors are elected to the council in your ward.

For Scottish council elections you will need to vote using numbers.

Your ballot paper will list all of the candidates who are standing in to be councillors in your ward. You will be asked to number the candidates in order of your choice. E.g. Put the number 1 in the voting box next to your **first** choice. Put the number 2 in the voting box next to your **second** choice...and so on.

You don't have to number every candidate. As long as you number at least one, your vote will be counted. If you make a mistake on your ballot paper then you can ask for a new one.

[NAME OF COUNCIL] – [NAME OF WARD]	
(Number to be elected) of the candidates listed below will be elected. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish. Put the number 1 in the voting box next to your first choice. Put the number 2 in the voting box next to your second choice. Put the number 3 in the voting box next to your third choice. And so on.	
ANDERSON Hans 67 Easter Road, Anytown Rowan Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRANSTON Helen 912 Main Street, Anytown Birch Party	2
FLEWING Douglas Martin 112 South Street, Anytown Independent	4
HAMILTON Flora 48 Hill Road, Anytown Willow party	<input type="checkbox"/>
KUMAR Kuldeep 3 Castle Wynd, Anytown Elm Party	1
MACDONALD Donald Alexander 4 Eglow Ave, Anytown Oak Party	<input type="checkbox"/>
MACKENZIE Robert William Sutherland 192 Blackhall Road, Anytown Independent	3
MASTERS Susan Caroline 93 Holmwood Road, Anytown Sycamore Party	5

Aberdeen City Council  
Useful websites:

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/lg2017/>

<http://www.cosla.gov.uk/council/aberdeen-city-council>

<http://www.gov.scot/>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/modern/uk\\_gov\\_politics/gov\\_sco/revision/2/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/modern/uk_gov_politics/gov_sco/revision/2/)

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/scotland>

### FAQs

Q. Who can vote?

- A. You can vote in this election if you are registered to vote in Scotland and will be 16 or over on Thursday 4 May 2017 and are:
- ◆ A British or Irish citizen, or
  - ◆ A citizen of another European Union country or,
  - ◆ A Commonwealth citizen who has leave to remain in the UK

British citizens living overseas cannot vote in Scottish council elections.

Q. Why do I need to register?

- A. You need to register to be able to vote. You are not automatically registered.

Graphics and support provided courtesy of The Electoral Commission



## Scottish Council Elections—May 4th 2017

### A Guide for Young Voters



EMILY DAVIES - MSYP



“ Even if you don't yet know who you will be voting for, without registering to vote, you can't have your voice heard on election day. ”

  
ABERDEEN  
CITY COUNCIL  
#ReadytoVote

There are 32 councils in Scotland and 1,227 elected councillors. Each of the 32 councils is divided into smaller areas called wards, with three or four councillors elected in each ward. Councillors are elected to represent the views of their community on the policies that should be pursued and to help those who may be experiencing difficulties. Councils employ a staff of officers, including teachers, social workers and planning officers to carry out its functions.

Examples of your council's responsibilities:



If you care about how much money your school or college has to spend, how councils protect and care for the vulnerable and what leisure and library facilities are available, then you should care about registering to vote for the 2017 Scottish council elections.



## Get #ReadyToVote

16 and 17 year olds can now vote in the Scottish council elections. This means that if you're 16 or over on **4th May 2017**, you'll be able to vote—but you need to register first and before midnight on **Monday 17th April 2017**. This is your chance to join the 80,000 16 and 17 year olds who voted in the last elections and it only takes a few minutes to register online!

## WHERE TO REGISTER

You can register to vote at any time prior to Monday 17th April. However, on 1st March 2017, Aberdeen City's community libraries will be providing a point where you can register to vote. Please visit or contact your local community library for more information. ([http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library\\_Service/Libraries\\_Menu.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library_Service/Libraries_Menu.asp))

If you're 16 or over you will need your National Insurance number to register to vote. If you can't find your national insurance number, visit: [www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number](http://www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number). (If you are not yet 16 then you won't need your National Insurance number to register.)

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE

### 1. GO TO GOV.UK/REGISTER-TO-VOTE

Click Start now:

[Start now >](#)

### 2. WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Click on the country you live in and then click Continue.

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR NATIONALITY?

Click on all options that are relevant to you and then click Continue. You can also click on "Help with nationality" if you require more assistance.

### 4. WHAT IS YOUR DATE OF BIRTH?

Enter your date of birth then click Continue.

### 5. WHAT IS YOUR FULL NAME?

Add your full name (including any middle names) then click Continue. If you have ever changed your name, select the appropriate option and add your previous names when prompted.

### 6. WHAT IS YOUR NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER?

Type in your National Insurance number and click Continue.

If you do not know your National Insurance number click on: "I don't know my National Insurance number". You'll be presented with the following screen:

**I don't know my National Insurance number**

You can:

- look for your National Insurance number on paystips or official letters about tax, pensions or benefits
- [Learn how to find my National Insurance number?](#)

If you can't provide a National Insurance number you will need to explain why. You'll also need to send copies of identity documents through the post. This could delay your name getting on the electoral register.

**I can't provide a National Insurance number**

Why can't you provide a National Insurance number?

It will be easier to contact you if you provide your email address (optional)

[Continue](#)

If you can't provide a National Insurance number click "I can't provide a National Insurance number" and type the reason why in the box. Click Continue.

### 7. WHAT IS YOUR ADDRESS?

Use the postcode finder to find your address. If you can't find your address click on "I can't find my address in the list" and type in your address manually.

**80,000**  
**16-17**  
**YEAR**  
**OLDS**

**REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION**

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**