



# Access to Politics

## Part 7



## Election Day





Inclusion Scotland made this guide:

- to show disabled people how to get involved in politics.
- to show how to make politics accessible for disabled people.



It is in 8 parts:

1. What are my rights? What can change to make it easier for me?
2. Who represents me?
3. Petitions.
4. How to take part (1).
5. How to take part (2).
6. Tips for campaigning.
7. Election day.
8. Accessibility checklist.



We hope this guide is useful to you.

Get in touch with us at:

[civicparticipation@inclusionScotland.org](mailto:civicparticipation@inclusionScotland.org)

to tell us what you think of the guide or if you need advice and support.

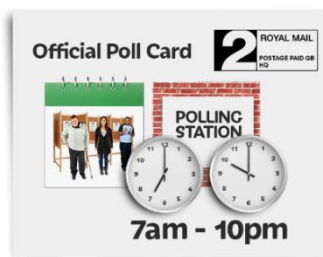


# Election Day



All your work leads to here: Election Day.

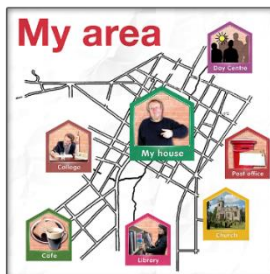
You will be campaigning in the run-up to the day, but your hard work does not stop on the day itself.



UK elections are on a Thursday.

Many people will vote early in the morning or after work.

When you meet people on the day you can encourage them to vote.



You can send volunteers to places to get people to vote.

Try to cover all parts of the area you want to represent.

## The count.



People mark their vote on a ballot paper which is put in a ballot box.



Candidates and election agents can watch the votes being counted.

This is called **the count**.

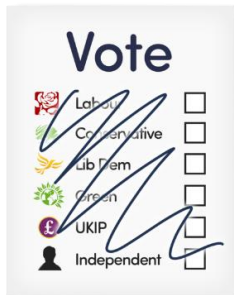
The Returning Officer is in charge of the count and the staff who count the votes.

### Checking the votes.



When someone votes they mark an X in the box next to the name of the candidate they support.

The Returning Officer or a deputy checks the votes if it is not clear who the person wanted to vote for.



This can happen if:

- someone uses a mark that is not an X
- their X is not inside the box. been placed outside of a box
- or too many marks have been made on the paper.



The Returning Officer decides which candidate the vote is for or if the ballot is spoiled.

A spoiled ballot is not counted in the vote.

## Recounts.



Any candidate or election agent can ask for the votes to be counted again.

This can happen if the result is very close.

The Returning Officer decides if there should be a recount.

## After the Election.



Win or lose, it is important you take time to look at what went well and what could have been better.

Think about where your support came from and why they agreed with you.

## Return of Deposit.



If you are standing as a candidate in an election you may have to pay money to the Returning Officer.

This money is called a deposit.



The amount of money depends what kind of election it is.

If you get a certain number of votes you get the money back.

## Acceptance of Office.



Candidates who have won the election have to make a speech called a declaration.

The speech says they have accepted the new job.

The speech is made soon after the votes have been counted.

The Returning Officer decides the time.