

Scottish Parliamentary Election		List of Contents and Checklist for full Nomination Pack	
Election of a member of the Scottish Parliament		Clackmannanshire and Dunblane Constituency	Thursday 7 th May 2026
		List of Contents	
	Description	Documents to be returned	Comments
	Candidate Check List		
	Guidance Notes for Candidates		
Forms			
1	Nomination Paper	✓	
2	Consent to nomination	✓	
3	Party authorisation certificate (for candidates standing on behalf of a registered party)	✓	
4	Request for use of Party emblem	✓	
5	Notice of Appointment of Election Agent	✓	
6	Optional - Notice of Appointment of Sub Agent	✓	
7	Candidates contact information	✓	
--	Candidate's Deposit (£500)	<i>Deposits can be made in cash, credit/ debit card, certified bank cheque or BACS</i>	
8	Authorisation for return of Deposit	✓	Method of refund will be by BACS or cheque
9	Registers Request	✓	Electoral Registration Officer – contact details at end of notes
10	Absent Voters List Request	✓	

Information and Further Guidance		
	Bank account information for BACS payment	Enclosed
	Election Timetable/Main Dates	Enclosed
	Limitation of Candidates' Election Expenses	Enclosed
	Map – Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	https://www.boundaries.scot/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Clackmannanshire_Dunblane.pdf
	Election Office – location map & contact details	Enclosed

	Previous Election Results (for 2021)	You can find the previous results on our website: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/electionresults/s-cottishparliamentconstituency/
	Electoral Commission's Code of conduct for campaigners: electoral Registration, postal voting, proxy voting and polling stations	This information can be found at: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-and-agents-scottish-parliament-elections
	Royal Mail – Candidate Mailing Campaign	You can find information on the Royal Mail website: https://www.royalmail.com/business/manage-mail/candidate-mail
	Statutory provision for use of Schools and Rooms	Contact the Elections Office for details tel 01259 452266. Please note that after, 16 March 2026, these can be used.
	Statistical information on Clackmannanshire Council area Statistical information on Stirling Council area	This can be found on our website: https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/factsandfigures/ This can be found on Stirling Council's website: https://www.stirling.gov.uk/council-and-committees/performance-and-statistics/facts-and-figures/

Scottish Parliamentary Election		Guidance Notes for Candidates	
Constituency	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Date of Election	Thursday 7th May 2026

The purpose of these guidance notes is to provide candidates and election agents with an overview of the key aspects of the nomination process in the Clackmannanshire and Dunblane Constituency. Whilst the nomination papers and other key forms have been provided in hard copy, where further information is noted as being available via websites, hard copies of that information can be provided by the Election Office on request.

After the close of nominations, further information will be sent to election agents - including details of the situation of polling stations and forms for appointing postal voting, polling and counting agents.

Constituency – Clackmannanshire and Dunblane

The constituency comprises all of the Clackmannanshire Council area together with Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Kinbuck, Blairlogie, Cornton, Causewayhead, Stirling University area and Cambuskenneth. The Constituency Returning Officer (CRO) is Nikki Bridle.

Region – Mid-Scotland and Fife

The Mid-Scotland and Fife Region comprises nine constituencies – Clackmannanshire and Dunblane, Stirling, Perthshire South and Kinross-shire, Perthshire North, Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Mid-Fife and Glenrothes, and Fife North East. The Regional Returning Officer is Ken Gourlay, Fife's Returning Officer.

Enquiries / Further Information

All matters relating to the management of the election in the constituency should be directed to the CRO – contact details at the end of the notes

All enquiries relating to electoral registration should be directed to the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) – contact details at the end of the notes

A comprehensive guide for candidates and agents has been produced by the Electoral Commission – <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-guidance/candidates-and-agents>

Further information in relation to the management of the Scottish Parliament Election can be found at the Electoral Management Board for Scotland – <https://www.emb.scot/>

Access to Elected Office Fund (Scotland)

The Access to Elected Office Fund, delivered by Inclusion Scotland and supported by the Scottish Government, offers financial assistance to disabled people running in the 2026 Scottish Parliament Election. Further information can be found at Inclusion Scotland [Inclusion Scotland | National Disabled People's Organisation](#)

Requirement of Secrecy

The requirements of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc) Order 2015 regarding secrecy apply to all candidates and agents and to every person attending the polling station, the opening of postal votes and the count.

Summary of Key Dates

A summary of the key dates in the Scottish Parliament Election timetable is enclosed.

Please note that a number of public holidays fall with the election period and the Election Office will be closed on these dates –

- Friday 3 April 2026 (Good Friday)
- Monday 6 April 2026 (Easter Monday)
- Monday 4 May 2026

Nomination Process

Becoming / standing as a candidate

There is a distinction between becoming a candidate for the purposes of election expenses and standing as a candidate to contest an election. In order to stand as a candidate, you must be sure that you are eligible to stand and must then submit a set of nomination papers to the CRO before the statutory deadline of 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

Eligibility

Information regarding matters of eligibility are for a candidate to determine and advice can be found on the Electoral Commission's website – details above. The CRO and her team cannot advise you.

Delivery of Nomination Papers (Constituency Only)

Nomination papers must be delivered in person to the CRO at the **Election Office, Clackmannanshire Council, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa FK10 1EB** on working days after the publication of the Notice of Election (Monday 16 March 2026) between the hours of 10am and 4pm but before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. To avoid you having to wait, please call the Election Office on 01259 452266 to arrange an appointment.

For a Scottish Parliamentary Election submission of the nomination form (Form 1) and the consent to nomination (Form 2) **must be in person**. This should be delivered by the Candidate or someone trusted by them.

Whilst the nomination papers must be submitted in person, other papers can be submitted by hand or by post but **not** by electronic means. Please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance for additional detail.

An **informal** check of nomination papers is available prior to formal submission. This can be done electronically or as a face-to face informal check. Please ensure you state this is an informal check with both the face-to face and electronic submission. Please scan and email nomination papers to elections@clacks.gov.uk

Descriptions / Emblems

There are a number of options open to candidates when considering the description they wish to use on the ballot paper, if any. These options are –

- The name of a political party registered with the Electoral Commission
- The word 'Independent'
- No description at all

To use the registered name or registered description of a political party, the candidate must supply a certificate of authorisation issued on behalf of the registered nominating officer of the party, or a person authorised by them to act on their behalf. The certificate must be delivered to the CRO before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. (Form 3)

If a candidate has been authorised by a political party to use the party's registered name on the ballot paper, they may also ask the CRO to use the one of that party's registered emblems on the ballot paper next to their name. A request to use that emblem must be made in writing to the CRO before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. (Form 4)

Appointment of Election Agent / Sub-Agents

A candidate must appoint an election agent by submitting details in writing to the CRO before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. Otherwise, the candidate will be deemed to be their own election agent. (Form 5)

Election agents may appoint sub-agents for particular parts of the constituency as long as these parts do not overlap. Details of the sub-agent together with the area in which the sub-agent may act should be submitted to the CRO not later than 4pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026. (Form 6)

Candidate Contact Information

Form 7 – Candidate and agent (if not own agent) contact information to allow the Returning Officer to contact you quickly with relevant information. You are also agreeing that the Returning Officer may share your information with Police Scotland for your safety and security.

Candidate Deposit

A nomination will not be valid unless accompanied by a deposit of £500 which may be in legal tender, UK bankers draft, by debit / credit card or by electronic transfer – bank details are enclosed. The CRO may refuse to accept a deposit delivered in an inappropriate format. The deposit will be returned as soon as possible after the result of the election is declared (Form 8), except where the candidate has polled less than 5% of the valid votes cast in the constituency, in which case the deposit will be forfeited to the Scottish Government.

Electoral Registers

Candidates are entitled to a free copy of both the electoral register and the absent voters list. Requests to obtain these from the ERO can be made using the enclosed forms. (Forms 9 and 10)

Election Expenses

Guidance on the maximum permitted candidate expenditure is enclosed. Please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance for additional detail.

Withdrawal of Nominations

A candidate wishing to withdraw their nomination should do so by lodging a notice of withdrawal with the CRO before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026. Please refer to the Electoral Commission's guidance for additional detail. After the withdrawal deadline it is not possible to withdraw from the election and the candidate's name will appear on the ballot paper.

Inspection of Nomination Papers

After a candidate's nomination papers and deposit have been delivered and the candidate stands validly nominated, nomination papers can be inspected by –

- The candidate
- The candidate's election agent
- If the candidate is standing as their own election agent, someone nominated by the candidate to attend on their behalf
- If the candidate is standing for a political party, the person who issued the certificate of authorisation

Any requests to inspect nomination papers must be by prior arrangement with the Election Office and must be before 4pm on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

After the Close of Nominations Confirmation of Nomination

Written confirmation of a nomination will be issued to the candidate as soon as possible after the close of nominations.

Information Sharing

The Notice of Poll and the Statement of Persons Nominated and the notice identifying election agents appointed by candidates will be published on Clackmannanshire Council's website at <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/>

Further Information

After the close of nominations, election agents will receive –

- A copy of the Notice of Poll and Statement of Persons Nominated
- A copy of the list identifying election agents appointed by candidates
- Details of the arrangements for the opening of postal vote packs
- Details of the arrangements for the verification and counting of votes cast
- Forms for completion and return for the appointment of polling agents; postal vote opening agents and counting agents

Constituency Returning Officer's Meeting

In advance of polling day, it is the Constituency Returning Officer's intention to invite all candidates and their election agents to a meeting. **The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 April at 5.30pm.** Details will be confirmed after the close of nominations, but you may wish to pencil this date into your calendar at this stage.

Contacts

Election Office

Clackmannanshire Council Headquarters,
Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa. FK10 1EB
Telephone 01259 452112/452266
e-mail - elections@clacks.gov.uk

Depute Electoral Registration Officer

Ground Floor Right, Glendevon House, The Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4TZ
tel: 01786 892289
email - registration@centralscotland-vjb.gov.uk

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- A candidate must deposit **£500** with the CRO so that their nomination is valid.
- Payment can be made using legal tender (cash), bankers draft, bank transfer (see account details below) or card payment at Kilncraigs Reception.
- Account Name: Clackmannanshire Council
- Sort code: 831515 - Royal Bank of Scotland
- Account number 10845237
- BIC: RBOSGB2L
- IBAN: GB53RBOS83151510845237
- If a candidate obtains more than 5% of the valid votes cast, the deposit will be returned – please ensure you complete the Candidates Deposit Return details form 8

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SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
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8	Candidate's Deposit - Return details.
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane Constituency	Date of election
7th May 2026	

AUTHORISATION FOR RETURN OF DEPOSITS

Name of Candidate:	
Name of Party:	
Payee Name and Address:	
Depositor's Name and Address:	
I would like the deposit refunded by: BACs <input type="checkbox"/>	Account name: Sort Code: Account Number: Name of Bank:
I would like the deposit refunded by: Cheque <input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque payable to (please give full name and address)
Signature of Depositor:	
Date:	

Election Office, Kilncraigs, Alloa FK10 1EB
Tel: 01259 452266

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Scottish Parliamentary Election		Limit of Candidates Election Expenses	
Constituency	Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Date of election	Thursday 7th May 2026
Long Campaign – begins on 7 January 2026 and ends on the day you officially become a candidate ie the earliest date you can officially become a candidate is 26 th March 2026.		Short Campaign – begins on the day after you officially become a candidate and ends on polling day	
£21,500 + 6.3p per elector in a county constituency		£8,700 + 9p per elector in a county constituency	

It must be stressed that these amounts are **maximum** amounts and that, in addition to verifying the relevant calculation given below (the accuracy of which is not guaranteed): Candidates and their election agents must ascertain the amounts applicable to themselves by reference to relevant legislation

Constituency	No of Entries in the register as 1 March	Amount per entry in register	Plus lump sum	Total Expenses Limit
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	57472	6.3p (long)	£21,500	£25,120.73
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	57472	9p (short)	£ 8,700	£13,872.48

Nikki Bridle
Constituency Returning Officer

16 March 2026

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Timetable for the Scottish Parliament election on Thursday 7 May 2026

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
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

Event	Working days before poll (deadline if not midnight)	Date (deadline if not midnight)
Publication of statement of persons nominated, including notice of poll and situation of polling stations	If no objections: on 23 days (at 5pm) 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	If no objections: at 5pm on Wednesday 1 April Objection(s) made: not before objection(s) are disposed of but not later than 4pm on Thursday 2 April
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
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