

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

3 MAY 2012

FAQs

I. PRE-ELECTION - GENERAL ISSUES

Q. When is the election?

A. Thursday 3 May 2012. Hours of poll 7 am to 10 pm.

Q. What kind of election is it?

A. These are the elections for East Renfrewshire Council. There are 20 seats across 6 wards. It is likely that all 20 seats will be contested. **This will be confirmed after nominations close on 29 March.** The election will be conducted using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method. You vote by ranking the candidates in order of your preference by placing the number 1 against your first choice, the number 2 against your second choice and so on. You do not have to rank all the candidates and you can choose as few or as many as you wish.

Q. What are the names of the wards and how many seats are there in each?

A. There are 6 wards in East Renfrewshire Council.

They are

Neilston, Uplawmoor and Newton Mearns North	4 seats
Barrhead	4 seats
Giffnock and Thornliebank	3 seats
Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood	3 seats
Newton Mearns South	3 seats
Busby, Clarkston and Eaglesham	3 seats

Q. Who are the candidates?

The candidates in each of the wards are as follows.

Ward 1 Neilston, Uplawmoor and Newton Mearns North

Tony Buchanan	29 Sunnyside Place, Barrhead, G78 2RT	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Charlie Gilbert	4 Wemyss Avenue, Newton Mearns, G77 6AR	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Elaine Green	Hall of Caldwell, Roebank Road, Caldwell, By-Uplawmoor	Scottish Labour Party
Grace McCarthy	7 Cameron Drive, Newton Mearns, G77 6JF	Scottish Green Party
Paul O'Kane	7 Mafeking Terrace, Neilston, G78 3LP	Scottish Labour Party
Roy Provan	34 Eriskay Crescent, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6XE	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Frank Rankin	11 Viaduct Road, Clarkston, G76 8BN	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Leslie Rosin	11 The Hollows, Ayr Road, Glasgow, G46 7JB	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Graham Williamson	29 Netherplace Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6BG	Independent

Ward 2 – Barrhead

Betty Wood Cunningham	61 Crossmill Avenue, Barrhead, G78 1AY	Scottish Labour Party
Danny Devlin	2 Lavernside Avenue, Barrhead, G78 1LW	Independent
Kenny Hay	13D Stewart Street, Barrhead, G78 1UZ	Scottish Labour Party
Sarah Louise Hemy	3E Manse Court, Barrhead, G78 2RJ	UK Independence Party (UKIP)
Tariq Parvez	22 Milverton Road, Giffnock, G46 7JN	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Eddie Phillips	18 Springfield Drive, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 2PF	Independent
Tommy Reilly	1 Cowan Crescent, Barrhead, G78 2SP	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Douglas Yates	106 Ralston Road, Barrhead, G78 2TA	Scottish National Party (SNP)

Ward 3 – Giffnock and Thornliebank

Jim Fletcher	35 Fowlis Drive, Newton Mearns, East Renfrewshire, G77 6JL	Scottish Labour Party
Alex Mackie	30 Claremount Avenue, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UT	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Hugh Moore	48 Brooklea Drive, Giffnock, G46 6AS	Independent
Gordon Wallace	32 Newtonlea Avenue, Newton Mearns, G77 5QA	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Vincent Waters	63 Carlibar Road, Barrhead, G78 1AE	Scottish National Party (SNP)

Ward 4 – Netherlee, Stamperland and Williamwood

Irene Anderson	77 Easterton Avenue, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 8JR	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Gordon Cochrane	51 Orchard Court, Orchard Park Avenue, Glasgow, G46 7BL	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Gordon Alexander McCaskill	49 Morven Drive, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 7QH	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Mary Montague	4 Hutcheson Road, Thornliebank, G46 7JG	The Labour and Co-operative Party Candidate
Ralph Robertson	6 The Quadrant, Stamperland, G76 8AG	Independent

Ward 5 – Newton Mearns South

Frank Angell	14 Benview Road, Clarkston, G76 7PR	Scottish National Party (SNP)
Barbara Grant	Hazeltonhead Cottage, Mearns Road, Newton Mearns, G77 6RS	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Alistair Haw	21 Westerlands Gardens, Newton Mearns, G77 6YJ	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Ian McAlpine	12 Arthurlie Drive, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire, G46 6UP	The Labour and Co-operative Party Candidate
Anna McCurley	6 Woodlands Court, Thornliebank, G46 7SA	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Bryson McNeil	20 Greenlaw Road, Newton Mearns, G77 6ND	Independent
Jim Swift	16 Broom Road East, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 5SD	Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Ward 6 – Busby, Clarkston and Eaglesham

Ritchie Adam	21 Robslee Road, Thornliebank, East Renfrewshire, G46 7BZ	Scottish Liberal Democrats
Alastair Carmichael	19 Netherpark Avenue, Netherlee, G44 3XN	Scottish National Party (SNP)
George Kennedy	44 Oliphant Crescent, Clarkston, G76 8PU	Independent
Alan Lafferty	22 Penrith Avenue, Giffnock, G46 6LU	The Labour and Co-operative Party Candidate
Stewart Miller	Flenders Farm, Clarkston, Glasgow, G76 8RD	Scottish Conservative and Unionist
Alec White	Walmuir, 286 Glasgow Road, Waterfoot, G76 0EW	Scottish Conservative and Unionist

Full details available from the Council's website at:-

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=5158&p=0>

REGISTRATION

- Q. I have recently moved to the area and I am not yet on the electoral register. How do I ensure that I am registered to vote in time for the election?**
- A.** You should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF (Tel 0141 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk). The ERO will be able to send you out a registration form. Forms can also be downloaded from the ERO's website www.saa.gov.uk/renfrewshire. Completed forms must be received by the ERO **no later than Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

II. POSTAL VOTING

Q. I will be on holiday around the time of the election- how do I apply for a postal vote?

A. You should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF (Tel 0141 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk). The ERO will be able to send you out an application form. Forms can also be downloaded from the ERO's website www.saa.gov.uk/renfrewshire. Completed forms must be received by the ERO **no later than 5pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

Q. I already have a postal vote but I want to cancel it – what do I need to do?

A. You should advise the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF, **in writing** that you wish to cancel your postal vote. Requests to cancel existing postal votes must be received by the ERO **no later than 5pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

Q. I have been advised that I will get a postal vote but I have not yet received it. What happens now?

A. Postal votes will be issued by first class mail around Thursday 19 April and should arrive in the course of the following 1/2 days.

If you have still not received your postal vote by Wednesday 27 April you should contact the Election Office (Tel 577 3023/3033 regarding the issue of a replacement pack).

This procedure also applies in the case where you have received your postal pack but have then lost it. In this case a replacement can be applied for as per above.

We can only issue a replacement up to 5pm on Thursday 3 May. If time is tight, you can pick up a replacement pack in person from the Election Office. You will need to bring ID with you such as a passport or photo driving licence.

Q. In my pack there is a piece of paper called a Postal Voting Statement on which I have to give my date of birth and signature and return it along with my ballot paper. Why do I have to do this?

A. This is a statutory requirement. When the Postal Voting Statement is received by the Returning Officer along with your ballot paper, the details of your date of birth and signature will be checked against the original which you supplied when you applied for your postal vote. This is an additional security measure which is now in place to guard against any possibility of fraudulent postal voting.

Q. I have received my postal voting pack but I have spoiled the ballot paper/Postal Voting Statement in the process of voting. Can I get a replacement pack?

A. Yes please apply to the Election Office (Tel No 0141 577 3023/3033) to arrange a replacement pack. Spoiled postal ballot papers can be replaced at any time following their issue but can only be replaced if the application is made before 5 pm on Thursday 3 May. If time is tight, you can pick up a replacement pack in person from the Election Office. You will need to bring ID with you such as a passport or photo driving licence. You will also need to return all parts of your original postal voting pack before you are issued with a replacement.

Q. I did not apply for a postal vote but I am marked on the register as having one.

A. You should contact the Electoral Registration Office in Paisley, Tel 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk. They will be able to check if an application for a postal vote has been made. If it is confirmed that you did apply for a postal vote and you never received it, arrangements can be made up till 5 pm on Thursday 3 May for you to be issued with a replacement.

If it is confirmed that someone has applied for a postal vote without your knowledge, the ERO will refer the matter to the police.

Q. I have a postal vote but I am no longer able to sign my name. What can I do?

A. You can apply for an exemption. This means that you can still vote by post, but you will only be asked to provide your date of birth and not a signature. The postal voting statement that you receive in your postal pack will not have a signature box.

To obtain an exemption you should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF (Tel 0141 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk). The ERO will send you out an application form. Requests must be received by the ERO **no later than 5pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

Q. I have a Power of Attorney for a person who has a postal vote. Can I complete the postal voting statement showing that I have a Power of Attorney for the voter?

A. No, there is no provision in the legislation to allow a person with a Power of Attorney to sign a Postal Voting Statement on behalf of someone else. The voter must sign their Postal Voting Statement. If the person can no longer sign their name, they should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer for an exemption. This means that they can still vote by post, but will only be asked to provide their date of birth and not a signature. The Postal Voting Statement that they receive in their postal pack will not have a signature box.

To obtain an exemption they should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF (Tel 0141 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk). The ERO will send out an application form. Requests must be received by the ERO **no later than 5pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

Alternatively, the voter could apply to the ERO to appoint you as a proxy. (See the first question in the section on proxy voting).

PROXY VOTING

Q. I wish to appoint someone else to vote on my behalf (a proxy vote) - how do I go about that?

A. You should apply to the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF (Tel 0141 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk). The ERO will be able to send you out an application form. Forms can also be downloaded from the ERO's website www.saa.gov.uk/renfrewshire. Completed forms must be received by the ERO **no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 25 April 2012.**

Q. I currently have a proxy vote but I want to cancel it – what do I need to do?

A. You need to advise the Electoral Registration Officer, The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF **in writing** that you want to cancel your proxy vote. Notification must be received by the ERO **no later than 5pm on Wednesday 18 April 2012.**

III. POLLING DAY

Q. I have not received/lost my polling card and do not know where I am supposed to vote?

A. Unless you have registered as an anonymous voter, you do not need your polling card in order to vote in person at the polling station. Please contact us at 0141 577 3007 or by email to customerservices@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk and if you tell us your address we will advise you where you should vote.

Q. I require transport in order to get to the polling station to vote - can you arrange this?

A. No that is not the function of the Returning Officer. You may wish to enquire with the local political parties. Details of the telephone numbers of the main parties can be obtained from Customer Services 0141 577 3007.

Q. I have been to the polling station and have been told I cannot vote since my name is not on the register.

A. You should contact the Electoral Registration Office in Paisley, Tel 842 5922 or email ero@renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk regarding having your name added for future elections. If your name is not currently on the Register then you cannot vote today. If your name is not on the register due to a clerical error on the part of Electoral Registration Officer, there is still a chance you will be able to vote. **Changes to the register due to a clerical error can only be made up until 9pm on polling day.**

Q. I have a postal vote and have not yet returned it to you. Can I hand it in at the polling station today?

A. Yes it can be handed in by 10.00pm at any polling station within the East Renfrewshire Council area. Polling station staff cannot accept papers for another council. For details of the polling places see list below. *

Q. When I voted today the Clerk completed a list which seemed to me to indicate that this is not a secret ballot and that how I voted could be traced back. Is this correct?

A. The Representation of the People Act which governs the conduct of elections lays down the procedure for voting which includes the recording of your individual electoral number. Immediately after an election all the ballot papers and other documents are sealed up and retained by the Returning Officer in secure storage. They would only be accessed in the event of an election petition which is a request to the Court to have an election re-run because of exceptional circumstances or procedural irregularity.

Q. I have suddenly become unwell and I am unable to get to the polling station to cast my vote. Is there anything I can do?

A. In certain circumstances The Electoral Registration Officer can grant an emergency proxy which will allow someone to go to a polling station and vote on your behalf. To find out how to apply for an emergency proxy vote contact the Electoral Registration Officer on 842 5922.

Applications for emergency proxy can only be made up until 5pm on polling day.

Q. When will I know the results?

A. The count will take place on the morning of Friday 4 May and the results should be known by around 1pm.

Q. I am partially sighted/disabled. Can I get help to complete my ballot paper/ postal vote?

A. If you are partially sighted and go to the polling station you can get help to mark your vote either by means of a tactile device specifically for use by blind or partially sighted people or you can ask for help from one of the polling staff on duty. If you are accompanied to the polling station by a companion they are also able to assist you so long as they either entitled to vote at the election or a member of the family over 18 years of age.

To assist you large versions of the ballot papers will be posted on the wall and large hand held versions of the ballot papers will be available.

If you are disabled you can also get help to vote either from a member of staff or from a companion.

If you have a postal vote you can ask for help from a member of the family/neighbour/friend.

Q. How long are posters allowed to be on lampposts?

A. The Council has decided not to allow any posters to be erected on Council-owned street furniture. If you see any after posters contact Customer Services 577 3007 with details of the streets and party/parties.

Customer First staff to e-mail details to election office.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

3 MAY 2012

LIST OF POLLING PLACES

Braidbar Primary School
Kyle Drive
Giffnock
G46 6ES

Busby Primary School
Church Road
Busby
G76 8EB

Carmichael Hall
Eastwood Park
Giffnock
G46 7JS

Carolside Primary School
Ashfield Road
Clarkston
G76 7TX

Clarkston Hall
Clarkston Toll
Clarkston
G76 8NE

Crookfur Pavilion
Ayr Road
Newton Mearns
G77 6DR

Crookfur Primary School
Capelrig Road
Newton Mearns
G77 6LF

Eaglesham Primary School
Strathaven Road
Eaglesham
G76 0LF

Fairweather Hall
Barrhead Road
Newton Mearns
G77 6BB

Giffnock Primary School
Academy Road
Giffnock
G46 6JL

Kirkhill Primary School
Kirkhill Road
Newton Mearns
G77 5RJ

Mearns Kirk Church Hall
Eaglesham Road
Newton Mearns
G77 5DE

Netherlee Primary School
Clarkston Road
Netherlee
G44 3SF

OLM Primary School
Robslee Road
Thornliebank
G46 7DD

St. Cadoc's Primary School
Crookfur Road
Newton Mearns
G77 6TT

Thornliebank Primary School
Main Street
Thornliebank
G46 7RW

Williamwood Parish Church
Seres Road
Clarkston
G76 7QP

Auchenback Resource Centre
64 Aurs Drive
Barrhead
G78 2LW

Carlibar Primary School
Carlibar Road
Barrhead
G78 1BD

Cross Arthurlie Primary School
Fern Drive
Barrhead
G78 1JF

Dalmeny Community Centre
Barnes Street
Barrhead
G78 1EH

Mure Hall
Tannoch Rd
Uplawmoor
G78 4AD

Neilston Primary School
43 High Street
Neilston
G78 3HJ