

Voting rights of Polish Citizens living in Scotland

Can I vote?

If you are a Polish citizen who is resident in Scotland you have the right to vote in:

- European parliament elections
- Local government elections in Scotland
- Scottish Parliament elections
- Scottish independence referendum

Citizens of EU countries other than the UK, Cyprus, Malta and the Republic of Ireland **cannot** vote in UK Parliament elections.

To vote in elections in Scotland you must be aged 18 or over on the date of the election.

For the Scottish independence referendum you can vote if you are aged 16 or over on the date of the referendum.

If you want to vote in Scotland then you must register to vote first.

How do I register to vote?

Most people register to vote using the form that your local electoral registration office sends to each household each year.

If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to complete a voter registration form and send it to your local electoral registration office. For a voter registration form, go to www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

A Polish language registration form is available at:

http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/PDF/EC_Register%20to%20Vote_Polish_2012.pdf

If you aren't sure whether you are registered or not, your local electoral registration office can tell you. You can find their contact details on www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

The Electoral Commission: **Voting rights of Polish Citizens living in Scotland**

How do I vote?

There are three ways of voting:

In person: Most people vote in person at their polling station. It is straightforward and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do. You will receive a poll card telling you where your polling station is. It is often a nearby school or community centre. If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact your local council to find out where your polling station is.

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm. If you have not been issued with ballot papers by 10pm you won't be able to vote, so make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

By post: You can apply to vote by post. You will need to fill in an application form and send it to your local electoral registration office. You can get an application form at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

A Polish language postal vote application form is available at:
http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/PDF/EC2.5_Polish-2012.pdf

Your local council can send postal ballot papers to your home address or to any other address that you give. Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by polling day.

By proxy: If you can't go to the polling station and don't want to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf. You will need to fill in an application form and send it to your local electoral registration office. You can get an application form at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

When you apply for a proxy vote you have to state why you cannot vote in person. Anyone can be your proxy as long as they are eligible to vote in the election and referendum and are willing to vote on your behalf. You will have to tell them how you want to vote.

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European Parliament elections

For European parliament elections, you have the choice to vote either in Poland or in Scotland. You cannot vote in both.

If you wish to register to vote in the European Parliament election in Scotland then you must complete a UC1 form and return it to your local electoral registration office by **6 May 2014**. You can get the contact details for your local office from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

An English language version of the UC1 form is available at:
http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/162813/UC1-English.pdf

A Polish language version of the UC1 form will be available by 4 April from:
<http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/languages/polish.aspx>

The deadline to register to vote at the European Parliament elections is **6 May 2014**.

The deadline to apply for a postal vote at the European Parliament elections is **5pm on 7 May 2014**.

The deadline to apply for a proxy vote at the European Parliament elections is **5pm on 14 May 2014**.

Scottish independence referendum

On Thursday 18 September 2014, there will be a referendum on independence for Scotland.

The referendum question is: "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

The deadline to register to vote at the Scottish independence referendum is **2 September 2014**.

The deadline to apply for a postal or proxy vote at the Scottish independence referendum is **5pm on 3 September 2014**.

For more information on the Scottish independence referendum visit:
http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/referendum_scotland.aspx