



How is a Councillor Elected?

Who can be a Councillor

There are a few criteria that you must meet in order to be a Councillor:

Councillors must be:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- At least 18 years old
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election

More information on becoming a Councillor is provided by the Electoral Commission:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

You can't be a Councillor if you:

- Work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a political restricted post
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- Have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the 5 years before election day

If this is you, you may not be able to be a Councillor but remember there are lots of ways to engage with democracy and your voice within it is always important and welcome!

How do you stand for election?

If you have decided to stand for election you can go about it in two ways:

You can stand for a political party. If you do this you must be a party member and go through internal selection processes

Or

You can stand as an independent. 16% of Scotland's Councillors are independent and not affiliated with any political group.

You must complete and sign a simple nomination form and have it signed by a witness.

Councillors usually campaign to maximise the number of people who might vote for them. This often involves leafleting or going door to door to generate support.

Candidates often seek help with their campaigns from friends, family and political parties.

Councillors need to record what they spend on their election campaign, and all donations and that these came from acceptable sources.

The community then votes for the person they believe will represent them best.