

NOTICE OF ELECTION

West Lothian Council Election of Councillor – Ward 5, East Livingston & East Calder

A by-election is to be held to elect one councillor to the East Livingston & East Calder multi-member ward of West Lothian Council.

Nominations

Nomination papers and other forms may be downloaded from the council's website (<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/east-livingston-east-calder-by-election>) or the Electoral Commission's website (<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/council-elections-scotland>). Should that not be possible they can be obtained from the Election Office.

The Election Office is open for the issue and delivery of nomination papers on **weekdays** between 10 am and 4 pm from **Monday 28 June 2021 until Friday 2 July 2021**, both inclusive. Due to coronavirus precautions a prior appointment is preferred.

Completed nomination papers and home address forms **must** be delivered, not posted or emailed, to the Election Office by **4 pm on Friday 2 July 2021**.

If more than one valid nomination is received, an election will be held and voting will take place between **7 am and 10 pm on Thursday 5 August 2021**.

Registration to vote

Applications to register to vote **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer on or before **midnight on Monday 19 July 2021**. Applications can be made online at <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

Postal or proxy voting

Any elector may apply for a postal or proxy vote at this election. Proxy voting means someone else voting on your behalf.

Postal voting

Applications to vote by post at this election **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer by **5 pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021**.

Applications to amend or cancel existing postal vote arrangements **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer by **5 pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021**.

The issue of postal ballot papers will commence around 16 July 2021. They will be issued by first class mail (except where a postal voter applies in person for a replacement for a spoilt or lost postal ballot paper).

If you are given a postal vote you will not be able to vote in person. However, a postal ballot paper may be returned before 10 pm on Thursday 5 August 2021 by post or by hand to the Election Office, or by hand to a polling station in use for this election.

Proxy voting

Applications to vote by proxy at this election **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer by **5 pm** on **Tuesday 27 July 2021**.

Applications to amend or cancel existing proxy arrangements **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer by **5 pm** on **Tuesday 20 July 2021**.

After the deadline for applications for proxy votes, voters who cannot attend the polling station to vote in person may apply for an emergency proxy vote on grounds of physical incapacity, for work/service reasons, or due to following Scottish Government or medical advice relating to coronavirus (such as self-isolation or quarantine).

Applications to vote by emergency proxy **must** reach the Electoral Registration Officer by **5 pm** on **Thursday 5 August 2021**. The reason for being unable to vote in person must have occurred or have arisen or have come to the voter's knowledge **after 5 pm** on **Tuesday 27 July 2021**.

If you are given a proxy vote you can still vote in person yourself but only if your proxy has not already voted or obtained a postal vote for you.

For advice on eligibility to vote, registration and postal or proxy voting, contact the Electoral Registration Officer.

Notes

The Election Office is at Conference Room 3, Ground Floor, West Lothian Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 6FF, 01506 282035 (elections@westlothian.gov.uk).

The Electoral Registration Officer is Graeme Strachan, 17A South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9FL, 0131 344 2500 (<http://www.lothian-vjb.gov.uk>, enquiries@lothian-vjb.gov.uk).

The rules about completing and delivering nomination papers and home address and other forms are in the Scottish Local Government Elections Order 2011 (as amended).

Every person guilty of a corrupt or illegal practice will, on conviction, be liable to the penalties imposed by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended).

The Returning Officer will put in place appropriate safeguards and precautions to address the risks associated with coronavirus to voters, candidates and their agents.

Graham Hope
Returning Officer

25 June 2021

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