

YouGov / Electoral Commission Survey Results

Sample Size: 1145 Adults (16+) in Scotland
Fieldwork: 3rd - 7th August 2020

	Gender		Age						Social		Scottish Region								
Total	Male	Female	16-17	18-24	16-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC 1	C2DE	North East Scotland	Highlands & Islands	South Scotland	West Scotland	Central	Mid-Scotland & Fife	Lothians	Glasgow	
Weighted Sample	1145	551	594	50	99	149	452	285	259	595	550	190	96	167	128	125	147	178	112
Unweighted Sample	1145	502	643	41	127	168	417	279	281	666	479	173	112	173	121	125	141	186	114
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The next election to the Scottish Parliament is due to take place in May 2021. In Scotland you can currently vote in person at a polling place, by post, or by proxy (getting someone else to vote for you). Some changes may need to be made because of coronavirus (Covid-19), to make sure everyone can vote safely. The following questions ask about your views on different ways of voting.

Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at Scottish Parliament Elections?

I always vote at Scottish Parliament elections	68	68	68	23	58	46	59	83	80	68	69	66	72	67	71	68	67	65	73
I sometimes vote at Scottish Parliament elections	12	11	14	1	10	7	20	9	7	10	15	17	11	14	12	12	10	11	10
I never vote at Scottish Parliament elections	8	9	7	2	6	4	11	5	7	9	7	9	6	6	4	11	10	8	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a Scottish Parliament election	6	7	6	70	20	37	2	2	2	8	5	4	5	5	9	5	9	9	5
Don't know	5	5	6	4	7	6	8	2	4	6	5	4	6	7	3	4	4	7	6

How do you generally cast your vote at elections in Scotland?

In person at a polling place	64	64	63	25	65	52	70	66	57	63	65	64	63	69	60	66	62	60	66
By post	23	20	25	3	16	12	17	26	36	23	23	22	23	21	28	24	23	21	21
By proxy	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Not applicable - I have never voted at elections in Scotland	12	13	10	69	15	33	11	6	6	13	10	13	12	7	9	8	15	17	8
Don't know	2	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	0	1	2	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	4

Do you think you would or would not vote if an election took place now?

Would definitely vote	71	76	67	58	67	64	66	81	75	74	68	70	69	73	69	74	74	68	76
Would probably vote	12	9	15	14	20	18	14	8	10	10	15	14	14	11	14	17	7	11	12
TOTAL WOULD VOTE	83	85	82	72	87	82	80	89	85	84	83	84	83	84	83	91	81	79	88
Would probably not vote	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	2	5	4	4	3	5	3	4	1	5	8	0
Would definitely not vote	7	7	8	18	7	10	8	6	6	8	7	10	8	7	5	7	11	5	5
TOTAL WOULD NOT VOTE	11	11	12	23	11	14	13	8	11	12	11	13	13	10	9	8	16	13	5
Don't know	5	4	6	6	3	4	8	3	4	5	6	3	5	6	9	1	3	8	7

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

If an election took place now, how safe or unsafe would you personally feel going to vote in person at a polling place with appropriate hygiene measures and physical distancing in place?

Very safe	30	34	25	31	31	31	26	32	32	28	32	33	32	29	32	17	30	32	29
Fairly safe	47	45	50	52	46	48	47	49	45	50	44	42	43	40	49	55	50	54	47
TOTAL SAFE	77	79	75	83	77	79	73	81	77	78	76	75	75	69	81	72	80	86	76
Fairly unsafe	12	10	14	3	11	8	15	9	13	11	13	14	18	16	10	9	9	7	18
Very unsafe	5	4	6	2	4	3	4	7	6	5	5	3	2	7	3	12	6	4	5
TOTAL UNSAFE	17	14	20	5	15	11	19	16	19	16	18	17	20	23	13	21	15	11	23
Don't know	6	6	5	12	8	10	7	3	4	6	6	8	4	8	7	7	6	3	1

If an election took place now, how do you think you would prefer to cast your vote?

[Excluding those who said they would definitely not vote; n=1094]

In person at a polling place with appropriate hygiene measures and physical distancing measures	54	60	49	60	60	60	55	55	50	53	56	51	48	54	56	55	53	57	60
By post	38	32	44	26	34	31	35	41	44	39	37	41	46	42	38	33	41	33	33
By proxy	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0
Another way [see Tab 1]	3	3	2	0	4	3	2	2	4	3	2	6	2	0	1	2	1	4	3
Don't know	4	5	4	14	1	5	7	1	2	4	4	2	4	3	5	8	4	5	4

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Encouraging more people to vote by post is one way of reducing the risk of queues and crowding at polling places. Anyone who is registered to vote can apply to vote by post by filling in a paper form with their name and address, and their date of birth and signature to prevent fraud. If you vote by proxy, you can ask your proxy to apply to vote by post on your behalf. If everyone was encouraged to apply for a postal vote for the Scottish Parliament election, which of the following statements is closest to your own view?

I would definitely apply for a postal vote	26	22	30	24	28	27	26	29	24	28	24	25	27	28	24	22	27	28	28
I would probably apply for a postal vote	24	22	26	45	34	38	27	18	19	23	25	27	26	23	24	23	20	24	28
TOTAL WOULD APPLY	50	44	56	69	62	65	53	47	43	51	49	52	53	51	48	45	47	52	56
I would probably not apply for a postal vote	14	18	11	16	14	15	14	16	13	15	14	14	16	13	7	19	15	16	16
I would definitely not apply for a postal vote	11	14	7	6	7	7	12	12	9	9	12	13	7	12	10	8	17	8	7
TOTAL WOULD NOT APPLY	25	32	18	22	21	22	26	28	22	24	26	27	23	25	17	27	32	24	23
I am already registered to vote by post	17	14	19	3	7	6	10	20	31	17	16	14	19	17	23	16	19	15	11
Don't know	8	9	7	6	10	9	12	5	4	8	9	7	5	7	12	12	3	9	9

Why do you say that you think you probably/definitely wouldn't apply for a postal vote (Please select up to three reasons)?

[Asked to those who probably/definitely wouldn't apply for a postal vote; n=248]

I would prefer to vote in person at a polling place	61	58	67	22	74	56	63	60	64	62	60	50	70	61	86	76	54	51	70
I am concerned that fraud is a problem with postal voting	39	38	41	6	35	24	35	49	40	32	45	34	40	27	64	59	28	27	55
I am concerned that postal voting is not private or secure enough	31	29	34	48	32	38	28	30	35	25	36	33	15	35	46	37	25	31	23
I think it would be too much hassle to apply for a postal vote	11	11	12	7	16	13	16	10	3	11	12	4	13	11	6	11	15	16	16
I never vote	11	13	9	7	8	8	17	7	7	13	10	22	7	10	0	0	19	16	0
I don't know enough about how postal voting works	7	5	11	12	30	24	4	8	5	4	10	10	0	9	0	0	2	20	8
I would be worried about infection from receiving a ballot paper by post	3	4	1	0	16	10	0	0	9	3	3	7	0	0	0	4	3	4	0
I don't know how to apply for a postal vote	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
I would prefer to use a proxy to vote	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Another reason [see Tab 2]	5	7	2	0	0	0	2	7	12	8	2	12	16	4	0	4	0	4	3
Don't know	2	1	3	15	0	6	0	4	0	0	4	0	10	7	0	0	0	0	0

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Weighted Sample

Unweighted Sample

In Scotland you can currently vote in person at a polling place, by post, or by proxy (getting someone else to vote for you). Voting at polling places is usually only available on one day between the hours of 7am and 10pm. The following two questions ask your views on how the Scottish Parliament election should be run, imagining it was taking place now.

If an election was due to take place now, which of the following options would you prefer:

The election to be held with the same methods of voting as usual but with additional hygiene and physical distancing measures for voting in polling places	46	52	41	39	43	42	40	51	54	45	48	45	48	48	51	44	48	45	42
The election to be held with the same methods of voting as usual, but for polling places to be open for more than one day with additional hygiene and physical distancing measures in place to reduce the risk of queues or crowds	26	26	26	30	35	33	33	20	17	30	22	23	21	17	27	29	28	32	34
The election to be held but only by postal vote	14	9	18	12	3	6	13	18	14	12	15	17	21	21	10	9	12	11	8
The election to be postponed for a short period (not more than 6 months)	4	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	6	2	3	2
Other	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	0	2
Don't know	9	8	10	15	14	15	10	4	9	8	10	8	7	8	9	12	6	9	12

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Arrangements for the counting of votes would also need to be adapted if special hygiene measures and physical distancing are required. This is likely to mean that counting votes takes longer than usual. In this scenario, how important, if at all, do you think it is for the election results to be known the day immediately after polling day?

Very important	17	20	15	20	16	17	16	21	17	17	18	17	20	18	19	19	15	15	18
Fairly important	31	31	31	27	35	32	32	31	29	32	30	30	24	31	33	29	34	35	
TOTAL IMPORTANT	48	51	46	47	51	49	48	52	46	49	48	47	44	49	50	52	44	49	53
Not very important	35	31	38	30	34	33	33	32	42	36	34	36	39	35	37	27	36	37	30
Not at all important	10	11	9	16	4	8	10	12	9	9	11	11	13	7	6	14	11	8	12
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	45	42	47	46	38	41	43	44	51	45	45	47	52	42	43	41	47	45	42
Don't know	7	6	7	6	11	9	9	5	3	6	7	6	4	9	7	7	9	6	5

*Any percentages calculated on bases fewer than 50 respondents do not represent a wide enough cross-section of the target population to be considered statistically reliable. These figures will be italicised.