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What to do after elections

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outside the box



What to do after elections

After an election it can be tempting to think “well, that’s it all over now. I’ve done my bit.”

If you weren’t able to vote in the first place you might feel even more distanced from taking an interest in who is in charge of where you live. But this is a great time to try to make the improvements you want in your community.

The newly-elected Councillors, MPs or MSPs are now looking for projects to get stuck into and they want to hear from people like you about what could be better where you live.

You can open up a case with them if you are needing help or meet them at one of their surgeries.

It’s important to remember that politics doesn’t just happen on polling and election days, it happens all year round. By working with your local elected members you can work towards making your community better.

You can register to vote for future elections here: <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

Other ways to get involved

If there is a particular cause you are campaigning or passionate about it might be a good idea to invite your elected members along to your space or event. This gives you a chance to chat to them about what you are up to and voice any concerns you may have.

E-petition:

You can view all open e-petitions for the UK Parliament on <https://petition.parliament.uk/>. If an e-petition reaches 100,000 signatures it can be considered for a debate in the UK Parliament.

Campaigns:

You can write to your elected members about upcoming debates you'd like them to sit in or vote on. Websites like 38 degrees, <https://home.38degrees.org.uk/>, make set email templates that you just need to add your name to if you are struggling with what to write.



Other ways to get involved

Give evidence to a committee:

A committee is a small group of MSPs who look at subjects in detail. They often “call for evidence”. This means that anyone else who is interested in the subject can write in and say what they think.

Go to a committee event:

Committees meet all over Scotland so that lots of people can have their say. Your local newspaper will have details of committee events coming to your area. You can also find out about them online.

Join a Cross-Party Group:

If you join a Cross-Party Group you can meet MSPs and other people who are interested in the same thing as you. You can see a list of Cross-Party Groups here:

<https://www.parliament.scot/get-involved/cross-party-groups/current-cross-party-groups>.



Community Councils

Community Councils are made up of local people who stand to become Community Councillors who act on behalf of the area and want to make it a better place to live.

Community Councils are the strongest means of becoming involved with your local area. Meetings are usually attended by local Police, Council representatives and elected members like your MP or MSP.

All Community Council meetings are open to the public, and all residents are encouraged to attend their local Community Council. Meetings often take place in public building like community centres or even schools. Sometimes they are online or a hybrid option is available. Meetings normally take place once a month on a weeknight.

These meetings are a great chance to meet with local decision makers, hear what they are up to and ask questions. At Community Council meetings there are opportunities for you to raise any issues you are concerned about.



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We hope you find
this helpful!

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