

Non-party campaigners: Council elections in Scotland Introduction This guidance is for non-party campaigners who are campaigning at council elections in Scotland. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, non-party campaigners must follow rules about how much they can spend on campaign activities in the run up to certain elections. This guidance explains how the rules apply. [Book traversal links for Non-party campaigners: Council elections in Scotland](#)

What are non-party campaigners? What are non-party campaigners? Non-party campaigners are individuals or organisations that campaign in elections, but are not standing as political parties or candidates. Non-party campaigners have to follow certain rules in the run-up to elections. The types of non-party campaigns There are two types of non-party campaigns. These are: General campaigns Local campaigns Campaigns for or against: one or more political parties parties or candidates that support or do not support particular policies other categories of candidate Campaigns for or against: one or more candidates in a particular constituency, ward or other electoral area You can find more information about the different types of campaigns in our guidance [Non-party campaigners: Where to start](#) . The general campaign rules do not apply at elections in Scotland in 2023. You therefore do not have to register with us or report donations to us, and spending on activities directed only at your members will still count towards your spending total. Last updated: 29 November 2022 [Book traversal links for What are non-party campaigners?](#) [Non-party campaigners: Council elections in Scotland](#)

Local campaigns at council elections Local campaigns at council elections If you are campaigning for or against a candidate at a council election in Scotland, you are covered by the rules for local campaigns. The Electoral Commission does not regulate local campaigning. Complaints about possible breaches should be made to the police. Under the local campaign rules, there are limits on how much you can spend on campaigning for or against particular candidates in a constituency or local electoral area. These limits are different, depending on the size of the electorate in the relevant area. These spending limits cover spending on most campaign activities, including leaflets, meetings and digital campaigning. Last updated: 17 December 2021 [Book traversal links for Local campaigns at council elections](#)

What are non-party campaigners? The regulated period The regulated period We call the time when the spending limits and rules apply the regulated period. The regulated period starts on the day after the person you are campaigning for or against officially becomes a candidate, and finishes on polling day. You can find more information about polling dates and when people become candidates on our guidance page for candidates and agents . Last updated: 8 December 2021 [Book traversal links for The regulated period](#)

Local campaigns at council elections Spending limits Spending limits During a regulated period, non-party campaigners are subject to limits on their spending on campaign activity. The spending limit for council elections is: £50 plus 0.5p per local government elector in the ward who is registered to vote on the last day for publication of the notice of election in the ward For example If there are 1,000 people on the ward electoral register, your spending limit for campaigning for or against a candidate would be: £50 + (1000 x 0.5p) £50 + (£5) = £55 Your local elections office will be able to give you the number of electors in the ward. You can find the contact details for your local elections office on our [Elections in your area](#) page . You should keep a record of your spending, to make sure that you do not exceed the spending limit. Any spending over these limits must be authorised by the agent of the relevant candidate. The authorised spending will count as candidate spending and towards the candidate's spending limit. Last updated: 17 December 2021 [Book traversal links for Spending limits](#)

The regulated period Reporting Reporting If

authorisation is given, the agent will need to include your spending in the candidate spending return. You will need to give the agent the necessary details for that spending to be included. If you spend more than the limit you must also complete a spending return and declaration and deliver these to the relevant Returning Officer within 21 days of the result being declared. You can find contact details for the local elections office using our postcode lookup . Non party campaigner s75A spending return (PDF) Non party campaigner s75A declaration (PDF) Last updated: 22 December 2021 Book traversal links for Reporting Spending limits Imprints Imprints Whenever printed election material is published, it must contain certain details (which we refer to as an 'imprint') to show who is responsible for the material. This helps to ensure there is transparency about who is campaigning. Please see our imprint factsheet for non-party campaigners for guidance on using imprints on election material: Non-Party Imprints at Scottish Parliamentary Elections and council elections in Scotland Last updated: 17 December 2021 Book traversal links for Imprints Reporting