

SYP Elections 2026

**ELECTION COORDINATOR
BRIEFING**

**SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT
MARCH 2026**



WHAT THIS SESSION COVERS

1. The Elections Timeline
2. The Election Coordinator role and support
3. Resources available
4. Rules and procedures
5. The Elections application process



ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

The core principles underpinning the SYP elections are:

- **Democratic:** Every eligible young person in Scotland has the right to stand for election and to vote in the SYP Elections, ensuring results that genuinely reflect young people's views and choices.
- **Inclusive:** The SYP Elections are inclusive and accessible to all young people, regardless of background, ability, identity, or location.
- **Robust:** The SYP Elections are delivered through secure, reliable, and well-governed processes that uphold the highest standards of integrity.
- **Engaging:** The SYP Elections are designed and delivered with young people's rights, needs, communication styles, and lived and living experiences at the centre.
- **Compliant:** The SYP Elections are delivered in line with all required rules, policies, and procedures to ensure a fair and consistent process.
- **Transparent:** The SYP Elections information, processes, and outcomes are open, clear, and communicated effectively so young people can fully understand and trust the process.

ELECTIONS OVERVIEW

Key themes we've factored in to the planning:

- **Flexibility** for Election Coordinators
- **Raising awareness of SYP and the role of MSYPs** (including local expectations and local youth voice mechanisms)
- **Candidate experience.**
- **Resources and information.**
- **Accessibility for everyone.**

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

Application phase - April to September

This phase includes:

- **Flexibility** – LA's and NVOs will have the flexibility to decide when they want to start promoting the opportunity to stand (between these dates)
- **Promoting SYP and what it means to be an MSYP**
- **National promotion of the SYP elections**
- **Online info sessions for young people and for adults (May onwards)**
- **Fortnightly Election Coordinator drop-in sessions (alternating LA's & NVOs)**
- **Resources for local use** – various session plans / guides / videos / letters

- **SYP will start promoting nationally after the Scottish Parliament elections in May**

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

Candidate Experience Programme - April to November

The candidate experience programme will offer a range of local and national activities, opportunities, and trainings throughout the process. There will be flexibility within this programme, to enable local authorities and national voluntary organisations to create their own programme for candidates depending on local need, resource, and capacity, whilst still ensuring candidates receive the core development opportunities outlined below.

Regardless of the outcome of the Scottish Youth Parliament elections, SYP expects all young people who stand as candidates in this, and future SYP elections will develop:

- Skills and knowledge to help their overall personal development.
- Understanding and awareness of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the role of an MSYP.
- Local connections and involvement in local youth voice mechanisms (where these mechanisms exist).

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

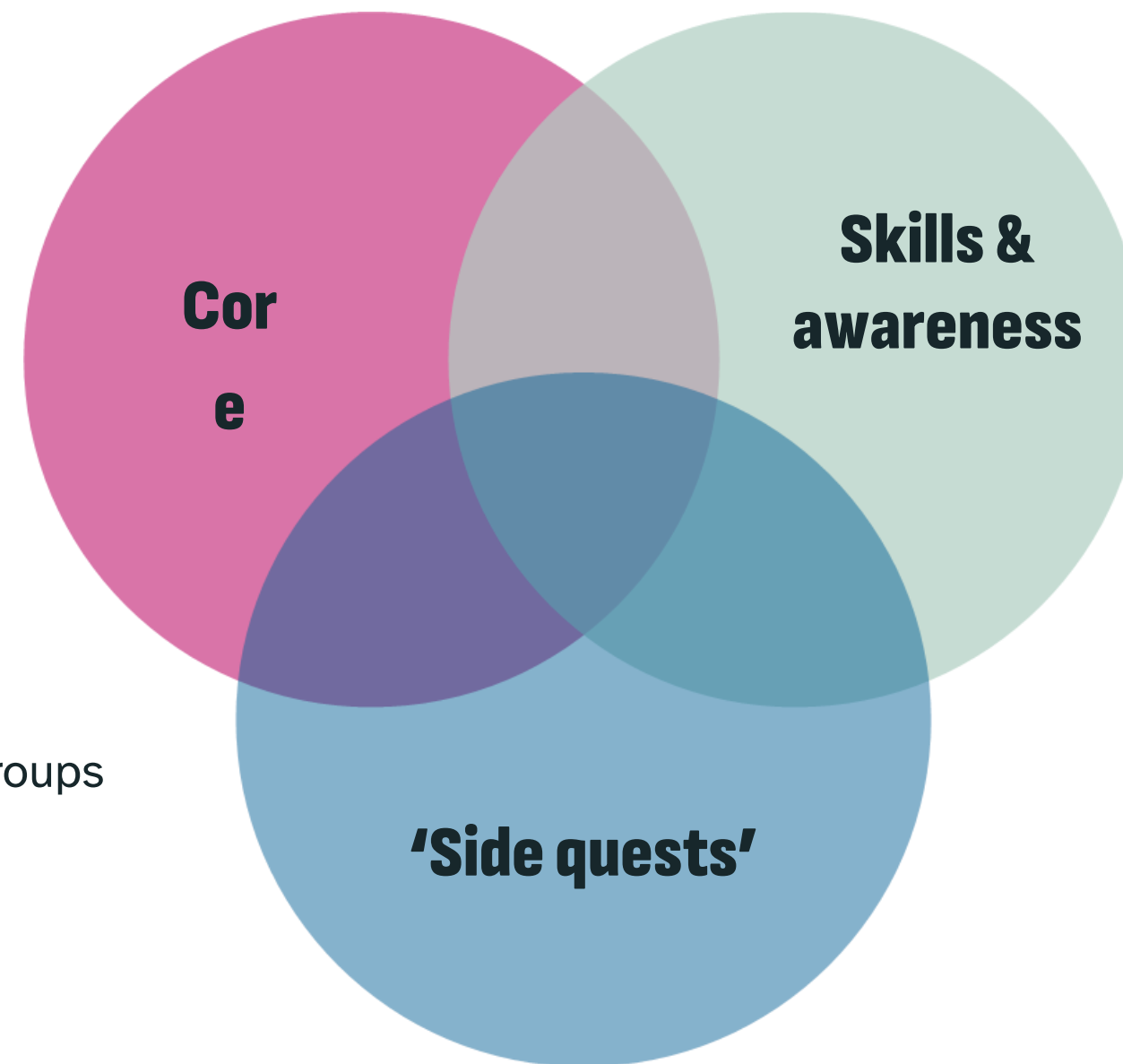
Candidate Experience Programme - April to November

Core sessions:

- About SYP
- Being an MSYP
- How the elections work
- Campaigning
- Candidate journey
- What happens after the elections

Side quests:

- Local engagement, youth voice groups
- Consultation workshops
- Candidate mingles
- Shadowing an MSYP
- Local / national events



Skills and awareness:

- social media and digital literacy
- communicating effectively
- consultation 101
- keeping well and time management
- political literacy
- rights and meaningful participation
- staying safe online

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

Promote the Vote - October 2026

This phase includes:

- Local and national promotion of how to vote, what SYP is, what MSYPs are, who candidates are, etc
- Local events and activities to promote candidates – eg, Hustings
- Final candidate profile deadline: **Friday 2nd October at 5pm.**

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

Voting fortnight - 2nd - 15th November 2026

This phase includes:

- Online and/or in-person voting [SYP to provide clearer guidance on this]
- LA's and NVOs run elections in line with SYP elections guidance.
- Local and national promotion.

- Current membership ends Sunday 15th November, new membership starts Monday 16th November.
- Results announced on / from Monday 16th November.

ELECTIONS TIMELINE

New membership induction – November - February

This phase includes:

- Welcoming new MSYPs plus all the admin (CoC, PVGs, consent forms, MSYP emails)
- Welcome event – eg, Saturday 21st November [TBC]
- Elections evaluation and demographics report
- Online induction training (December / January)
- MSYP Meet Up – December
- SYP Training Festival – Saturday 27th February
- Regional Sittings – first two weeks in March

ELECTION COORDINATOR ROLE OVERVIEW

Each LA and NVO should register at least one Election Coordinator. The Election Coordinator(s) is the main point of contact for the SYP Elections in your organisation. Being an Election Coordinator includes:

- Take part in Election Coordinator training and meetings as required.
- Liaise with SYP staff, candidates, and other local and/or national elections partners.
- Coordinate the elections within your organisation, in line with the SYP Election procedures and guidelines, including:
 - Coordinate and/or support the development of an SYP elections plan in your own organisation.
 - Promote the opportunity to stand in the SYP elections to young people aged 14 – 25.
 - Review candidate applications and candidate profiles for their organisation.
 - Support candidates to take part in the candidate experience programme.
 - Support candidates to promote their candidacy (October 2026).
 - Promote the voting period and coordinate opportunities for young people aged 12 – 25 to vote between 2nd – 15th November 2026.
 - Work with SYP and colleagues in your own organisation to announce the election results during the week beginning 16th November 2026.
 - Carry out local evaluation of the SYP Elections and contribute to the national evaluation to inform future SYP Elections planning (December 2026).

ELECTION COORDINATOR SUPPORT

To support Election Coordinators, SYP will:

- Deliver Election Coordinator training in a range of formats.
- Provide clear guidance, promotional materials, template letters, videos, session plans, evaluation and impact monitoring tools, and lots of other resources – these will be hosted on an Election Coordinator hub.
- Deliver a new Candidate Experience Programme, which will offer candidates a range of activities, opportunities, and trainings throughout the process. - More on this shortly!
- Deliver online information sessions for young people and for adults who work with young people or who are interested in finding out more about the SYP elections.
- Promote the SYP elections nationally.
- Hold separate fortnightly drop-in sessions for Local Authority and Voluntary Organisation Election Coordinators. A recurring invite will be sent to all Election Coordinators.
- Liaise with the national elections voting platform provider.
- Carry out ongoing impact monitoring and evaluation of the SYP Elections Programme.



ELECTIONS RESOURCES

- Election Coordinator Hub - linktree
- SYP website and elections platform
- Election Coordinator Guidance
- Candidate Guidance
- Elections rules and procedures
- Candidate code of conduct
- Planning and risk management templates
- Monitoring and evaluation resources

Promo materials including:

- Downloadable posters, flyers
- Social media assets
- Template press releases
- Youth engagement workshop toolkit
- Template letters (for education, parents / carers, employers)
- Videos

SYP ELECTIONS QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Principle	Standard	Indicators
Democratic: Every eligible young person in Scotland has the right to stand for election and to vote in the SYP Elections, ensuring results that genuinely reflect young people's views and choices.	The election process must uphold young people's democratic rights, enabling free, fair, and representative participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barriers to standing as a candidate and to voting are identified and reduced. All constituencies are contested. Voting is conducted fairly and in line with the SYP Elections rules and procedures. Results reflect genuine participation and are verified through agreed procedures.
Inclusive: The SYP Elections are inclusive and accessible to all young people, regardless of background, ability, identity, or location.	The election process must be accessible to all young people, including those with additional support needs, those from marginalised communities, and those in rural or island areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and resources are available in multiple accessible formats. The Elections are promoted widely across all communities in Scotland. Young people report feeling welcomed, supported, and able to participate. Candidates reflect the diversity of Scotland's young people.
Robust: The SYP Elections are delivered through secure, reliable, and well-governed processes that uphold the highest standards of integrity.	The election process must be secure, reliable, and governed by clear procedures that protect the integrity of the vote.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A national risk assessment, EQJA and CRWIA is produced and reviewed every two months. Voting systems are tested in advance to ensure accuracy and security. Voting processes (online or paper) follow consistent and documented protocols. A clear audit trail exists for all key decisions and actions.
Engaging: The SYP Elections are designed and delivered with young people's rights, needs, communication styles, and lived and living experiences at the centre.	The election process must be youth led, meaningful, and designed in ways that reflect young people's rights, interests, and communication preferences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information, resources, and promotional materials are youth friendly, visually appealing, and co designed where possible. Candidates feel supported and informed. Candidates have opportunities to engage locally and nationally throughout the election process. Election activities and events feel relevant and exciting to young people. Young people report understanding the MSYP role and the purpose of SYP.
Compliant: The SYP Elections are delivered in line with all required rules, policies, and procedures to ensure a fair and consistent process.	The election process must meet all required rules, policies, procedures, and ethical standards, ensuring fairness and consistency across Scotland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All delivery partners follow SYP's election guidance and timelines. Election Coordinators report feeling supported and understand how to facilitate the elections in their organisation. Data protection, safeguarding, and election rules are fully adhered to. Documentation is completed accurately and stored appropriately. Complaints and non-compliance are addressed promptly and transparently.
Transparent: The SYP Elections information, processes, and outcomes are open, clear, and communicated effectively so young people can fully understand and trust the process.	Election information, processes, and outcomes must be communicated clearly so young people can fully understand and trust the process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key stages, roles, and responsibilities are explained in accessible formats. Results are communicated openly, accurately, and promptly. Young people and Election Coordinators understand how decisions are made throughout the process. Young people and Election Coordinators understand how votes are counted. Feedback mechanisms allow young people to raise questions or concerns.

Each of the principles underpinning the SYP elections has a set of:

- **Standards** – clear expectations defining what high-quality delivery looks like.
- **Quality Indicators** – specific, measurable signs that show whether a standard is being met.

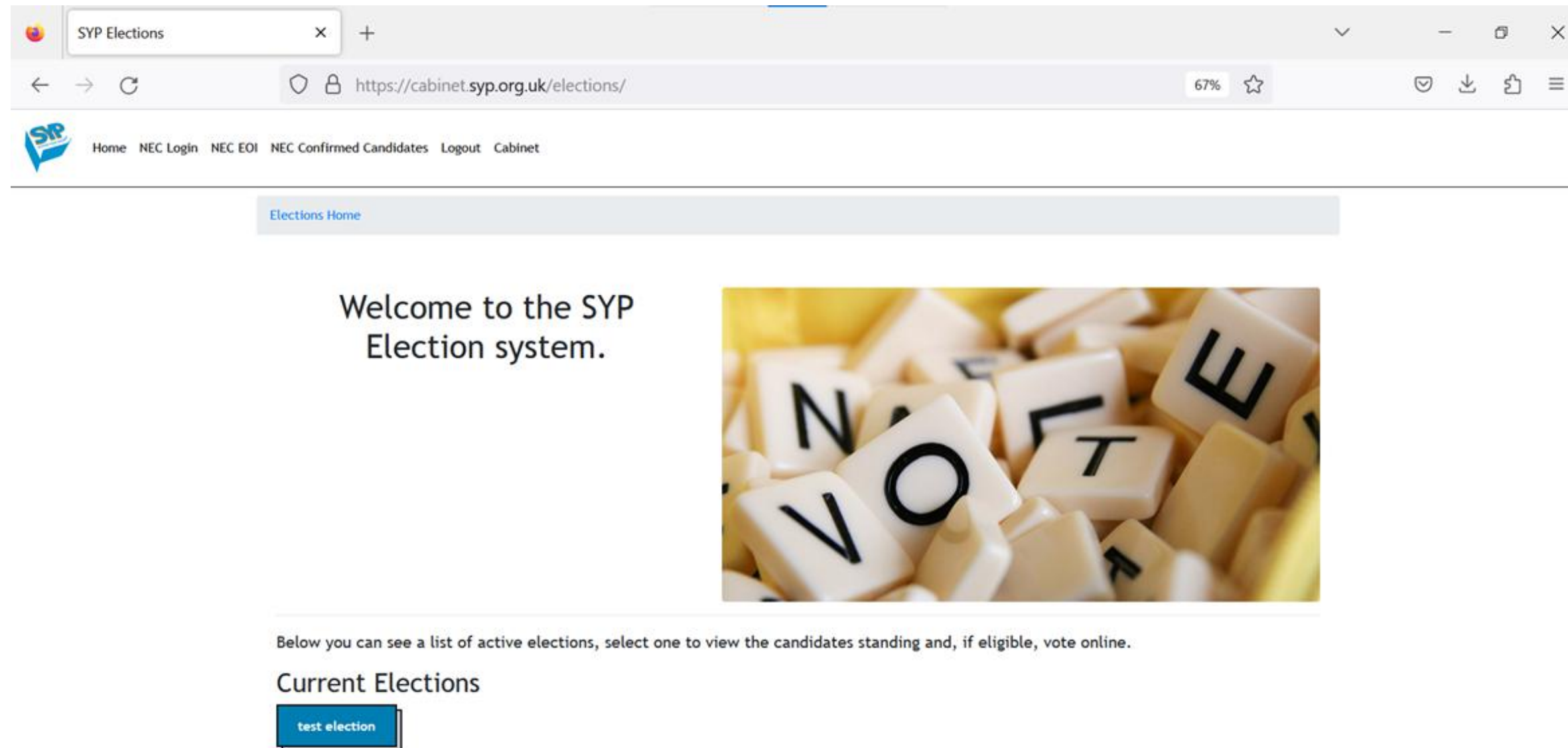
The SYP Elections Evaluation Framework outlines how, when, and by who the indicators will be measured.

this will be included in the election coordinator guidance

The updated SYP elections rules and procedures are based on these principles. There are no substantial changes from previous elections, but we have tried to clarify the rules and procedures to more clearly outline expectations for everyone.

ELECTIONS APPLICATION PROCESS

<https://elections.syp.org.uk/elections/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Tab:** SYP Elections
- Address Bar:** <https://cabinet.syp.org.uk/elections/>
- Page Header:** Home NEC Login NEC EOI NEC Confirmed Candidates Logout Cabinet
- Section:** Elections Home
- Text:** Welcome to the SYP Election system.
- Image:** A photograph of wooden letter blocks with letters like 'N', 'O', 'T', 'E' visible.
- Text:** Below you can see a list of active elections, select one to view the candidates standing and, if eligible, vote online.
- Section:** Current Elections
- Button:** test election

Elections Home / test election

Header text

test election

This section will include text to tell young people about the election in this constituency



Election timings:

Starts May 11, 2023, midnight and ends May 12, 2023, midnight.

Stand

If you wish to stand in this election you can complete your Expression of Interest form online.

[Start Expression of Interest](#)

Elections Home / test election / Expression of Interest

Header text

Expression of Interest for test election

Starts May 11, 2023, midnight and ends May 12, 2023, midnight

This section will include text to tell young people about the election in this constituency

Disclaimer

disclaimer

To agree to the above disclaimer, if applicable, and proceed with your expression of interest, please click the button below.

[Begin Expression of Interest](#)

Expression of Interest

First name **Last name** **Date of birth**
Date of birth in format YYYY-MM-DD

Personal email **Mobile number**

Gender **Pronouns**
Add your preferred pronouns.

Location

Address line one

Address line two

Address line three

Town **Post code**

Address line three

Town

Post code

Local authority

Lookup Local Authority

Use the *Lookup Local Authority* button to auto complete this field. NB. You must fill in Post Code above.

NVO

Are you standing on behalf of an National Voluntary Organisation?

Constituency

If you don't know what your constituency is, you can look it up on the [MSP Finder](#) site.

If you are in education, what is the name of your school, college or university?

Other

Do you have any accessibility requirements that we should be aware of?

Is there any other way that we can support you to participate in the elections?

Submit

After young person submits their application...

- They will receive an auto email with the link to an online training module.
- Election Coordinator meets young person and collects consent form for your organisation.
- When applicant is approved by Election Coordinator, they will receive an auto email with the link to start working on their candidate profile (timings of this email tbc)





SYP Elections



https://cabinet.syp.org.uk/elections/



[Home](#)

[NEC Login](#)

[NEC EOI](#)

[NEC Confirmed Candidates](#)

[Logout](#)

[Cabinet](#)

[Elections Home](#)

Welcome to the SYP Election system.



Login Form

rosy.b@syp.org.uk

.....

Log in

[Lost your password?](#)

 SYP Members

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SYP Elections



https://cabinet.syp.org.uk/elections/



[Home](#) [NEC Login](#) [NEC EOI](#) [NEC Confirmed Candidates](#) [Logout](#) [Cabinet](#)

[Elections Home](#)

Welcome to the SYP Election system.



Applications

~~Expressions of interest~~ awaiting your approval

Please note that ticking consent, online module, and trained then pressing "save" will confirm a candidate. For shared constituencies, NECs should claim the candidates who they will handle.

Active Elections:
• [Add EOI to test election](#)

Show 25 entries

Search:

Election	Candidate Name	Constituency	Consent?	Online Modules?	Met/Trained?	Claimed?	Edit EOI	Delete EOI	Approve EOI
test election	Rosy Burgess	Edinburgh Central (EH16 5BS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claim	Edit	Delete	Save/Approve
test election	Rosy Burgess	Edinburgh Central (eh3 6nb)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claim	Edit	Delete	Save/Approve
test election	Rosy Burgess	Edinburgh Central (eh3 6nb)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claim	Edit	Delete	Save/Approve
test election	Ryan Coelho	Paisley (EH3 6NB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Claim	Edit	Delete	Save/Approve

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Previous 1 Next

Local consent

(will be replaced with 'met')

Sends an auto-email to young person

Split constituencies



SYP Elections



https://cabinet.syp.org.uk/elections/



[Home](#)

[NEC Login](#)

[NEC EOI](#)

[NEC Confirmed Candidates](#)

[Logout](#)

[Cabinet](#)

[Elections Home](#)

Welcome to the SYP
Election system.



Home / Confirmed candidates in active elections

Confirmed Candidates in Active Elections

Show 25 entries

Search:

Election	Candidate Name	Constituency	Withdraw	Claimed	Edit EOI	Edit Profile	Reopen Profile Editing	Confirm Profile Ready	Published
test election	Rosy Burgess	Edinburgh Central (EH16 5BS)	Withdraw	Rosy Burgess	Edit EOI	Edit Profile	Close Profile Editing		✗
test election	Rosy Burgess	Edinburgh Central (eh3 6nb)	Withdraw	Claim	Edit EOI	Edit Profile	Close Profile Editing		✗

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Previous 1 Next

Election Coordinators can review / edit

Click here when you're happy with the profile

Sends an auto email & feedback form

Review profile here

Button appears here - click to approve profile
This will revert to SYP to review and publish or return to you



You will gain access to the SYP Election Coordinator Hub at the end of March.

If you have any questions about the SYP Elections, please contact SYP at

elections@syp.org.uk