

**WEST LOTHIAN LOCAL COUNTING AREA – TIMETABLE FOR CANDIDATES AND AGENTS**

RO – Returning Officer for the Electoral Region of Scotland (also Regional Returning Officer or RRO)

LRO – Local Returning Officer for West Lothian Local Counting Area

Date			Event	Notes
Monday	April	15	Notice of election	Not later than 15 April
Monday	April	15	Right to free use of meeting rooms starts	Up to and including Wednesday 22 May
Tuesday	April	16	First day for nominations, appointment of agents, withdrawals and objections	Working days up to and including 25 April, 10 am till 4 pm
Tuesday	April	23	Issue of poll cards	By Royal Mail, starting today
Thursday	April	25	Last day for nominations, appointment of agents, withdrawals and objections	4pm for nominations and objections, 5 pm for objections (specific rules on times for objections not included here)
Thursday	April	25	Notice of parties and individuals nominated	After close of nominations and dealing with objections
Tuesday	May	7	Registers - applications for registration	For ERO, not LRO. Deadline is midnight
Wednesday	May	8	Briefing for candidates and agents	Proposed date only, TBC after hearing from RO
Wednesday	May	8	First issue of postal vote packs	After close of register (second issue on 15 May)
Wednesday	May	8	New postal vote and postal proxy applications, changes to existing postal or proxies	For ERO, not LRO. Deadline is 5 pm
Thursday	May	9	LRO briefing for candidates and agents	Civic Centre, 5.30 pm
Wednesday	May	15	First postal vote opening, postal vote agents appointed any time before each session	On working days from Monday 13 May, at 9 am, up to and including polling date
Wednesday	May	15	Second issue of postal vote packs	After close of register (first issue on 8 May)
Wednesday	May	15	Registers - new applications to vote by proxy (not postal proxy or emergency proxies)	Deadline is 5 pm

Date			Event	Notes
Thursday	May	16	Appointment of sub-agents	For RO, not LRO. Deadline is midnight
Thursday	May	16	Appointment polling and counting agents	For LRO. Deadline is midnight
Friday	May	17	First date to apply for replacements for lost postal votes	
Monday	May	20	Deadline for requesting permission to display A-boards at council-owned polling places	Deadline is midnight
Wednesday	May	22	Last day of right to free use of meeting rooms	From and including Monday 15 April
Wednesday	May	22	Replacement for lost and spoilt postal votes only by hand after 5 pm	Can post out replacements till 5 pm, afterwards by hand
Thursday	May	23	Polling day	7 am to 10 pm
Thursday	May	23	Replacement of spoilt or lost postal votes	Deadline is 5 pm
Thursday	May	23	Emergency proxy applications	Deadline is 5 pm
Thursday	May	23	Alter register for clerical error	Deadline is 9 pm
Thursday	May	23	Initial sorting of boxes, bags and sacks	Civic Centre foyer, 10 pm, candidates and agents invited
Sun	May	26	Count ending with notification and announcement of local results by LRO	6 pm, West Lothian College, to start in time for declaration of results by RO (not before 10 pm)
Monday	June	17	Deadline for presentation of election petition to challenge the result	21 days from declaration of result by RO
Monday	July	15	Return of election expenses (individual candidates party list candidates)	To RO, not LRO
Friday	Aug	23	Return of campaign expenditure of political parties (spending £250,000 or less)	To Electoral Commission
	Nov	23	Return of campaign expenditure of political parties (spending more than £250,000)	To Electoral Commission

<b>DOCUMENT CONTROL</b>		
20190423	First draft prepared with a view to local issue and candidates/agents' briefing	JDM
20190501	Information about LRO briefing and A-board deadline added	JDM