

# Scottish Independence Referendum – largest electorate ever



A total of 4,285,323 people have registered to vote in the Scottish Independence Referendum on Thursday 18 September, making it the largest electorate ever in Scotland for an election or referendum.

The total electorate figure for the whole of Scotland includes 789,024 people who have applied for a postal vote – the largest volume of registration for postal votes ever in Scotland.

The increase in the electorate reflects the scale of interest in the referendum.

With one week to go until polling day, the Chief Counting Officer (CCO) for the Scottish Independence Referendum is encouraging voters to think carefully and plan ahead to make sure their vote is counted.

Mary Pitcaithly said:

“I want everyone’s vote to count, whether they are voting by post or in person at a polling place on 18 September. It’s vital that everyone takes great care when completing their ballot paper. Mistakes mean that a ballot paper may not be counted.

“The safest way to ensure your vote counts is to only put one ‘X’ in the box beside the answer you want to choose. Postal voters should ensure they complete their date of birth and signature correctly on the postal voting statement. They have to match the information held on file otherwise we cannot

include the ballot paper in the count.

“People who are voting at a polling place should think about what time they are going to vote. Polling places are busiest during the early morning and in the evening as people vote on their way to and from work. If you are able to avoid these times, I would encourage you to do so to ensure everyone can vote without having to queue for any length of time.”

The CC0 and Counting Officers at Scotland’s 32 local authorities have put measures in place to reduce the risk of queuing at polling stations. Across Scotland, there are 2,608 polling places with a total of 5,579 polling stations. In most areas, a maximum of 800 electors have been allocated to each polling station. In addition, many polling places will allocate additional staff to assist during busy times.

Voters can obtain more information about the referendum and how to vote at [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk)

In Edinburgh you can find out more about where the polling stations are [here on the council website.](#)