

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CANDIDATES

The Scottish Parliament has 129 elected members (MSPs) – 73 Constituency Members and 56 Regional Members. Elections to the Scottish Parliament use the Additional Member Voting system, which combines the traditional First Past the Post system (FPP) and Proportional Representation (PR).

Electors have 2 votes to cast:

1. The first vote is to select a person to be their Constituency Member. The person who wins the most votes using the FPP voting system becomes the Constituency Member.

2. The second vote is to elect Regional representatives. Voters can select a political party, or an individual candidate for a seat in a Scottish Parliament Region. Each registered political party standing in the regional ballot will have submitted a list of their candidates in order of the party's preference. The names on a list are in a fixed order. The first person on the list will take the first additional seat a party wins, the second person will take the second additional seat, and so on. There are 7 MSPs for each of the Scottish Parliament Regions.

We suggest that you focus on interviewing the individuals standing to be a Constituency Member. If you are able to interview some of the regional candidates, those at the top of each party's list would be the place to start.

## INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES

- Please contact the candidates from the major parties standing to be your Constituency Member. Ask to interview them over the phone, or in person, if possible. If not, you can ask the questions by email. We have a tool on the website which tells you who your candidates are and provides a template email.
- The telephone interview need only take 5 minutes. Explain that you wish to ask them about abortion and assisted suicide.

- **Before the interview** make sure you have the form 'Scottish Election 2026 – Questions to put to candidates'.
- **At the interview**, explain to the candidate that you have three prepared questions and that you would like to note down his/her answers.
- Using the 'Questions to put to candidates' form, read the questions clearly and note down the answers.
- If the candidate does not answer a question, record that fact.
- Remember that the questions are not asking for the views or opinions of the candidate but how the candidate intends to vote on:
  - i. expanding/restricting abortion laws
  - ii. legalising assisted suicide

should either of those issues be put to the vote in the new Scottish Parliament.

- If candidates ask what we plan to do with the information they provide, the answer is that we hope to inform our supporters in the constituency about all the candidates and what commitment they have on pro-life issues.
- Please let us know each candidate's response straight away – don't wait until you have interviewed all the candidates! We can then let other supporters in your area know how candidates intend to vote.
- Please send your completed forms to: [elections@spuc.org.uk](mailto:elections@spuc.org.uk) or post them to:

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# USE YOUR VOTE FOR A PRO-LIFE SCOTLAND

## What you can do to defend human life in the 2026 Scottish Election

### INTRODUCTION

A Scottish election is taking place on 7 May 2026. You will have the opportunity to vote for a constituency candidate, and for a party to represent your region.

Abortion law has been devolved to the Scottish Parliament since 2018. The UK Parliament at Westminster recently voted to decriminalise self-induced abortion at any gestation, so there is a real risk that Scotland could follow and expand abortion laws. In fact, an Abortion Law Review Group commissioned by the Scottish Government recently released a report containing proposals to do just that.

At the other end of life, we recently saw a great victory when MSPs voted down Liam McArthur's Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill at Stage 3. We need to make sure that no such proposals are put forward in the next Parliament.

It is therefore very important that pro-life people in Scotland consider the views on these matters of the MSPs they elect to the Scottish Parliament.

This briefing gives you information on these issues, as well as guidance on how to question your candidates on them.

SPUC has also prepared:

**Value your vote** flyers to distribute door to door and at your place of worship.

**Scottish election 2026 – Questions to put to candidates**  
A questionnaire for parliamentary candidates to find out how they intend to vote on abortion decriminalisation and assisted suicide.

**Where Do They Stand** – a flyer on the positions of the political parties on pro-life issues.

**A report** responding to the proposals of the Abortion Law Review, which can be given to candidates.

**A guide to speaking to canvassers**



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Society for the **Protection**  
of Unborn Children

The two questions to put to candidates are:

**QUESTION 1:**

*Would you vote to support or oppose any move to expand abortion laws?*

**QUESTION 2:**

*Would you vote to support or oppose any move to legalise assisted suicide?*

**ABORTION LAW REVIEW**

In the Programme for Government 2023-24, the Scottish Government committed to undertake a review of the abortion law in Scotland. As part of this review, they convened an 'expert group' to consider current legislation and propose legislative changes. Many members of this group had a professional history providing and performing abortions.

In November 2025, this group published their report, including their recommendations for changes to abortion legislation. These proposed changes would include the broadest and most sweeping extension of abortion law since it was legalised in 1967 – including:

- removing all grounds for abortion up to 24-week's gestation
- allowing for abortion up to birth if two doctors 'deem it appropriate'
- decriminalising abortion
- enshrining a 'right to abortion'

If taken together, these proposals would make for one of the most permissive abortion laws anywhere in the world. They would erode any acknowledgment of the humanity of the unborn child and would remove any legal protection from them (of which there is already very little in Scottish law).

It is likely that the Government or an MSP will bring forward elements of this report as proposed legislation in the next Parliament. It is vital that candidates know that this is not what the voting public want.

SPUC has written its own report, responding to these proposals and providing alternative proposals. These include, but are not limited to:

- Bringing an immediate end to telemedicine abortion
- Introducing mandatory screening for coercion in abortion decisions
- Stronger conscience protections for pharmacists

Please distribute a copies of this report to any candidates you engage with. We also need to make it clear to candidates that the proposals contained in the review are unacceptable to the Scottish public and must not be introduced. Instead, the counterproposals proposed by SPUC should be enacted.



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**ASSISTED SUICIDE**

The Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, introduced by Liam McArthur MSP, was extensively debated during the 2021-26 Scottish Parliament. In May 2025, MSPs approved the principle by 70 votes to 56. In November 2025, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee examined the Bill at Stage 2 across four meetings. Only minimal changes were made.

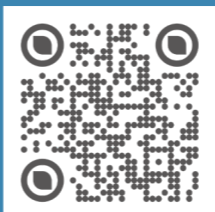
**In the final vote on Tuesday 17th March 2026, MSPs voted by 69 votes to 57 to reject the Bill.**

This result was a great victory, and a testament to the hard work put in by a number of campaign groups. However, we cannot be complacent. Those pushing for assisted death have not given up, and we need to keep making the case that assisted suicide laws can never be safe.

There have already been calls from senior politicians to bring a law back in the next Parliament. Asked if bringing forward new legislation in the next parliament would be too soon, Alex Cole-Hamilton, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said: "No, not if there is a majority for it, and we can finally bring parliament into step with the rest of the public."

He added: "I would hope it would be brought back in the next parliament."

We need to make it clear to candidates that there is no public appetite to waste more parliamentary time on this issue, and that MSPs should focus on improving end of life, palliative and social care.



See who your candidates are and where they stand using SPUC's new election tool. Visit: [spuc.org.uk/scottishelection](http://spuc.org.uk/scottishelection), or scan the QR code.