

**Local Government
By-Election Guide**
Thursday 21 September 2023



south-ayrshire.gov.uk

south
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day



Welcome to our guide to the South Ayrshire Local Government By-Election on Thursday 21 September 2023

A range of teams from across the Council are involved in the planning, organising and delivery of elections in South Ayrshire.

This guide sets out all you need to know about the Local Government Election and the count, including:

- Who is standing for election;
- Where your local polling station is;
- Where and when the count is taking place;
- What the layout and process will be at the count centre;
- How votes are counted under the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

The South Ayrshire count for the Scottish Local Government By Election will get underway from 10pm on Thursday 21 September 2023.

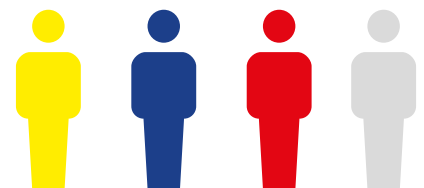
The count will be conducted manually.

About the Local Government Election

1 Councillor will be elected to serve the people and communities of South Ayrshire in Ward 8, Girvan and South Carrick.



Each ward is served by three or four Councillors, depending on its population.



Ward 8: Girvan and South Carrick

(Three Councillors)  Current Councillors: Alec Clark and Gavin Scott

Electorate TBC

Postal voters TBC

Polling Places

Polling Place	Polling Stations	Who Votes Here
Dailly Community Hall, Main Street, Dailly, KA26 9NR	1	Voters in Dailly
Girvan Academy, 62 The Avenue, Girvan, KA26 9DW	5	Voters in Girvan, Voters in Pinmore
Lendalfoot Hall, Lendalfoot KA26 0JW	1	Voters in Lendalfoot
Barr Community Education Centre, Stinchar Road, Barr KA26 9TW	1	Voters in Barr
Barrhill Memorial Hall, Main Street, Barrhill KA26 0QP	1	Voters in Barrhill
Colmonell Community Education Centre, Main Street, Colmonell KA26 0RY	1	Voters in Colmonell Voters in Pinwherry
Ballantrae Community Education Centre, Ballantrae KA26 0NH	1	Voters in Ballantrae
Maidens Church Hall, Kirkoswald Road, Maidens KA26 9NT	1	Voters in Maidens
Kirkoswald Church, Kirk Road, Kirkoswald KA19 8NT	1	Voters in Kirkoswald

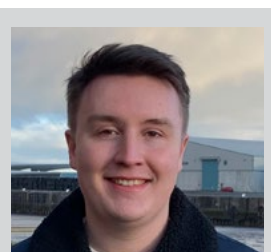
WARD 8: GIRVAN AND SOUTH CARRICK



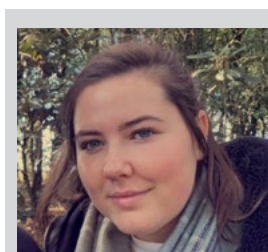
Alan Lamont
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist



Joseph McLaughlin
Scottish National
Party



Jamie Ross
Scottish Liberal
Democrats



Nicola Saxton
Scottish Labour Party



**Denise
Sommerville**
Alba Party for
Independence

2022 Results

A detailed breakdown of the 2022 Local Government Election results for Girvan and South Carrick can be found at <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/>



The Count

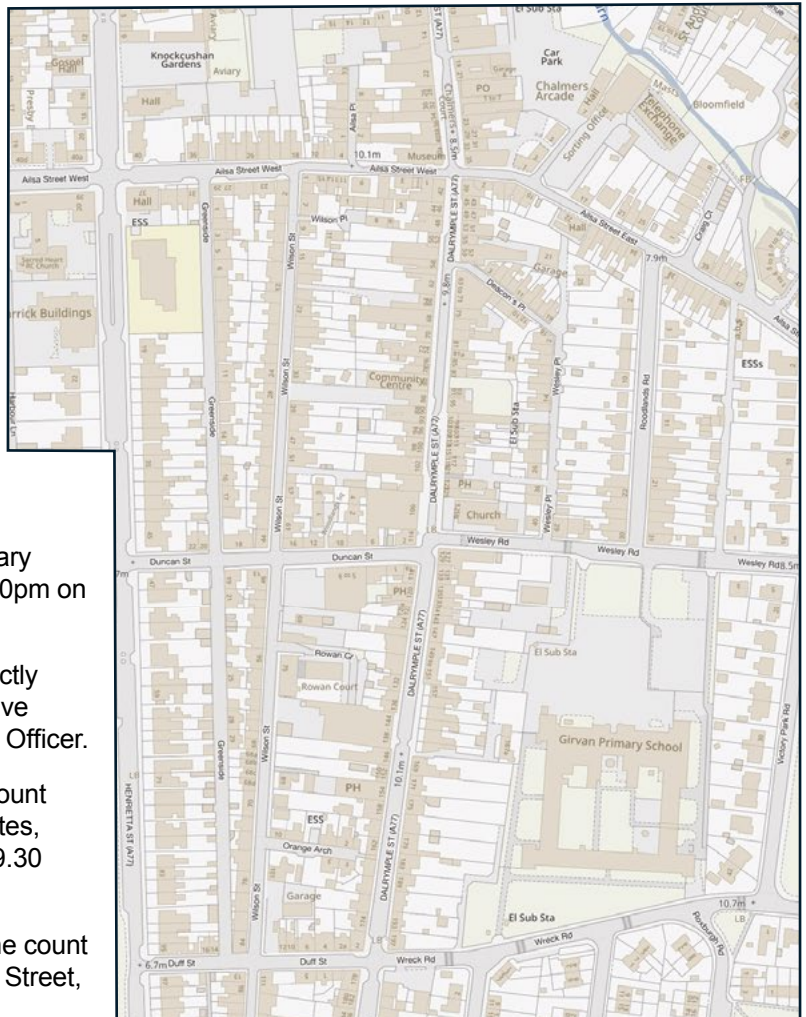
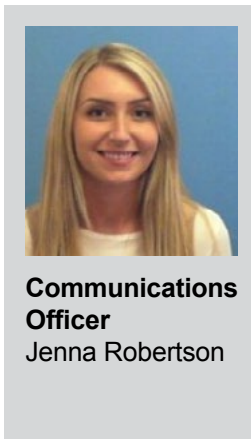
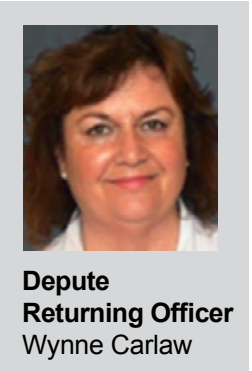
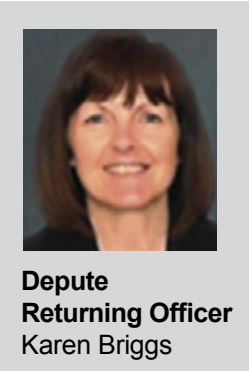
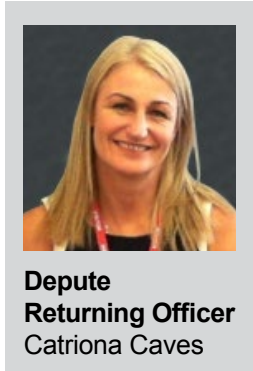
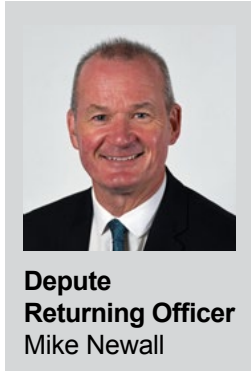
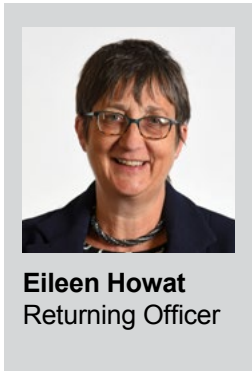
The South Ayrshire count for the Scottish Local Government By Election will take place on Thursday 21 September 2023 from 10pm.

The count will be conducted manually.

Meet the Count Team

The election and count team is led by our Chief Executive and Returning Officer, Eileen Howat.

Eileen is supported by four Depute Returning Officers and a number of other colleagues to ensure the smooth running of the election count.



The Count Venue

The election count will take place at Girvan Primary School, Wesley Rd, Girvan KA26 9DD from 10:00pm on Thursday 21 September 2023.

Parking at the primary school car park will be strictly limited and will only be available to those who have been allocated a parking space by the Returning Officer.

Access to the primary school car park and the count centre will be allowed from 9.45 p.m. for candidates, agents and observers (postal vote agents from 9.30 p.m.).

Alternative free car parking for those attending the count is available at the nearby Car Park off Dalrymple Street, which is shown on the map opposite.

Postal vote opening and checking

Postal vote opening and checking will take place in Girvan Primary School from 9.30am on Thursday 21 September 2023

All opening and checking of postal votes will take place in at Girvan Primary School, Wesley Road, Girvan, KA26 9DD.

The postal vote opening process can be observed only by those with the appropriate accreditation and who have signed the Requirement of Secrecy declaration. Viewing of the postal vote opening must be by prior arrangement with the Election Office.

Postal vote opening will get underway at 9.30am on Thursday 21 September 2023.

The number and frequency of postal vote opening sessions will depend on the total number of postal votes issued and the number of completed postal voting statements and ballot papers returned.

First and Final Returning Officer adjudication will be undertaken during the session.

Candidates and agents will be kept informed of any changes to the date and time for postal vote opening and checking, and will be given 48 hours' notice before the start of an opening session.

A maximum of one postal vote agent per candidate will be permitted at each opening session. This is in addition to the candidate and the election agent.

Access and accreditation

Access to the count centre at Girvan Primary School will be available from 9:30pm on on Thursday 21 September 2023

All visitors must enter via the main entrance and report to the security desk at the entrance to the main hall.

Only those with valid accreditation will be allowed access. If you are collecting your passes at the venue, you will also need to have a suitable form of photographic ID such as a driving licence, passport or press card.

Accreditation passes can only be used by the named holder and must be worn at all times.

Our accreditation passes are colour coded, so we can see who is who and ensure that people have access to the relevant permitted areas.

CATEGORY	COLOUR
Returning Officer Staff	Gold
Returning Officer Guest	Blue
Press and Media	Pink
Counting Agent	Lilac
Candidate/Election Agent	White
Observer	Green

Any queries or requests regarding accreditation for candidates and agents should be directed to the Election Office on 01292 612300 or email election@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Any queries or requests for access or accreditation from the media should be directed to communications@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

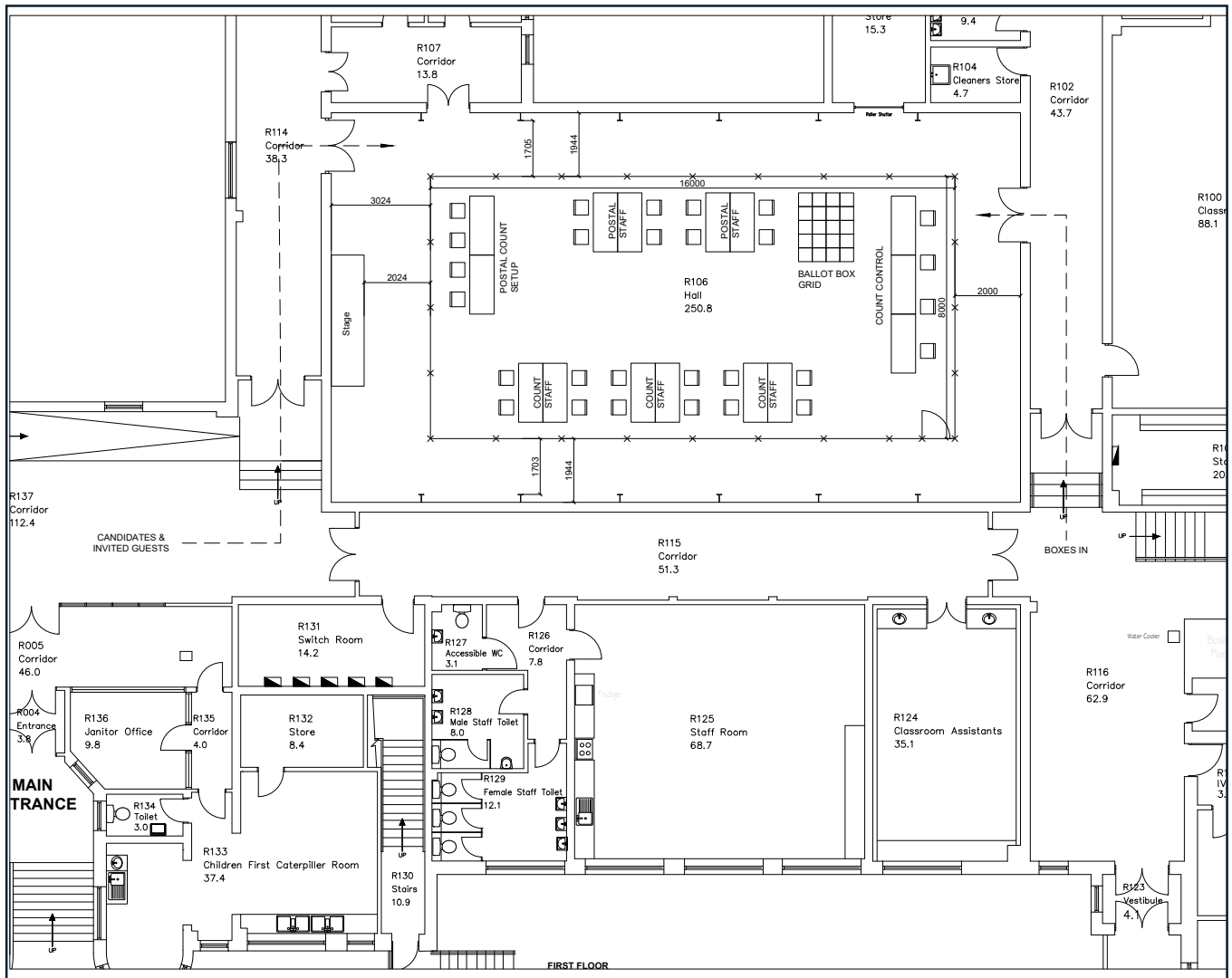
Media outlets need to provide the names of all representatives who plan to attend by no later than 4:00pm on Wednesday 6 September. Please note that, subject to the level of demand for media attendance, there is no guarantee that requests will be granted and there may be a requirement to limit the number of media accreditations per organisation.

Accreditation passes must be collected from the Election Office, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR by no later than 4pm.

The Count Centre

The count hall is expected to be set up as shown in our layout plan, although this is subject to change based on operational demands on equipment and resources.

Some tables and chairs will be provided in the main hall as well as access to power points and a wireless internet connection - this is primarily for election candidates and agents.



The Count Process

The counting of votes will get underway from 10:00pm on Thursday 21 September 2023 - this will include the postal votes that have already been opened and processed.

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system will be used for this election and all votes cast will be counted manually.

Arrival

- Ballot boxes will arrive at Girvan Primary School following the close of poll at 10pm on Thursday 5 May.
- Unused ballot papers will be checked at Girvan Primary School following the close of poll.
- Postal ballot boxes will be stored securely at County Buildings and transferred to the Girvan Primary School before opening on Thursday 21st September. Postal ballot boxes will be included in the relevant ballot box opening for the particular ward, rather than being opened collectively.

Counting STV votes

Voting with the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system means voters use numbers instead of a cross.

Voters number the candidates on the ballot paper in the order of choice: 1 for their first choice, 2 for their second choice, 3 for their third choice, 4 for their fourth choice and so on.

Voters can number as many or as few candidates as they like, so if there are six candidates, they can vote for just one (by writing 1 in the relevant box), all six (numbering the boxes 1-6 in order of choice) or for any number in between (again numbering from 1, depending on how many candidates they want to choose).

The quota number is calculated based on how many valid votes have been cast in the ward and the number of seats to be filled.

Verification

- Ballot Paper Accounts (BPA) from individual polling stations will be checked and recorded
- Count assistants will count the number of ballot papers in each box and this will be checked against details in BPA
- The turnout will be advised once the contents of all boxes have been verified

Votes are counted in stages

Stage one:

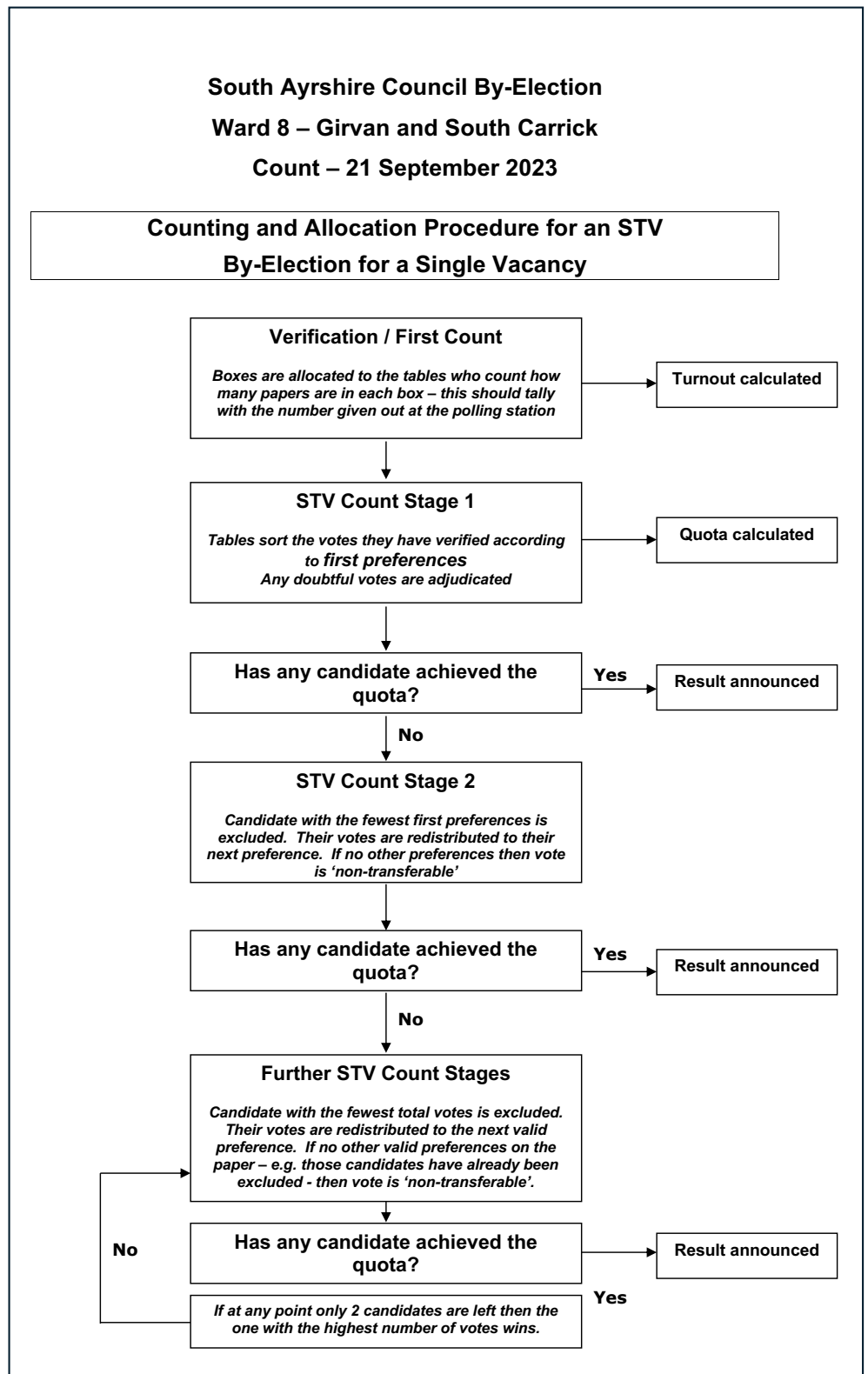
Count assistants will sort papers according to voter's first preference. Any doubtful papers will be adjudicated by Depute Returning Officers.

The quota number is calculated based on the number of valid votes and the number of seats to be filled.

If any candidate reaches the quota at stage one they are deemed to be elected and the counting is complete.

Stage two (if needed):

The candidate with the fewest vote will be excluded and count assistants will review their papers and transfer the paper to the next choice candidate. If there is no second preference the papers will be non transferable. This stage is repeated until a candidate achieves the quota or there are only two candidates remaining. If two candidates remain person with most votes is elected.



Declaring the results

The Returning Officer will make a number of announcements throughout the count:

- Turnout
- The number of valid ballot papers
- The number of rejected ballot papers under each category
- The quota to be achieved
- The number of first preference votes for each candidate
- The candidates being excluded at various stages and results after each stage

Useful contacts

Electoral Registration Office

avjb@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

www.ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk

Election Office

Tel: 01292 612300

election@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/council-election

The Electoral Commission

Tel: 0131 225 0200

infoscotland@electoralcommission.org.uk

www.aboutmyvote.co.uk

South Ayrshire Council Public Affairs team

Communications@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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