

Electoral Rolls

Dundee City Archives - Research Guide 18

Background

Electoral Rolls list everyone who is registered to vote. Therefore the number of people on the roll has changed greatly over time as the right to vote has changed. There were also different elections with different qualifications. For example, women could vote in local council elections from 1882, but not in parliamentary elections until 1918. Qualification was usually based on the value or rental value of your home. So those who lived in a boarding house or lodgers may not have had the vote. Foreign nationals would also not be listed if they were ineligible to vote.

Electoral rolls are usually just a list of names and the address where that person is registered to vote. Before 1918 rolls recorded the occupation of the voters. The rolls can be useful for confirming someone's address or the people who lived at a particular address. Unlike a valuation roll all those able to vote could be listed, not just the head of the household. In later rolls some 17 year old children are listed, along with the date they are due to turn 18.

What Rolls are held at Dundee City Archives?

Dundee City	1939, 1951-1974
Tayside Region (Dundee District)	1975-1996
Dundee City	1997-2001, 2004, 2006-2011

Electoral rolls after 1918 are sorted by address. You need to know or at least have a rough idea of where a person lived before looking for them. As rolls will list most people in the city over the age of qualification (18 or 21 before 1969), looking through the whole roll will take a long time.

Rolls are split by constituency. Until 1950 Dundee was all one constituency, but from 1868-1950 the city sent two MPs to Westminster. In 1950 the Dundee constituency was split into Dundee East and Dundee West.

We also hold the 1919 absentee voters roll. This mainly covered men serving in the Armed Forces at the end of WW1. The roll contains their usual home address, their service number, rank and regiment. This roll has been indexed by the Friends of Dundee City Archives and can be [viewed on their website](#).

Please Note: Rolls less than 10 years old cannot be photographed or copied. Handwritten notes can be made. To access the current or more recent versions of the electoral roll please contact ero@dundeecity.gov.uk.

Records held elsewhere...

Dundee Electoral rolls for the following years can also be accessed at Dundee Central Library:

Dundee City	1856-1975
Tayside Region (Dundee District)	1975-1996
Dundee City	1996-2002, 2004-2016

