

ELECTION 2019 POLICY GUIDE



ELECTION19: BREXIT

The Scottish Parties



- Keep Scotland in the EU by supporting a second Brexit referendum with Remain on the ballot paper;
- If it comes to a choice for MPs between revoking Brexit and "no deal" with the European Union, the SNP says it would back revocation;
- In addition, Brexit is being seen by the SNP as such a big change to the UK constitution that it warrants another vote on Scottish independence or indyref2 as it is known.



- Deliver Brexit on the deal agreed with the EU;
- Negotiate Free Trade Agreement with EU to come into force in 2021;
- Will not extend the transition period after the UK's departure beyond 2021;
- End to freedom of movement between the EU and the UK and a new points-based immigration system;
- Negotiate Free Trade Agreements with other trading partners around the world.



- Renegotiate a Brexit deal within three months and hold a public vote within six months, with the negotiated deal alongside Remain on the ballot paper;
- Scottish Labour will wholeheartedly back Remain;
- Negotiate UK-wide customs union membership, close single market alignment and guarantees on workers' rights and environmental protections;
- Any agreement to meet the UK's international obligations, particularly the Good Friday Agreement; and
- Remove the threat of no-deal.



- Cancel Brexit without a referendum if they win a majority in the election;
- In other circumstances, work with other parties to hold another referendum with remain as an option.



- Condemn Boris Johnson's deal as "not Brexit";
- Negotiate a free trade agreement with the EU – similar to the deal the bloc has with Canada – with a new deadline of 1 July 2020 to get it signed off;
- Leave the EU and move to World Trade Organisation trading rules if a free trade agreement cannot be struck.



- Support the UK staying in the EU and campaign for Remain if there is another referendum;
- Put a Withdrawal Agreement back to the people in a referendum, with Remain on the ballot paper;
- Any Brexit deal must allow freedom of movement;
- Preservation of EU environmental regulations and those which protect human health, animal welfare, data and workers' rights;
- If the UK leaves the EU, indyref2 must be held before the end of any transition period.

ELECTION19: ECONOMY & TAX

The Scottish Parties



- Protect Scotland's "fair and progressive" tax system;
- Invest £2bn in Scotland's economy by establishing a Scottish national investment bank;
- Oppose any proposed increase in VAT or National Insurance;
- Secure Scotland's membership of the European single market and the customs union, protecting access for Scottish business.



- Stop increasing income tax differences between Scotland and the rest of the UK;
- Fund for full fibre broadband to every home by 2025;
- Review the alcohol duty on gin and Scotch whisky;
- "Transformational" sector deal for the North Sea oil and gas industry to help as the UK moves to a net zero economy.



- £100bn of additional resources in Scotland over the next 10 years - £20bn in loans for a new Scottish National Investment Bank with lending power to deliver funds to local projects and small businesses;
- Rail, mail and the energy grid taken back into public ownership and free full fibre broadband for every home and business in the UK by 2030. Water is already in public ownership in Scotland;
- Ask large corporations to pay more by increasing corporation tax to 26%;
- Public sector chief executives to earn no more than 20 times someone on the living wage - meaning a maximum salary of about £350,000.



- Programme of capital investment to stimulate growth across all areas of the UK;
- Double research spending across the economy;
- High speed broadband for every home and business.



- £200bn spending programme on infrastructure - with money coming from scrapping HS2, not paying the EU divorce bill and halving aid spending;
- Reduce VAT to zero on domestic fuel and abolish inheritance tax;
- £10,000 allowance for every UK company before tax;
- Abolish business rates for shops outside the M25.



- A "Green New Deal" to create 200,000 jobs by 2035 in low-carbon industries - including in renewable energy, retrofitting homes, forestry expansion and decommissioning North Sea oil.
- Phase in a four-day working week.
- Reduce wealth inequality with a tax on the wealthiest 1%, a land value tax, and limit pay inequality.
- Target investment towards communities that depend on fossil fuel extraction.

ELECTION19: ENVIRONMENT

The Scottish Parties



- Reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest, and to be carbon neutral by 2040;
- Ring-fence future oil and gas revenues in a net-zero fund to boost the transition to a net-zero economy;
- Phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032;
- No support for fracking developments in Scotland;
- Introduce charges for disposable cups, increase charges for disposable plastic bags and take action to remove single use plastics.



- Net-zero emissions by 2050 and ask global partners to match that ambition at the UN Climate Change Summit in Glasgow in 2020;
- Funding boosts to the Scottish government as a result of funding in England to improve the energy efficiency of homes, schools and hospitals;
- Ban the export of plastic waste to developing countries and make producers responsible for the full cost of dealing with the waste they produce;
- Encourage the Scottish government to adopt proposals that pay farmers for environmental stewardship;
- Introduce a legal commitment to fish sustainably.



- Windfall tax on oil firms;
- Cut emissions and aim for net-zero emissions by the 2030s;
- Phase out petrol and diesel car sales by 2030;
- Create 50,000 sustainable jobs in low-carbon industries;
- Build up public transport networks across the country.



- Recycle all waste within the UK and make it illegal to export it overseas;
- Plant tens of millions of trees.



- UK to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest;
- 10-year programme to reduce emissions from buildings and power generation;
- Ban non-recyclable single-use plastics and seek a new international treaty.
- Introduce a new charge on disposable coffee cups.
- End opencast coal mining and ban fracking across the UK.



- Reduce emissions by 80% by 2030;
- Create a government-led "Green New Deal" to accelerate the transition to a zero carbon economy;
- Bring grid into public ownership and develop a government-funded support scheme for renewables and reverse cuts to subsidies;
- Make homes more energy efficient;
- A commitment to keep fossil fuels in the ground, including phasing out North Sea oil and gas extraction, and permanently ban fracking across the UK.

ELECTION19: IMMIGRATION

The Scottish Parties



- Campaign for EU nationals to be given automatic right to remain and full protection of their rights
- Push for devolution of migration powers to the Scottish Parliament or a separate Scottish visa system.
- Push for Scottish government to have a role in deciding the "shortage occupation list" in order to attract the workers Scotland needs.



- End freedom of movement for EU citizens;
- Give EU citizens until December 2020 to apply for settled status;
- Introduce an Australian points-based system;
- Bring in an "NHS visa" that would make it easier for doctors and nurses from around the world to work in the UK.



- Cap on migration of 50,000 a year;
- Introduce a points-based immigration system.



- Protect the rights of EU citizens living in the UK;
- No fixed cap on net migration - the difference between those arriving in the UK and those leaving;
- An immigration system based on the needs of the economy and communities and a flexible work visa system;
- Compensation for victims of the Windrush immigration scandal;
- End indefinite detention, review alternatives to detention centres, and close Yarl's Wood and Brook House centres.



- Ensure migrants coming to the UK are welcomed for the skills and contribution that they bring;
- Keep EU free movement;
- Remove immigration and asylum powers from the Home Office to a new arms-length body;
- Change the rules to give asylum seekers the right to work while their claim is being processed.



- Abolish Home Office and replace it with something which respects dignity and human rights;
- Give refugees and asylum seekers an immediate right to work and an income;
- Extend students visas to allow work after graduation;
- Support the rights of EU citizens to live and work in the UK with access to health, education, housing, employment and social security services.

ELECTION19: WORK & BENEFITS

The Scottish Parties



- Demand UK government halts the rollout of universal credit until "fundamental flaws" are addressed;
- Campaign against the decision to accelerate the timetable for raising women's state pension age, affecting women born in the 1950s;
- Oppose plans to increase the state pension age beyond 66 and demand the government pays the TV licence for pensioners;
- Introduce a £10-a-week child payment for all families on eligible benefits lifting 30,000 children out of poverty;
- Make the minimum wage for 16 to 24-year-olds the same as for over 25s, and ban unpaid trial shifts.



- Raise the threshold at which individuals pay National Insurance to £9,500 in the first Budget and, later, to £12,500.
- Raise the national living wage to £10.50 an hour by 2024 for those over the age of 21.
- Keep the triple lock, the winter fuel payment and other pensioner benefits.
- Continue the roll-out of universal credit system.
- New "collective" workplace pension schemes and new controls on transferring pensions and a review of state pension inequality for Wasp women.



- Introduce a real living wage of £10 an hour in 2020 for all workers over the age of 16, giving about 700,000 Scottish workers a pay rise;
- Scrap universal credit and increase child benefit;
- Scrap the rise in the state pension age, leaving it at 66 and compensate women hit by the decision to accelerate the timetable for raising the age;
- Move to a 32-hour average working week within the next decade, with no loss of pay;
- Increase statutory maternity pay from nine to 12 months, double paternity leave from two weeks to four and increase statutory paternity pay.



- Reverse cuts to universal credit;
- Reduce the wait for the first benefits payment.
- Introduce universal access to basic services.
- Increase provision of free meals for children, with a particular focus on breakfast.
- Increase access to free sanitary products.



- 12-month review of universal credit and bring in reforms within two years;
- Review the decision to accelerate the timetable for raising women's state pension age, affecting women born in the 1950s.



- Abolish zero-hours contracts, close the gender pay gap, and ensure that everyone is paid a "real living wage";
- Bring in a universal basic income;
- Remove differential rates of minimum wage for under-25s and introduce a living wage for everyone;
- Scrap universal credit;
- Support for the Wasp women (Women Against State Pension Inequality).

ELECTION19: TRANSPORT

The Scottish Parties



- Invest £500m in new bus infrastructure;
- Ensure there can be a "robust" public sector bid for the next ScotRail franchise;
- Invest over £1bn annually in public transport and other sustainable transport options;
- Reduce emissions from Scotland's railways to zero by 2035;
- Introduce initiative to ensure more people choose to make everyday journeys on foot or by bike.



- Encourage active travel by investing in local walking and cycling paths, as well as measures that join up other modes of transport;
- Continue to support a road maintenance fund, giving local authorities the chance to bid for additional funding to fix poor roads faster;
- Extend the national concessionary travel scheme to community transport;
- Funding boosts to the Scottish government as a result of funding in England for repairs and upgrades to the road network.



- Take ScotRail into the public sector when franchise expires;
- Restore bus routes and provide more local control over bus services;
- Extend free bus travel to under-25s where routes are run by councils;
- Extend high-speed rail networks nationwide by completing the full HS2 route to Scotland.



- End the sale of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030;
- Convert the rail network to ultra-low-emission technology by 2035;
- Review all railways closed in Scotland since 1945 with a view to reopening them;
- Oppose Scottish government support for third runway at Heathrow.



- Scrap HS2, but invest in road and rail projects across the regions;
- Invest £50bn in road and rail schemes in areas in most need;
- Free wi-fi on all public transport.



- Extend free bus travel to under-21s, with long-term aim to provide free public transport for all;
- Prioritise investment in a publicly-owned rail service - including ScotRail - and make bus travel, cycling and walking more accessible;
- Oppose an extra runway at Heathrow and tax breaks to the aviation industry;
- Reform Vehicle Excise Duty and end freeze on fuel duty.

ELECTION19: HOUSING

The Scottish Parties



- £25m over three years to build new, affordable homes in rural Scotland;
- Build 50,000 affordable homes by 2021;
- Help first-time buyers get on the property ladder by lending them a portion of their deposit;
- Eradicate rough sleeping in Scotland, backed by a £50m fund.



- Build eight new towns across Scotland;
- Dedicated secretary for housing and infrastructure in the Scottish government and a new housing and infrastructure agency;
- Funding passed to Scottish government as a result of plans for other parts of UK to fund environmental upgrades to homes, such as grants for improving boilers and insulation;
- A new mortgage with long-term fixed rates only requiring a 5% deposit to help renters buy their first homes.



- Cap private rent rises and regulate short-term lets;
- Significantly expand building of council and social houses;
- Scrap "help to buy" and replace it with a more targeted scheme to help first-time buyers on lower incomes;
- Equal right of appeal in planning applications;
- End rough sleeping within five years.



- Build more homes, especially for social rent;
- Retrofit insulation in homes and introduce a new zero-carbon standard;
- All landlords to be obliged to have a domestic abuse policy;
- Establish a "destitution fund" for people experiencing domestic abuse who can't access other sources of help.



- More affordable homes, with rent controls and better rights for tenants;
- More powers for councils to tackle empty homes;
- Nationwide insulation retrofit programme and standards to make all new homes low carbon.



- Simplify the planning process for building on brownfield sites;
- Make it easier for councils to borrow from central government to build council houses.

ELECTION19: DEMOCRACY

The Scottish Parties



- Referendum on Scottish independence in 2020;
- Support votes for 16 and 17-year-olds, as well as EU nationals, in UK elections to match the franchise in Scotland;
- Extend the right to vote in Scottish elections to citizens of all nationalities legally resident;
- Replace the House of Lords with an elected second chamber;
- Protect the Scottish Parliament from a "power grab" by Westminster.



- Oppose a second referendum on independence;
- Decentralise more power to local level;
- Introduce a UK shared prosperity fund, to be used to tackle inequality and deprivation in each nation;
- Get rid of the fixed term parliament act and review parliamentary boundaries;
- Maintain the voting age at 18 for UK-wide elections and continue to support the First Past the Post voting system.



- Oppose a second referendum on Scottish independence during early years of Labour government;
- Extend voting rights to 16 and 17-year-olds, and all UK residents in general elections;
- Abolish the House of Lords and replace it with an entirely elected second chamber.



- Have suggested shutting Holyrood.



- Oppose a second referendum on independence;
- Introduce proportional representation for Westminster elections;
- Establish an elected House of Lords;
- Extend the right to vote to 16 and 17-year-olds and all EU citizens who have been living in the UK for five years or more;
- More powers to the Scottish Parliament – as part of plans for a federal UK – and shift powers from Holyrood to local authorities.



- Support a second referendum on Scottish independence.
- Encourage further devolution of powers from Westminster to Holyrood.
- Introduce proportional representation for all elections.
- Extend votes to 16-year-olds and all those normally resident in the country.
- Replacing the House of Lords with an elected second chamber.