

SNP Manifesto – General Election 2019

Easy Read version

My Vision



A manifesto is a document that sets out what a political party wants to do if they win an election.

This manifesto sets out how to make a better Scotland.

It's a manifesto that will make things better for this generation and future generations.

We believe that decisions about Scotland's future are best made by the people who live in Scotland, wherever they come from.

We are an amazing country, diverse and outward-looking, with great potential and much to look forward to. But the future of our country is at stake.

This election really matters.



People are sick of Brexit and the mess at Westminster. But there is no end in sight to the Westminster Brexit chaos.

A vote for the SNP is a vote to escape Brexit.

It's a vote to put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands.

SNP MPs will always stand up for Scotland. We answer to the people who live here – not to any leader at Westminster.

This manifesto sets out our plans to keep Scotland and the UK in the EU, protect the NHS, stop Westminster cuts to the Scottish budget, help with the cost of living, protect the environment and win a fair deal for pensioners.

There is a real chance the SNP could hold the balance of power after the election on December 12. The more SNP MPs there are, the more we can do for Scotland.

The SNP is willing to work with other parties to keep the Tories out of office.

We will demand that the democratic right of people in Scotland to decide their own future is respected.

As an independent European nation we will always get the governments we vote for:

- The Scottish Parliament will have full control of tax and social security policy
- No Westminster government could ever threaten our NHS.
- We could choose to spend money on Scotland's priorities instead of wasting billions of pounds on Trident.



So, at this election there is a choice for Scotland.

A chaotic, Brexit-obsessed Westminster could decide our future for us. Or we can demand our right as a country to decide our own future.
It's time to put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands.

Our Main Promises



The chaos of Brexit has shown that Westminster doesn't work the way it should.

We have had an unelected Prime Minister try to force a damaging Brexit on Scotland, and a frozen Parliament that doesn't deliver for anyone. Scotland deserves better.

Now more than ever, it is important to have strong SNP voices standing up for Scotland.

Here are our main promises and the issues that SNP MPs think are most important:

Scotland's future in Scotland's hands



We believe that the best future for Scotland is to be an independent, European nation.

Not for our own sake, but because it allows Scotland to become the open, tolerant, inclusive and democratic nation we want it to be.

By making all our own decisions here in Scotland, we could end poverty faster, do our best to tackle the climate emergency, give a fair deal to pensioners and make new opportunities for jobs and our economy.



Most voters in Scotland want a new referendum on becoming an independent country. We are making it clear at this election that next year we intend to offer the people of Scotland a choice over their future.

It is important to make sure a referendum cannot be stopped by law. Before the end of the year, we will demand that the UK Government gives us the power to make sure the decisions about the referendum can be taken by the Scottish Parliament.

Escape from Brexit



Most people in Scotland voted to remain in the EU but this has been ignored by Westminster and our interests have been trampled over throughout the Brexit process. This is unacceptable.

There is no way that Brexit will be done in the next few months. Instead it will go on for years as the UK tries to make trade agreements with the EU and countries around the world.

We will work with others across Scotland and the UK to escape from Brexit. We will support a second EU referendum with Remain on the ballot paper. And if the only other option is a 'no deal' Brexit, we will support the withdrawal of Article 50, which would mean cancelling Brexit altogether.

It is important for the UK to remain as close to the EU as possible. SNP MPs will always vote to protect Scotland's place in the single market and customs union.

NHS



We will call on the UK government to match Scottish NHS spending, which will mean extra funding for Scotland.

We will propose a new National Health Service Protection Act to make sure that trade deals with other countries will not change what the NHS stands for, or put it into the hands of companies who only want to make a profit.

End austerity – no more cuts

More than a decade of funding cuts, years of low wage growth and a freeze on social security payments, has left families struggling and our public services stretched. We will not stand by whilst Scotland is denied its fair share of public spending.

SNP MPs will demand an end to austerity and instead press the UK Government to put money into public services and the economy, starting with a reversal of the cut to Scotland's budget.

The climate emergency



Scotland has the world's most ambitious targets for reducing pollution in law, but we can only do our part to stop climate change if the UK Government plays its part and meets its targets.

SNP MPs will demand the UK matches Scotland's targets, follows the Paris Climate Agreement and sticks to future EU rules – whether we stay in the EU or not.

We will propose a Green Energy Deal that will make sure green energy schemes get the support they need and that a UK Government plays its part in giving a Green New Deal for Scotland.

Doing away with poverty and inequality

SNP MPs will demand an end to policies which are pushing people into poverty, debt and desperation. This will include ending the two child cap on tax credits and associated rape clause, an end to benefit sanctions, and stopping Universal Credit. We will also press for an end to the benefit freeze and for benefits to go up in line with the cost of living.

Tackling the drugs crisis

SNP MPs will call for the SNP Scottish Government to be given the power to take all the steps needed to tackle addiction, reduce health risks and take the vital steps to tackle drug-related deaths and harm in Scotland.

Fair pensions



We will always protect the Triple Lock, making sure that pensions continue to rise by inflation, earnings or 2.5 per cent – whatever is highest. We will oppose any increase to the state pension age.

We will also continue to support the WASPI campaign, and fight to reverse the cut to Pension Credit and demand that the government re-instates the free TV licence for all over-75s.

A tailored migration system



We will seek the power to make our own immigration laws so that Scotland can have a migration system that works for our economy and society.

We will oppose the 'hostile environment' of the UK immigration system, and we will stand firm against the demonisation of migrants.

Devolution of employment law

We will seek the power to make our own employment law so that the Scottish Parliament can protect workers' rights, increase the living wage and end the age discrimination of the statutory living wage.

Parental Leave



The SNP will keep working to increase parental rights - maternity, paternity, and adoption rights - working to make new laws that help parents and children to get the best start in life.

We will increase shared parental leave from 52 to 64 weeks, with the extra 12 weeks to be the minimum taken by the father so there will be more shared parental leave.

We will also set maternity pay at 100% of average weekly earnings for the first 12 weeks, then 90% for 40 weeks or £150.00, whichever is lower.

Scrap Trident

SNP MPs will build a cross-party coalition to scrap Trident as quickly and as safely as possible. We believe the billions spent on Trident should be spent on our public services.

Brexit is a disaster for Scotland



Brexit has destroyed the idea of the United Kingdom as a partnership of equals.

Wales and England both voted to leave the EU and under the Boris Johnson deal will leave.

Northern Ireland is to get a special deal and the right to choose its future.

Scotland – the nation of the UK with the highest remain vote – is to get nothing.

The Tory Brexit deal will take Scotland out of the EU, out of the Single Market and Customs Union, all against our will.

That is unfair and anti-democratic.

Brexit will put barriers between our businesses and the world's largest single market.

It will make Scotland poorer, cost jobs, mean lower living standards and threaten environmental standards and workers' rights.

The trade deal the Tories plan with Donald Trump also risks putting the NHS into the hands of US multinational companies.

It risks opening our markets to chlorinated chicken and hormone injected beef.

The Boris Johnson deal does not get Brexit done. It will just mean the start of long and complicated trade talks.

It opens the door to many more years of Brexit dominating Westminster politics. And if trade talks fail next year, or aren't finished in time, a no deal Brexit will be back on the table.

Scotland has the right to choose a better future.

Scotland's Future



The SNP believes Scotland should be an independent country in a new partnership of equals with the rest of the UK and our European neighbours.

We believe a better Scotland can be built for this and future generations if decisions about Scotland are taken by the people of Scotland.

It is our core belief that the choices for Scotland's future should be made by the people who have made our country their home, no matter where they come from.

Right now, our future is not in our hands. It is in the hands of the Westminster Parliament and Government.

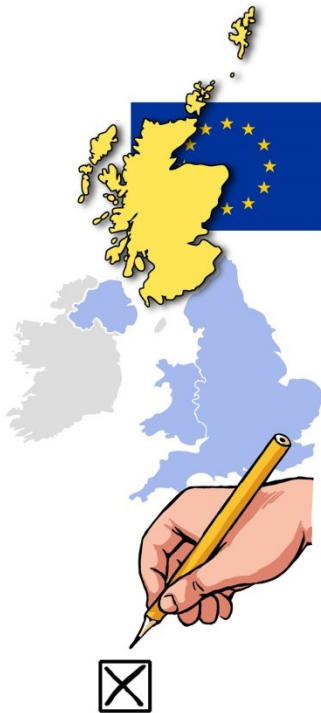
The question we face as a country is this: who has the right to decide our future, Westminster politicians or the people who live here?

If we are not independent:

- we will keep getting Westminster governments we don't vote for
- Westminster can take us out of the EU and out of the Single Market of more than 500 million people, and in the words of the UK Government Treasury, Brexit will make us "permanently poorer"
- Westminster will keep control of social security laws, with the threat that the Tories could raise the retirement age as high as 75
- Our NHS will be under threat from a Donald Trump trade deal.

If Westminster keeps control of Scotland, big changes which could do a lot of harm to this and future generations will be imposed without our say.

We believe people in Scotland have the right to choose their own future -a choice between Westminster control and becoming an independent country.



In an independent Scotland:

- We will always get the governments people vote for.
- As part of the EU, we will be a member of the world's largest trading block and single market, which is eight times the size of the UK alone.
- Economic and migration laws will be made to fit Scotland's needs.
- The Scottish Parliament will have full control of tax and social security.
- We won't have to waste money on things Westminster thinks are important like nuclear weapons or Brexit, and our NHS will never be under threat from a UK Government trade deal with Donald Trump.

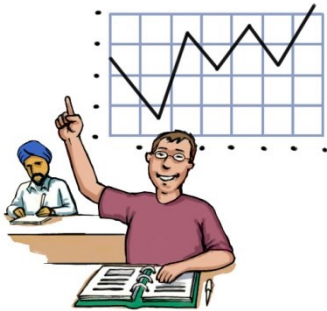
Scotland's Economic Strength

Our country has massive economic strengths. Here are just a few:



Food & Drink

Exporting our food and drink overseas made £6.3 billion in 2018. This is a record, and has gone up 78% since 2007.



Education

Scotland has 4 of the top 200 universities in the world. Per member of the population, Scotland has more universities in the top 200 than any other country in the world, except Switzerland.



Exports

Scotland's exports to other countries are stronger than ever. Since 2007, our exports, excluding oil and gas, have gone up by over 57% and are now worth £32.4 billion. Almost half were exports to the EU.



Inward Investment

Scotland has been the top Foreign Direct Investment destination in the UK - outside of London - for five years running.



Culture and creativity

The Creative Industries contribute more than £7 billion to the Scottish economy each year and support more than 80,000 jobs.



Fair Work

Scotland is leading the way on fair pay. Scotland is doing the best out of the four UK countries at paying the real Living Wage at 81.6%.

The choice of making Scotland an independent nation is in your hands



The people of Scotland want a referendum on independence during the current term of the Scottish Parliament. Scotland has already voted for it but Westminster has so far refused to respect that.

A vote for the SNP in this election is a vote to for the following:

- The people of Scotland have the right to choose their own future in a new referendum on becoming an independent country.
- The Scottish Parliament, not Westminster, must decide when an independence referendum should be held - and the SNP intends that it will be in 2020.

An SNP election win will make it clear that the people of Scotland want a new referendum on independence next year, on a date to be chosen by the Scottish Parliament.

An agreed process

Westminster should not have the right to over-rule a decision of the Scottish Parliament on whether or when to hold an independence referendum.

An SNP election win will be a clear instruction by the people of Scotland to Westminster to make sure a referendum is under the control of the Scottish Parliament. It is unacceptable for a UK Government to ignore such a democratic instruction.



The Scottish Government has said it will work to bring in a new law before the end of this year, giving the Scottish Parliament the power to hold another independence referendum.

An agreed process means that no-one will be able to question the result of the referendum both here in Scotland and in the wider world. For EU member states it will be need to show that a referendum has been held legally.

Scotland's future in Europe



The Brexit deal that Boris Johnson wants will take Scotland out of the EU, out of the Single Market and out of the Customs Union.

It will make Scotland poorer – a loss of around £1,600 per person by the end of the next decade – compared with remaining an EU member. And by ending freedom of movement it could mean Scotland's working population will be smaller, damaging our economy and public services.

It is time therefore for Scotland to look to the future, rather than being tied up in never-ending Brexit debates that drag us back to the past.

12 of the other 27 EU member states have populations around the same size as Scotland. For countries of our size the reasons for being part of the world's biggest trading block and single market are obvious.

The more Ireland has grown its exports as a result of EU membership, the wealthier it has become.



We stand by the core values of the EU. Scotland's rich energy resources, leadership on tackling climate change, world-class universities and many other strengths mean we can add a lot to the EU, and also have a lot to gain.

This publication is also available in audio, large print, easy read and Braille. If you would like a copy in these formats please call 0800 633 5432.

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