

2026 Holyrood Election Manifesto

On Scotland's Side

Easy Read version



Introduction from First Minister John Swinney



I am full of hope that Scotland's best days are in the future.



I know about the problems many people face. I want to grow our economy, make our society better and protect our environment.



In my 2 years as leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) and as First Minister I have changed my party. I am also changing our government.



We are focused on:

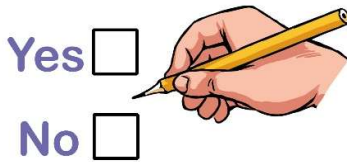
- the cost of living crisis,
- better NHS,
- stronger economy.



On 7 May you can elect an SNP government.
One that wants the best for Scotland.



Your 1st vote is for an SNP government. Your 2nd vote could let us win most of the seats in Parliament. This will allow a **referendum** for independence. The fresh start that Scotland needs.



Referendum is a public vote on an important issue.



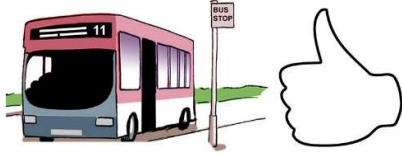
More SNP votes and seats mean a strong NHS with:

- More GP walk-in clinics.
- Shorter waiting times and more appointments.
- More **diagnostics** in the community.
Diagnostics means working out if you have an illness.

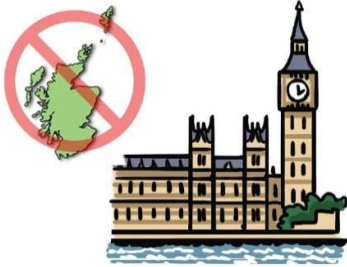


We want to bring costs down for you and the family. We want the best cost of living support by:

- More childcare.



- £2 bus fare cap.
- Keep prices low for essential food.
- Extra support for young people to buy their 1st home.



Scotland is not Westminster's priority. Westminster is the UK Government. We should protect Scotland from Westminster's wrong choices.



With independence the people of Scotland can be in charge. We can build a fair and successful Scotland.



We now produce a lot of low-cost **renewable** electricity. **Renewable** comes from natural sources like wind. But households and businesses cannot benefit from it because we are not in charge.



We must change this and it starts with both votes for SNP on 7 May.

Delivering for Scotland



Everyone in Scotland has done better since the SNP came into government.

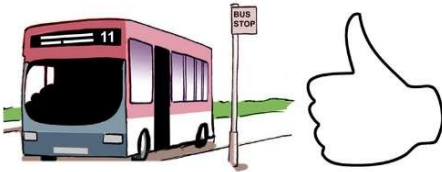
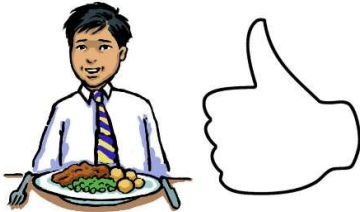
Since John Swinney became First Minister:



- NHS waits are down.
- More NHS operations.
- GP walk-in centres across Scotland.
- Stopped peak rail fares and frozen ticket prices.
- New jobs created.
- Our economy is growing better than the UK.
- Child poverty is falling.
- Reading, writing and number skills are higher in primary schools.



Since we came into power in 2007:



- Over 31 thousand more NHS staff in Scotland.
- Free prescriptions.
- Free university fees.
- Better school buildings.
- More money for pupils and teachers.
- Free school lunches.
- Have the Baby Box.
- Less gas that harms the climate.
- The Scottish Child Payment.
- Free bus travel for the youngest and oldest.
- Free eye and dental checks.
- The Queensferry crossing and Aberdeen Western Route built. M8 extended.
- Lower crime.



- New railway built and 24 railway stations opened.



We have a long list of plans for what to do next.

Scotland's Right to Decide



Scotland's future should be decided by the people who live here. UK Prime Ministers have said that Scotland is not forced to be in the United Kingdom.

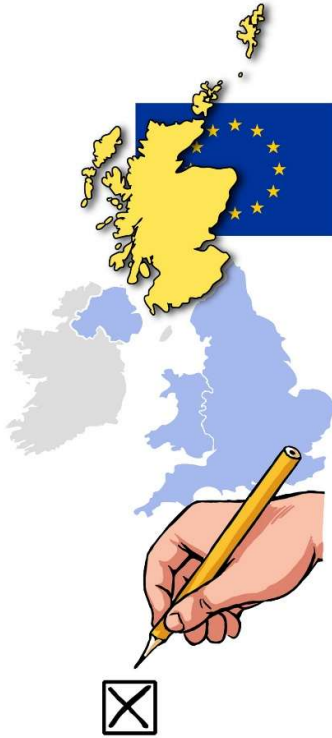


Scottish leaders of the main political parties said Scottish people should decide how they are run.



But the UK Government has ignored votes in Scotland to give people a choice on their future. While people of Wales and Northern Ireland have a choice.

Decisions have been made by Tory governments
Scotland had not voted for with bad effects:



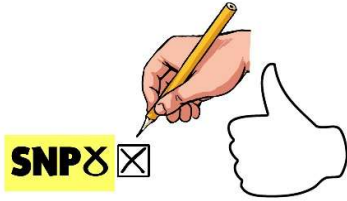
- Industries were sold to private companies, harming local communities.
- Money from Scottish energy leaving Scotland. Energy bills are high.
- Not enough money for public services.
- Brexit left us poorer with less money for the NHS.



We believe independence would let Scotland make the future we want. Scotland would benefit from the energy we produce. Get back into the EU for security and economic good.



To get that power we must demand that Scotland get the right to decide. The only time Westminster gave us the right to decide was when the people of Scotland voted for mostly SNP MSPs.

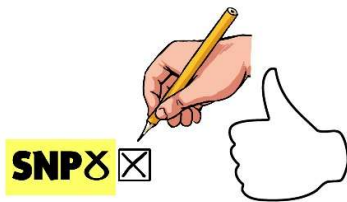


Your 1st SNP vote in this election can give an SNP Government. For:

GP RECEPTION



- a better NHS
- GP walk-in clinics
- help with the cost of living
- 1st-time buyer help
- a growing economy
- more childcare.



Your 2nd SNP vote can lead to independence. It will lead to a referendum that we will win. A vote for the SNP on 7 May is a vote to let the people of Scotland decide their future.



The NHS

We want the NHS to be strong and give good care. Our plan for the Health Service has 3 parts:



1 Investment

We will spend the extra health budget on health and care services.



We will invest £10 billion over 10 years on new and renewed buildings and equipment. Including new Community Health and Care hubs.



We will invest in our NHS and social care staff:

- more specialists
- more training places
- sort staffing problems in rural and island communities.



We will invest at least £200 million each year to reduce waiting times. We will invest over £530 million to get more GPs.

2 Protection



We will make sure the NHS stays public and free.

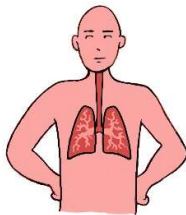
With free:

- Prescriptions
- Eye and dental checks
- Personal social care

3 Renew



We will make a new way for people to access a GP with walk-in clinics. We will reduce delays in people getting out of hospital. This will reduce pressure on A&E.



We will start local lung and heart health checks to keep people healthy. There will be new technology to make online booking for appointments.



We will improve mental health support with cars for staff to go to emergencies. We will help open 5 new drop-in mental health hubs.



We will help drug and alcohol problems:

- more community support
- kits to treat drug overdose in bars and clubs
- new hospital Alcohol Care Teams
- provide more recovery treatment.

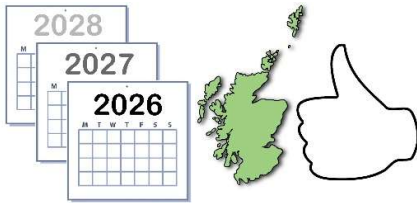


We will focus on Women's Health:

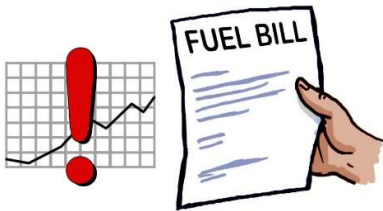
- look again at services for pregnant women and their babies.
- better support for new mums
- look into period health
- look again at **IVF**. **IVF** is a treatment to help get pregnant.



The Cost of Living



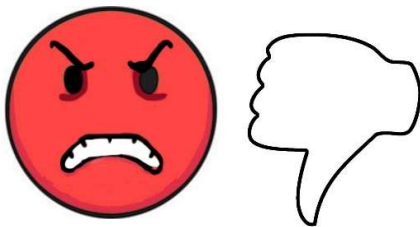
We believe Scotland's best days are in the future.



Fuel, food and electricity prices are going up. The cost of living problem seems never ending.



Many people struggle to pay for food or worry about putting on the heating. Too many parents worry their kids will never be able to afford the life they enjoyed.



We understand why people feel angry. We will help. The Westminster parties want you to think this is as good as it gets. We believe in a better future for Scotland.



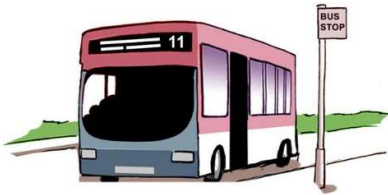
Only independence can free us from the UK economic problems.

Our cost of living plan has 3 parts:

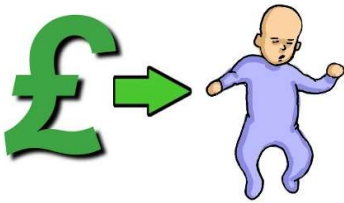
1 Help with bills and income



We will increase childcare. All children from 9 months to the end of primary school can have childcare. Before and after school, all year.



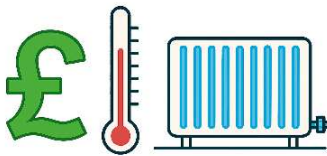
We will cap bus fares at £2 per single journey. This will help people get to work, school and leisure. Help lower fuel bills and help the climate.



We will give a £40 per week Child Payment to the worst off parents of new babies for their 1st year.



We will cap prices on food items such as bread, milk and eggs. To make sure people can afford the basic needs for a healthy diet.



We will give winter heating payments to pensioners, families with disabled children and the households struggling the most.



We will keep free university, prescriptions, dental and eye checks. Other UK families pay for these.

2 Jobs and economic growth



We will make more jobs by making Scotland the best place in Europe to start and grow a business. We have plans for new large Scottish based firms. We will help fast growth businesses.



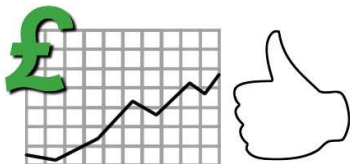
We will improve the planning and decision making. We will keep the Small Business Bonus, helping more than 100 thousand businesses.



We will support strong trade unions. This is good for workers and our economy.



We will increase the number of apprenticeships to 150 thousand, including over 8 thousand graduate apprenticeships. We will introduce an apprenticeship grant for business.



We will get more investment through a new office for big projects. We will grow in areas where we have strengths.



We will make sure that local economic partnerships grow. We will make sure that wealth made in local communities stays in those communities.

3 Fair Tax



We will keep Scotland's income tax system as the fairest in the UK. We will make sure the majority of taxpayers pay less income tax.



We accept that all governments need to be able to respond to changes in public finances or the global economy.



We will not increase tax rates. We will make our tax system simpler. We will think about low and middle income earners if we need to make any changes.

Public Services



Scotland's public services support us through life. They keep us safe and educate our children. They help hold society together and are the basis for our economy.

We want services that are:



- fit for the future
- ready to use new technology
- able to meet the needs of older people
- able to change.

We will support and invest in our public services.
We will make sure they meet everyone's needs.

Support and invest



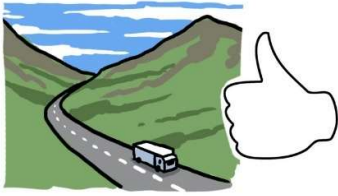
We will make sure Scotland has more teachers, police, firefighters, doctors and nurses.



From 2028, we will charge a mansion tax on properties worth over £1 million. Raising extra funds for local services.



We will give the Police the money and equipment they need.



We will spend on roads, including £350 million to fix potholes.



We will build more homes and make a new housing agency. We will give up to £10,000 for 1st time home buyers.



We will direct £20 billion of pension fund spending and make a £50 million homeless fund. This will help get people the homes they need while growing the economy.

Modernise



We will make an online access for Scottish Government services.



We will use more technology to help diagnosis and do more in healthcare. We will use new technology to improve public service at lower cost.

Reform



We will bring services together to reduce the cost and number of public bodies.



We will give power to people and communities. For example, let headteachers have more say in the education their schools provide.

Climate Fairness & Energy Security



We will act on climate and nature emergencies. From now until 2040 our Climate Change Plan is to:



- lower the amount of harmful gas
- make new jobs
- grow the economy
- improve our systems
- improve our energy security.

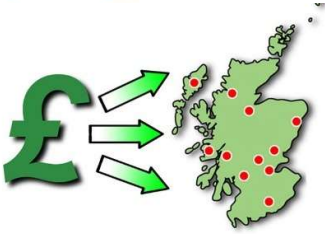


It will give warmer homes, cleaner air and better public services. We will do this in a way that is fair and gives us more secure energy.



Fair

We will end Scotland's contribution to climate change by 2045 in a fair way.



We will use a £500 million fund to help workers and businesses change for a climate friendly future.



We will support the Grangemouth and Mossmorran industrial areas and communities. With jobs and investment.

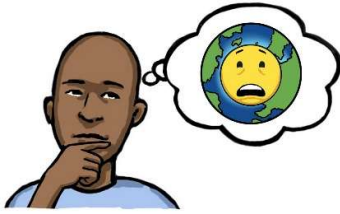


We will support community ownership of renewable energy projects.

Secure Energy



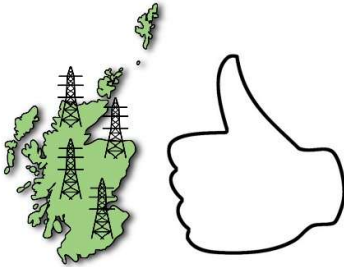
We will invest more in offshore wind energy, solar energy, energy storage and new technology.



We will ask the UK Government to think about the climate and energy security when making decisions about Scottish oil and gas projects.



We will support the Acorn project in North East Scotland. Also the use of technology to get rid of harmful gas.



We will ask for energy powers to be handed over to Holyrood. We will then stop the price of gas being used to set the price for energy.