

My Vote
My Voice

Easy Read Guide to Scotland's Main Political Parties

VOTE

 **SNP**

 **Labour**

 **Conserv**





People have different ideas about how the country should be run.



A **political party** is a group of people who share similar ideas about how the country should be run.



Political parties want to be in **government** so they can turn their ideas into law.

The government is a group of people who have the power make laws and set rules for the country.



Scotland has **five main political parties**.



They are:

- the **Scottish National Party**
- the **Conservative Party**
- the **Labour Party**
- the **Liberal Democrats**
- the **Scottish Green Party**



Some political parties are often described as being either **left-wing** or **right-wing**.



Some political parties are also described as being in the **centre**.



Left-wing political parties believe in **equality**.

This means that they want all people to be given equal chances and have more support from the government.



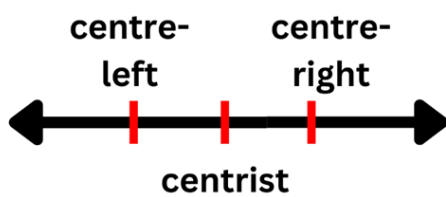
Right-wing political parties believe in **tradition**.

This means that they want people to make their own decisions about their own lives and for the government to be smaller.



Political parties in the centre support a **balance** between left-wing and right-wing ideas.

This means they want equality and also want people to make their own decisions about their own lives.



Most of **Scotland's main political parties are based in the centre**, but each lean in different directions.

These positions are called **centre-left**, **centre-right**, and **centrist**.



The Scottish National Party is **centre-left**.

They are also called "**the SNP**" for short.

They want **Scotland to be an independent country**.



This means **Scotland would leave the United Kingdom** and make all of its own laws.



The Labour Party is **centre-left**.

They believe that the government should do more to help people who earn less money and are in need.



They want to spend more money on **public services**, like schools, transport, and the NHS.



The Conservative Party is **centre-right**.

They are also called "**the Tories**."

They believe that the government should be smaller to give people more freedom.



They want to **cut taxes** so people can keep more of their own money and spend it.

Taxes are the money people pay to the government. The government spends this money on public services.



The Liberal Democrats are **centrist**.

They are also called “**the LibDems**” for short.

They believe that the government should support the neediest and give people more freedom.



They want to put money into public services but also want people to pay less taxes.



The Labour Party, the Conservative Party, and the Liberal Democrats are **unionists**.

This means **they want Scotland to stay as part of the United Kingdom**.



The Scottish Green Party is **centre-left**.

They are also called “**the Greens**” for short.

They believe **protecting the environment** should be the government’s top priority.



This means they want to preserve and protect nature from damage.



The Greens also want Scotland to be an **independent country**.



All of these political parties have **Members of Parliament** from all over Scotland.

A Member of Parliament is also called an **MP**. An MP is elected to speak for people living in their area in **Parliament**.

Parliament is where the United Kingdom's laws are made.



A **general election** is when the people of the country vote for the next government.

General elections usually happen every 5 years.

Every part of the United Kingdom, including Scotland, votes in a general election.



The party with the most MPs after a general election forms the government.



The **Conservative Party** have the most MPs and are the party in government.

Their leader is **Rishi Sunak** and he is the **Prime Minister**.

The Prime Minister is in charge of the government.



The **Labour Party** has the second-most MPs and is the **Official Opposition**.

Their leader is **Sir Keir Starmer** and he is the Leader of the Opposition.

This means they challenge the government and make it explain its decisions. At the next general election, **they want to replace the government**.



The **Liberal Democrats** are also part of the Official Opposition.

Their leader in Parliament is **Sir Ed Davey**.



The **SNP** are also part of the Official Opposition.

Their leader in Parliament is **Stephen Flynn**.



The **Greens** currently do not have any MPs elected from Scotland.

My Vote My Voice is on a mission to register more autistic people and people with learning disabilities to vote at the next general election.

Visit www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk to find out more!

Get in touch

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