

My Vote
My Voice

Easy Read Guide to Scotland's Smaller Political Parties



Alba



Co-Operative



Reform

VOTE





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**.

It also has **several smaller political parties** which this guide will cover.



They are:

- the **Alba Party**
- **Reform UK**
- the **Scottish Co-operative Party**



Some political parties are 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.



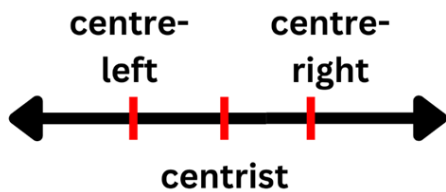
Right-wing political parties believe in **tradition**.

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 **political parties** are based **in the centre**, but each lean in different directions.

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



The Alba Party have members with **left-wing**, **right-wing**, and **centrist** ideas.

They are also called "**Alba**" for short. Their name means "Scotland" in Scottish Gaelic.



They all want **Scotland to become an independent country** as their main aim.

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



Reform UK is **right-wing**.

They used to be called “**the Brexit Party**.”

They want to **change the voting system** in general elections so more smaller parties can get elected.



They also want to **stop illegal immigration** into Scotland and the United Kingdom.

This means they want to stop people coming from other countries who don't have permission



The Scottish Co-operative Party is **centre-left**.

They are also called “**the Co-Op Party**” for short.

They want people to **form more co-operatives** where members co-operate to help each other.



A **co-operative** is a type of organisation that makes the lives of its members easier. It could be something like a bank, a business, a factory, or a farm



Reform UK and the Co-Op Party are **unionists**.

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



Most 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**.



Alba are also part of the Official Opposition.

Their leader is **Alex Salmond**.



The **Co-Op Party** works closely with the **Labour Party** and they share many policies.

They usually stand together in elections and its MPs are part of the Official Opposition.



Reform UK currently do not have any MPs elected to Parliament.

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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 [#MyVoteMyVoice](https://twitter.com/MyVoteMyVoice)



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