

Stronger for Scotland



SNP General Election manifesto 2017

Easy Read summary



Stronger for Scotland

SNP MPs have helped to change things for the better in the past two years. Here's just some of what a strong team of SNP MPs has done.



Holding the UK government to account on powers

When the Scotland Bill was going through Westminster it was the SNP who forced the UK government to give Scotland more powers.

It was SNP MPs and the Scottish Government who stopped the Tories from slashing Scotland's budget by £7 billion.

The SNP got a deal that makes sure Scotland will not lose billions of pounds in return for new powers.

Opposing Tory austerity

SNP MPs have always been against Tory austerity. Our MPs have helped to stop the UK government from cutting tax credits and disability benefits.



Fighting to end the Rape Clause

SNP MP Alison Thewliss has been leading the fight against the Tory policy to limit Child Tax Credits to two children. This means women would have to prove they have been raped to get Child Tax Credits if they have three or more children.

Pension justice for women born in the 1950s

SNP MPs have worked with Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) and fought at Westminster for women born in the 1950s to get the pensions they are due.



Laws on ending violence against women

This year Dr Eilidh Whiteford became the first SNP MP to have a Private Member's Bill pass at Westminster. This forces the UK government to do more to end domestic violence.



Fighting against the unfair benefits sanction system

Mhairi Black has led the fight against the benefit sanctions system. This system stops people's benefits for at least four weeks if they break Jobcentre rules. Mhairi Black has suggested changes to the law to make the system fairer.

SNP MPs will continue to press for change in the next Parliament.

Leading opposition to the bombing of Syria

The SNP were against the UK government's decision to bomb Syria. SNP MPs will keep pressing the UK government to help bring about a peaceful end to end the six-year conflict in Syria.

United against Trident

SNP MPs have been the only party to be united against the UK government's plan to spend billions on a new generation of nuclear weapons.



Fighting for fairer immigration

Ian Blackford and Alex Salmond won the fight to let the Brain family keep living in Scotland. We will continue to support a post-study work visa, to help bring in the skills and talent Scotland needs.

Demanding action on tax evasion

Roger Mullin has led calls for the UK government to do something about loopholes in Scottish business laws that can be used for crime, fraud and tax evasion. As a result of SNP pressure, the UK government has started looking into this.

Fair compensation for veterans

Kirsten Oswald, alongside the Royal British Legion, forced the UK government to make sure that veterans get the same compensation for asbestos-related illness as civilians.

Building a Better Scotland

In Scotland we are working to protect public services, social protections and family incomes from Tory cuts.



High quality health care

Spending on Scotland's NHS is at a record level and the number of staff working in our NHS has increased by almost 10 per cent since 2007. Health and social care has been integrated and our hospital A&E departments are the best performing in the UK.

No prescription charges, making sure there's no tax on ill health

We stopped prescription charges in 2011. In England, patients are still forced to pay a Tory tax on health of £8.60 per prescription.

More free, high quality childcare

We have raised free early years education and childcare from 12.5 hours in 2007 to 16 hours a week for all three and four year olds – and also given it to two year olds from low income households. By 2021 we will raise this to 30 hours.





Good education for all

Spending on education and training in Scotland is going up. Total spending rose by almost five per cent in 2015-16. It fell in the rest of the UK.

We are seeing record exam passes in our schools and more young people going on to better things.

We have stopped university tuition fees, saving students up to £27,000 compared to the cost of study in England. College students in Scotland get the best level of non-repayable bursary anywhere in the UK.

Cheaper Council Tax bills

Average Council Tax bills are lower in Scotland than in England.



Free personal care for older people

Around 77,000 people in Scotland get a wide range of personal care services without charge. Older people in England do not get free personal care.

The highest house building rate in the UK

Scotland has the highest house building rate in the UK. Over 60,000 affordable homes have been built since 2007.

More jobs for young people

Youth employment in Scotland is higher and youth unemployment is lower than the rest of the UK.

Fair pay

Scotland has the highest number of employees paid the Living Wage of any country in the UK.



More police officers and less crime

In Scotland, under the SNP, police numbers are up, while they've fallen in England. And crime is lower than it has been for 42 years.

No Bedroom Tax

No one in Scotland has to pay the Bedroom Tax and we will use new powers to stop it completely.



Our Main Promises

Now more than ever, we need strong SNP voices standing up for Scotland.

A vote for the SNP will make Scotland's voice heard at Westminster. It will elect MPs who will always work to protect our public services, social protections and family budgets from Tory cuts.

It will be a vote to make sure that Scotland's interests are part of the Brexit negotiations. And it will send a message to Westminster that Scotland's future should always be in Scotland's hands.

An end to austerity

SNP MPs will demand an end to austerity.

We have a plan to repair public finances and free up money to bring an end to austerity. This will allow us to stop more social security cuts, end the freeze on working age benefits, spend more on public services and protect family budgets.

Fair tax

The Scottish Parliament now sets income tax rates. In this financial year, we have frozen the basic rate of income tax to help low and middle earners - and we have not cut tax for higher rate taxpayers.

Raising the Additional Rate of income tax in Scotland alone could lead to a loss of revenue. But we support a raise in the Additional Rate from 45p to 50p across the UK from 2018/19.

Household budgets are under increasing pressure, so SNP MPs are against any increases in Value Added Tax or National Insurance.

We are against the married couple's allowance, and against lowering the bank levy. We want to bring in a tax on bankers' bonuses.

Protecting the NHS

We have already promised to raise the budget of NHS Scotland by £2 billion by the end of the current Scottish Parliament.

Our plan to end austerity would mean the UK government could spend far more on the NHS. We will continue to call for more health spending, passing on all extra money for healthcare in Scotland.

SNP MPs will also vote against any more privatisation of the NHS in England and back any moves to make it a fully public service.

Better education

We will raise early years education and childcare to 30 hours a week for all 3 & 4 year olds and vulnerable 2 year olds.

We will continue to spend money to make school education better. But we will not follow the Tories' education plans. There will be no selective grammar schools in Scotland.

We also promise to keep university education free of charge.



Tackling poverty and inequality

The Tories have cut taxes for the richest in our society, while cutting support for the disabled and low income working families. According to the Resolution Foundation, the UK is heading for the biggest increase in inequality since the days of Margaret Thatcher.

SNP MPs will vote against more cuts to social security. We will also fight to stop the two child cap on tax credits and the Rape Clause. And we will vote to make sure that benefits go up in line with inflation.



Fair pensions

Pensioner poverty is on the rise across the UK. We will vote to protect the Triple Lock, ensuring that pensions continue to rise by inflation, earnings or 2.5 per cent - whatever is the highest.

We will also continue to support the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign.

More jobs, growth and productivity

SNP MPs will not support more reductions to Corporation Tax.

But we will support doubling Employment Allowance – the National Insurance discount that businesses get when they employ more people. This will support more jobs.

To boost productivity, we will also support extension of the Annual Investment Allowance, which encourages businesses to spend money on plant and machinery.



We will also demand more support for our oil and gas sector, and an industrial plan that works for Scotland.

More powers for the Scottish Parliament

We will try to get additional powers for the Scottish Parliament to boost our economy, stop Brexit from doing too much damage, and protect the most vulnerable in our society from damaging Tory cuts.

Making work fair and tackling low pay

SNP MPs will support doing away with the Trade Union Act 2016 and banning unfair zero-hours contracts.

Low pay is adding to inequality and is one of the biggest challenges of the next Parliament.

We will support moves over the next Parliament to raise the Minimum Wage to the level of the real Living Wage.

The Scottish Government has helped public sector workers through a difficult time of pay caps with additional measures to tackle low pay. But when inflation is rising, more must be done.

For the NHS, the Scottish Government and unions will give evidence to the independent pay review body about the impact of pay caps. We will ask the independent pay review to make fair recommendations and we will make whatever changes they suggest.

For the wider public sector, we will negotiate next year's pay settlement in good faith and try to agree a deal that fits the public finances and the cost of living.

SNP MPs will also call for tough new action to close the gender pay gap.





Protecting Scotland's place in the Single Market

We must make sure that our interests are not ignored in the Brexit negotiations - a vote for the SNP will make sure that Scotland's voice is heard.

A majority of people in Scotland voted to remain in the EU - but even many of those who voted to leave have real concerns about the extreme Brexit being pursued by the Prime Minister.

Leaving the Single Market could cost 80,000 jobs in Scotland.

That is why the Scottish Government suggested ways that would keep Scotland in the Single Market, even as we left the EU.

These suggestions were turned down by the UK government. But if the SNP wins this election, we will demand that keeping Scotland in the Single Market is made a part of the UK's Brexit negotiations.



Scotland's choice

At the end of the Brexit process, when the final deal is known, it is right that Scotland should have a choice about our future.

Brexit must not be forced on Scotland no matter how damaging it turns out to be.

Last year's Holyrood election gave us the democratic go-ahead for an independence referendum. The recent vote of Scotland's national Parliament has backed this up. If the SNP wins a majority of Scottish seats in this election, that would mean we have been given the democratic go-ahead three times.

And if that happens, any more Tory attempts to stop the people of Scotland having a choice on their future - when the time is right and the options are clear - would be democratically unacceptable.

Modernising UK democracy

Our democratic institutions should speak for and answer to the people they represent. We support replacing the first-past-the-post system with proportional representation for elections to the House of Commons.

SNP MPs will bring forward proposals to let 16 and 17 year olds vote in all elections. We will also support the right to vote of citizens from other EU countries who live here.

SNP MPs will vote to do away with the House of Lords.

Scrap Trident

SNP MPs will work with other parties to scrap Trident as quickly and safely as possible. We will vote for the billions that other Westminster parties want to spend on renewing Trident to be spent on our public services.



This is an Easy Read summary of the SNP manifesto. You can get the full document online, at www.snp.org