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# SCOTTISH ELECTIONS

**2021**

**PARTY MANIFESTOS  
– SUMMARY GUIDE**

# ELECTION21: ECONOMY & TAX

## The Party Manifestos



- Maintain current income tax rates for the duration of the parliament and increase thresholds by a maximum of inflation
- Maintain the Small Business Bonus for the lifetime of the parliament
- Undertake a review of air passenger duty (APD) rates and bands. This review would explore the possibility of levying a higher tax on more polluting aircraft
- Explore the possibility of levying a higher business rate poundage rate on properties where the owner is registered in a tax haven



- Ensure that Scottish taxpayers do not pay higher income tax than those in the rest of the UK, retaining the starter rate for low earners
- Maintain the poundage rate freeze until the 2023 revaluation
- Retain the Small Business Bonus scheme
- Undertake a wholesale review of the business rates system before the end of the parliament
- Support maintaining parity with the rest of the UK on air departure tax



- Avoid changing income tax and support changes that generate income from those earning over £100,000 a year
- Set up a taskforce to examine how business rates may change to facilitate a contribution to local services from the digital economy
- From 2022-23, institute a 20% reduction in non-grocery bricks and mortar business rates, with a 20% increase in the rates paid by retail warehouses
- Abolish the Workplace Parking Levy



- Continue to maintain a stable income tax system, with appropriate and affordable indexation of the thresholds
- Reform business rates to shift burden to online retailers. This new tax would contain a land value element to avoid penalising businesses which improve their properties, install renewables or made their customers safer from the virus
- Review the rates relief system to give more support to shops on local high streets which have low turnover but a high rateable value



- Apply an urgent one-off windfall tax to the profits enjoyed by larger companies as a result of the pandemic
- Introduce a 1% annual wealth tax for millionaires, on all wealth and assets above the £1m threshold



- Push for a new approach to economic development which measures not just how the economy grows, but how the economy impacts on Scotland's people.
- The introduction of a development land tax in Scotland, with carefully-calibrated exemptions to protect Scotland's farms but aimed at bringing assets into productive use.

# ELECTION<sub>21</sub>: SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

## The Party Manifestos



- Propose that a referendum on Scottish independence should be held once the immediate Covid-19 crisis has passed, within the first half of the five-year term of the next parliament
- Maintain and strengthen Scotland's relationship with EU partners, with a view to rejoining as soon as possible



- Repeal the Referendum Act



- Support further devolution of powers to Holyrood but not Scottish independence
- Maintain as close a relationship with the EU as possible



- Work at UK level to reform the UK on a federal basis
- Maintain pace with EU policy to keep the option to rejoin the EU in the future



- Campaign and vote for a referendum within the next parliamentary term and under the terms of the 2020 Referendums Act
- Campaign to re-join the EU as an independent nation as soon as possible



- Immediately, as the new Scottish Government is formed, it should begin to negotiate with Westminster on both the delivery of a referendum and the terms of independence.

# ELECTION21: ENVIRONMENT

## The Party Manifestos



- Appoint a 'minister of just transition' with responsibility for overseeing a "national mission" of fairness and opportunity
- Establish a new Green Jobs Workforce Academy and invest £100m in the Green Jobs fund
- Publish a refreshed energy strategy
- Invest £15m next year to support oil and gas workers to retrain and learn new skills
- Invest £60m to decarbonise industrial and manufacturing sectors



- Support the development of emerging renewable technologies such as tidal
- Make the adoption of green hydrogen a priority, as a fuel source in transport and for supporting the export of renewable power
- Incentivise the creation of a wind turbine decommissioning centre
- Work with the UK government to develop and expand Scotland's pumped hydroelectric energy storage and carbon capture capacity



- Enshrine the Just Transition Commission in law to guide and support the long-term shift to net zero emissions fairly
- Create a Scottish Energy Development Agency to work alongside the national energy company and coordinate growth in renewables
- Require a proportion of local procurement from oil companies operating in the UK Continental Shelf region to support Scotland's fabrication and decommissioning industries



- Develop the principle that Scottish electricity should be "100% renewable for 100% of the time"
- Ensure Scotland takes forward a strategy for using hydrogen for diverse energy needs
- Invest in low carbon heat networks, including the potential for connecting whole towns
- Support the development of a centre of excellence for carbon capture and efficient energy generation



- Invest £50m p.a. into a marine renewables and local economic development fund
- Establish a new onshore wind sector deal that includes a commitment to sourcing at least 70% of the offshore wind supply chain domestically
- Stop issuing new licences for oil and gas exploration and development



- Establishment of a National Land Agency to create a roadmap for better land use management in Scotland
- Wellhead Production Tax on Scotland's offshore oil industry as soon as it is possible

# ELECTION21: INFRASTRUCTURE

## The Party Manifestos



- Invest over £500m to improve bus infrastructure and tackle congestion
- Bring ScotRail into public ownership from next year, and decarbonise Scotland's rail services by 2035
- Invest £600m in digital infrastructure, mainly in rural and island areas
- Invest over £33bn over the next five years in a 'National Infrastructure Mission'
- Deliver a further 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, backed by investment of £3.5m.



- Extend the M8 to three lanes and begin work on a new road to bypass the A83 'Rest and Be Thankful' immediately
- Introduce a Scottish Smart Travel Card which would enable passengers to use all types of domestic transport anywhere in Scotland with one contactless card
- Spend over £2.5bn over the next five years on energy efficiency in homes and buildings
- Connect every single home and business property in Scotland to full fibre broadband by 2027



- Develop a new strategy to upgrade Scotland's ports
- Invest in full-fibre broadband, 4G/5G extensions and digital hubs for rural communities
- Retrofit all homes across Scotland to a minimum of energy efficiency rating C by 2030
- Create a National Housing Agency
- Host regular roundtables on Scottish industrial policy



- Aim to double the share of the budget spent on active travel
- Bring forward the £50m programme for 'Active Freeway' routes from town centres to outlying neighbourhoods
- £22bn programme to renew Scotland's railways
- Ensure work to provide superfast broadband to the islands and remote parts of Scotland is not left until last
- Build 60,000 affordable homes to help address homelessness



- Invest £7.5bn over the next five years in 'green infrastructure'
- Invest £3bn in warm and zero carbon homes and buildings, leveraging £7.5bn in private investment and creating over 75,000 jobs



- The Scottish National Investment Bank to be given dispensation to capitalise from international capital investors and pension funds
- Create an industrial strategy to rebuild Scotland's domestic business base by letting the Scottish National Investment bank access the plentiful capital available globally.

# ELECTION21: WORK & TALENT

## The Party Manifestos



- Fund a 'Young Person's Guarantee' of a university, college, apprenticeship or training place or job for every young person who wants one
- Build back up to 30,000 apprenticeship starts
- Invest an additional £500m over the next parliament to support new jobs and re-skill people for the jobs of the future
- Establish a £10m fund to allow companies to pilot and explore the benefits of a four-day working week
- Start work in the next parliament to provide a 'minimum income guarantee' for all



- Introduce a 'Right to Retrain' account for every single Scottish adult, giving them £500 to be spent on training each year
- Expand funding and subject range for foundation and graduate apprenticeships



- Set up a Training and Employment Grants Scheme to support businesses to improve and modernise the skills of their workforce and start a massive skills retraining programme for younger people and those not in work.



- Introduce 5,000 new apprenticeship places in the next financial year
- Offer an Equal Access Careers programme to provide specific career support, training and placements
- Establish a Scottish Skills Benefit to offer everyone who is unemployed, and those on furlough, a £500 grant for retraining
- Establish a Better Business Scotland certification scheme which encourages businesses to adopt Good Work criteria
- Promote pilot schemes to reduce the length of the working week
- Support the continuation of trials of Universal Basic Income



- Expand support for apprenticeships
- Set a target of a 50:50 male to female split for apprenticeships
- Introduce a £5,000 'Scottish Training Bond' to help people change careers
- Adopt and extend the current principles of fair work
- Develop a system of Universal Basic Income



- Increase funding to colleges and re-introduce part time courses
- Increase support for apprenticeships and ensure they pay at least the living wage regardless of age
- Support the transition to a four-day working week with no loss of pay
- Negotiate with the UK government to secure the powers to introduce a comprehensive Universal Basic Income pilot

# ELECTION21: TRANSPORT

## The Party Manifestos



- Spend 10% of the transport capital budget on walking, cycling and wheeling
- Invest over £500m to improve bus infrastructure and tackle congestion
- Bring ScotRail into public ownership from next year, and decarbonise Scotland's rail services by 2035
- Improve links to Carlisle, and undertake the necessary feasibility work to allow the Borders railway to be extended



- Extend the M8 to three lanes and begin work on a new road to bypass the A83 'Rest and Be Thankful' immediately
- Introduce a Scottish Smart Travel Card which would enable passengers to use all types of domestic transport anywhere in Scotland with one contactless card
- Accelerate work to improve rail links between Aberdeen and the Central Belt
- Increase the share of the transport budget which is spent on active travel to 10%



- Develop a new strategy to upgrade Scotland's ports
- Increase active travel spending to 10% of the overall transport budget
- Create a fund to finance the repair of the essential road and path network
- Will introduce free bus travel to under 25s and invest in the manufacture and widespread introduction of accessible low-emission buses.



- Aim to double the share of the budget spent on active travel, and bring forward the £50m programme for 'Active Freeway' routes from town centres to outlying neighbourhoods
- £22bn programme to renew Scotland's railways
- Institute a full assessment of the potential of a year-round ferry link from Campbeltown to Ardrossan



- Invest £3.2bn in public transport including the first stage of the 'Rail for All' programme - a 20-year, £22bn programme to renew railways, supporting at least 16,800 jobs



- National Maritime Administration to explore ideas like Forth and Clyde gateway ferry ports and a global container transshipment hub, and to modernise and expand domestic ferry services and shipbuilding.

# ELECTION<sub>21</sub>: HOUSING

## The Party Manifestos



- Deliver a further 100,000 affordable homes by 2032. Backed by investment of £3.5bn over the parliament and supporting 14,000 jobs a year
- Invest £1.6bn over the next parliament to decarbonise the way homes and other buildings are heated
- Establish a Zero Emissions Social Housing Task Force to advise on requirements in social housing to meet net zero targets
- Develop new standards to require new buildings to use renewable or zero emissions heating from 2024
- Reform existing Rent Pressure Zone legislation by way of a new Housing Bill



- Deliver 60,000 new affordable homes, with two thirds of these being new social housing
- Restore funding for the Help to Buy scheme
- Relax planning laws to allow for the redevelopment of long-term unoccupied business properties into good quality housing
- Create a Help to Rent scheme to support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access and sustain a tenancy in the private rented sector



- Build at least 120,000 social houses over the next decade, with the aim of building 200,000 in that time
- Remove the duty on public bodies to maximise the receipts from land sales to enable the transfer of land for social housing
- Introduce a home ownership support scheme to support people on low incomes
- Amend planning laws to ensure that all future houses are built to the highest available efficiency standards
- Implement Fair Rents Bill proposals to limit rent rises and improve quality standards in the private rented sector



- Institute a First Time Builders Fund to support population growth in rural areas where there is no existing housing stock available for purchase
- Set out that the climate emergency and Scotland's 2045 net zero target are material considerations to be afforded significant weight in planning decisions
- Ensure there are community engagement plans in place at the planning stage of major infrastructure projects



- From 2022, require all new homes to meet Passivhaus or other net zero standards, be connected to the public transport system and be built in areas that are not in flood risk zones
- Support the building of 70,000 homes by 2026 and a further 50,000 homes between 2027 and 2032, 70% of which should be for social rent



- Set up a Scottish National Housing Company to build as many top-quality houses as possible, as quickly as possible, to the highest environmental standards.



# ELECTION21: TECH, SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

## The Party Manifestos



- Implement Scotland's Global Capital Investment Plan to support Scotland's start-up and scale-up businesses in key sectors including life sciences
- Explore the use of hydrogen trains as an alternative to diesel and electrification, aiming for at least one pilot service to be in operation by the end of the parliament
- Reduce the use of cars, measured in 'car kilometres', by 20% by 2030
- Remove the majority of fossil fuel buses from public transport in Scotland by 2030 and invest £120m in zero emission buses
- Invest in more sustainable ferries, reducing the carbon footprint of Scotland's ferry fleet



- Train more independent prescribers to enable pharmacists to treat a wider range of common conditions
- Use the Scottish National Investment Bank to support innovation in the economy, including in the Scottish space sector
- Deliver a complete national charging infrastructure for electric vehicles by 2025
- Review barriers to and launch a new scheme to support the installation of charging points outside flats, and require all new large developments to incorporate charging points



- Appoint a Minister for Entrepreneurship
- Support the development of Scottish data hubs and local supply chain manufacturing
- Support feasibility studies to establish a network of mobility hubs across Scotland
- Ensure Scotland has the first ultra-low emission police service fleet of vehicles in the UK
- Promote the manufacture and the widespread introduction of accessible low-emission vehicles, including hydrogen-powered buses
- Explore the possibility of siting a 'gigafactory' in Scotland to build the batteries for electric vehicles



- Decarbonise commuting through more support for e-bikes
- Set an ambition across government to make all city and town centres vehicle emissions free by 2030
- Make progress towards a network of well-maintained rapid chargers for electric vehicles



- Establish a centre of excellence to deliver a technical skills programme for green manufacturing, providing grant funding for manufacturing firms to retrain and upskill their workforce and provide apprenticeships.
- Establish a Good Business Council to advise the Scottish Government on the delivery of a green economic recovery.



- Start a Scottish Research and Development Fund to act as an incubator of the industries of tomorrow and to help existing businesses diversify and take up the challenges of the economy.