

General Election 2019: Scotland

13 December 2019

The Scottish results

While the Prime Minister's message to 'Get Brexit Done' might have resulted in the largest Conservative majority since 1987, Scotland has once again found itself at odds with the electoral landscape south of the border with the SNP regaining seats across the country and coming close to replicating its landslide victory in 2015.

Provided the election had been triggered as a result of the impasse surrounding Brexit in Westminster, the contest in Scotland has been primarily dominated by constitutional concerns with all parties coalescing on the issues of Brexit and a second referendum on Scottish independence.

The Nationalists, campaigning on a platform of "stopping Brexit" had been expected to perform well and regain many of the seats lost to the Conservatives and Labour in 2017. Indeed, the SNP increased its share of the vote to record their best result since the 2015 General Election – taking just shy of fifty seats at the expenses of other parties. The party won 48 seats after securing 45% of the vote in Scotland. Meanwhile, the Conservatives, hoping to capture the support of Brexit voters and those opposed to Scottish independence, secured six seats across the north east and south of Scotland.

The Lib Dems will take four seats in Scotland, holding onto the likes of Edinburgh West and Orkney and Shetland, and gaining North East Fife from the SNP. However, the biggest blow comes as Jo Swinson lost her East Dunbartonshire seat by just 149 votes, meaning she will step down after just five months leading the party.

Meanwhile, the outcome of this election has been particularly damaging for Labour, with the party losing six seats in Scotland, leaving only Ian Murray MP serving the Edinburgh South constituency. The biggest upset, however, came as the shadow Scottish secretary Lesley Laird lost the Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath seat to a candidate axed by the SNP over antisemitic social media posts. The loss of these seats and a prominent figure such as Laird in a historically Labour-voting constituency highlight the significant demise of Labour north of the border.

Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats	SNP
			
6 (-7)	1 (-6)	4 (0)	48 (+13)

The 2021 Holyrood Election

With Boris Johnson promising to block any attempt to hold a second referendum on Scottish independence, Thursday's result looks set to significantly raise the stakes at the next Scottish Parliament election. The SNP will be hopeful of securing another pro-independence majority at Holyrood in order to further cement their existing mandate and ensure that the prospect of another referendum remains on the table.

Given the highly polarised nature of the electorate in Scotland, the vote in 2021 already looks certain to result in another contest dominated by the constitutional question. The SNP will hope to return to power by galvanising the support of pro-independence voters, however, with a proportional electoral system and the likelihood of anti-SNP tactical voting amongst unionist parties, it remains all to play for ahead of 2021.

The Union

The SNP will claim a clear mandate for a new independence referendum and will formally request a Section 30 Order to set the process into motion before Christmas. Indeed, the Referendums (Scotland) Bill looks set to pass when voted on in Holyrood next week, which will make provision for the holding of such a referendum. Whilst this may not be forthcoming from the PM in the short term, pressure will grow if the SNP win the next Holyrood elections in 2021.

Scottish Constituency Results

- **Aberdeen South:** Kirsty Blackman - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Aberdeen South:** Stephen Flynn - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Airdrie and Shotts:** Neil Gray - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Angus:** Dave Doogan - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Argyll and Bute:** Brendan O'Hara - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock:** Allan Dorans - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Banff and Buchan:** David Duguid - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk:** John Lamont - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross:** Jamie Stone - Liberal Democrats
- **Central Ayrshire:** Philippa Whitford - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill:** Steven Bonnar - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East:** Stuart McDonald - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Dumfries and Galloway:** Alister Jack - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale:** David Mundell - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Dundee East:** Stewart Hosie - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Dundee West:** Chris Law - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Dunfermline and West Fife:** Douglas Chapman - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **East Dunbartonshire:** Amy Callaghan - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow:** Lisa Cameron - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **East Lothian:** Kenny MacAskill - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **East Renfrewshire:** Kirsten Oswald - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Edinburgh East:** Tommy Sheppard - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Edinburgh North and Leith:** Deidre Brock - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Edinburgh South West:** Joanna Cherry - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Edinburgh South:** Ian Murray - Labour Party
- **Edinburgh West:** Christine Jardine - Liberal Democrats

- **Falkirk:** John McNally - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow Central:** Alison Thewliss - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow East:** David Linden - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow North East:** Anne McLaughlin - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow North West:** Carol Monaghan - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow North:** Patrick Grady - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow South West:** Chris Stephens - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glasgow South:** Stewart McDonald - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Glenrothes:** Peter Grant - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Gordon:** Richard Gordon Thomson - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Inverclyde:** Ronnie Cowan - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey:** Drew Hendry - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Kilmarnock and Loudoun:** Alan Brown - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath:** Neale Hanvey - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Lanark and Hamilton East:** Angela Crawley - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Linlithgow and East Falkirk:** Martyn Day - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Livingston:** Hannah Bardell - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Midlothian:** Owen Thompson - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Moray:** Douglas Ross - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **Motherwell and Wishaw:** Marion Fellows - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Na h-Eileanan an Iar:** Angus MacNeil - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **North Ayrshire and Arran:** Patricia Gibson - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **North East Fife:** Wendy Chamberlain - Liberal Democrats
- **Ochil and South Perthshire:** John Nicolson - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Orkney and Shetland:** Alistair Carmichael - Liberal Democrats
- **Paisley and Renfrewshire North:** Gavin Newlands - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Paisley and Renfrewshire South:** Mhairi Black - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Perth and North Perthshire:** Pete Wishart - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Ross, Skye and Lochaber:** Ian Blackford - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Rutherglen and Hamilton West:** Margaret Ferrier - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **Stirling:** Alyn Smith - Scottish National Party (SNP)
- **West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine:** Andrew Bowie - Conservative and Unionist Party
- **West Dunbartonshire:** Martin Docherty - Scottish National Party (SNP)

Contact us

Alan Boyd-Hall
 Head of Public Affairs
 0203 861 3783
alan.boyd-hall@grayling.com
 @GraylingUK & @Grayling_PA
grayling.com

