

#GE2019 SNP launch manifesto in Glasgow

Nicola Sturgeon launched the SNP's 2019 General Election manifesto this morning at an event in Glasgow.

The SNP Leader warned that "Scotland's future is on the line" in the most important vote for many years, a refrain that we have heard from almost all the candidates we have spoken to from whatever party.

She warned that "Brexit will dominate Westminster politics for years and years to come" – and called on voters to get behind the SNP to demand their right to choose a better future to escape from the Brexit mess. She said that both Jeremy Corbyn and Boris Johnson are threatening to drag Scotland out of the EU against its will.



SNP Leader Nicola Sturgeon on a visit to Muirhouse Edinburgh
14 November 2019 PHOTO ©2019 The Edinburgh Reporter

Ms Sturgeon also pledged that a strong block of SNP MPs in the House of Commons would use its influence to secure additional investment for Scotland's public services and introduce more progressive policies across the UK.

Key SNP policies include a 3-part funding proposal for Scotland, which would demand

- That the next UK Government raise per-head health spending south of the border to levels seen in Scotland, which is currently £136 per head higher. Doing so would see an increase of NHS spending in England – and also mean a funding boost for NHS Scotland of over £4bn by the end of the next Westminster Parliament in 2024/25.
- An end to austerity – reversal of the £1.5 billion real terms cut in Scotland's budget and a commitment to real terms increases thereafter.
- A plan to repair the damage of the previous decade of austerity, which stands at a cumulative £13.9bn.

Other proposals include:

- An NHS Protection Act which will guarantee that future trade deals will not undermine the founding principles of the NHS or open it up to profit-driven exploitation – with the Scottish Parliament required to give consent for any trade deal.
- A substantial increase in parental leave with an additional 12 weeks to be ring-fenced for the father in order to encourage take-up – as well as increases in statutory maternity and paternity pay.
- Demanding the UK Government match the Scottish Government's climate ambitions – and ring-fencing oil and gas revenues until 2023/24 to invest in a new Green Energy Deal, building the transition toward a greener, sustainable future.
- Removing Trident from Scotland, saving billions of pounds.

- The devolution of employment and drugs laws to allow the Scottish Parliament to take decisions better suited to Scotland's circumstances

Launching the manifesto, Nicola Sturgeon said in her speech :

"This election really matters – the future of Scotland is on the line. The opportunities for this and future generations are at stake. The kind of country we want to be is on the ballot paper.

"At the heart of it all, I ask people in Scotland to consider this simple but fundamental question before you cast your vote: Who should decide Scotland's future – the people who live here or Boris Johnson?

"A vote for the SNP on December 12 is a vote to escape Brexit. It's a vote to put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands. And it is a vote to deprive Boris Johnson's Conservative Party of a majority

"In this election, the SNP is the challenger to the Tories in every single seat they hold. The reality is this: in Scotland only a vote for the SNP can defeat the Tories. By voting SNP we can lock the Tories out of office – but we can do that only by voting SNP."

On the question of Scotland's future, Ms Sturgeon continued:

"People in Scotland have the right to consider an alternative future. One in which Scotland's future is in Scotland's hands – not Boris Johnson's. A future with Scotland as an equal partner with our closest friends in the rest of the UK and with the EU.

"In an independent Scotland we will always get the governments we vote for. The NHS will always be protected from a Tory-Trump trade deal. Decisions about taxation and social security will be made by the Scottish Parliament. We will have a

migration policy tailored to Scotland's needs.

"Scotland is a country of extraordinary talent and resources. We can be confident that a better future for Scotland is possible.

"We don't have to put up with Brexit and the Westminster mess. We have the power at this election to change all that.

"Let's stand up for our right to choose a better future.

"At this election I am asking you to vote SNP to escape Brexit, to lock Boris Johnson's Tories out of office and to take power into the hands of the people of Scotland."

You can read the SNP manifesto here :



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