

# Rennie to stand down as Lib Dem leader

## Rennie to stand aside as Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie has today announced that he will stand aside as Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.



Willie Rennie, Liberal Democrats. Photo: © 2021, Martin P. McAdam [www.martinmcadam.com](http://www.martinmcadam.com)

Mr Rennie said: “After eleven elections and referendums over ten years and a global pandemic, I have decided to stand aside as Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

“I have always believed that politics can be a vehicle to tackle the big issues and transform the lives of the people we are elected to serve.

“That’s why we have championed the case for better mental health services, world class schools and investment for early years education.

“Ours was the lone but important voice speaking out against the centralisation of Scotland’s police and for a more liberal justice system.

“We moved the debate and delivered change so that many more people can now achieve their potential.

“Liberal Democrats stand for an open, united and outward looking country. We are on the side of those who want a better future for themselves and their families but who also want the same for others, from the people living next door to

those in countries around the world that often lack the advantages that we enjoy here.

“Standing up for Scotland’s place in the UK and in Europe is second nature to us. The divisive debates that have dominated our country over these issues have inflicted damage within families, communities and the economy.

“Scotland deserves a strong progressive alternative to the twin nationalisms represented by the SNP and Conservatives. They polarise and divide Scotland when we should unite to overcome the enormous challenges we face, from Covid-19 to climate change to the inequalities that continue to stain our society.

“Over the last decade there have been both gains and losses along the way, but I have enjoyed every effort. I love a good campaign.

“But it is time for a fresh face to lead our party forward. The new Leader will have my full support in writing the next bright chapter of the Scottish Liberal Democrats’ story.

“To the people of North East Fife, thank you for re-electing me in May. I will continue to work for you.








“To the members of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, it has been a privilege to lead you. I look forward to campaigning with you again soon – we have elections to win.”

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Willie Rennie and Sir Ed Davey at a pre-election ad launch on Royal Terrace 4 May 2021 ©2021 The Edinburgh Reporter

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30th April 2021 Edinburgh – Liberal Democrat Leader, Willie Rennie, takes part in a Shinty exercise in Inverleith Park in Edinburgh. PHOTO Live Edinburgh News
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23rd April 2021 Edinburgh – Scottish Liberal Democrat Leader, Willie Rennie, took part in a karate lesson on the The Meadows in Edinburgh before setting out criticism of Nicola Sturgeon’s record in government.  
PHOTO ©2021 Live Edinburgh News
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16th April 2021 Edinburgh – Liberal Democrat Leader, Willie Rennie, visited the Boardwalk Beach Club in Edinburgh to launch his park manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Elections.  
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