

KEY MESSAGES FOR LIB DEM CANDIDATES

This is a chance to create a brighter future for our country.

We want Scotland at the heart of the UK and the UK at the heart of Europe. Liberal Democrats stand with the majority of people in Scotland who wanted both those things in the referendums.

Instead of independence and Brexit we want a country where we create more jobs, a safer country and more money for the NHS.

Liberal Democrats are pro-UK, pro-EU and progressive.

Positive points from the Liberal Democrats

Education: Transformational investment in education.

- Scottish Penny on Tax.
- Long term economic benefit. Every person has the chance to succeed.
- Early years to give children the best start;
- Pupil Premium - proven to raise attainment in UK;
- Colleges to repair the 152,000 lost places.
- Less central direction for teachers, not national tests.

Health:

Mental Health is our priority:

- Affects the burden on A&E, GPs, Police.
- Children wait up to 2 years for mental health treatment.
- New staff and services in schools, GPs, A&E and police.
- 1p on the income tax on dividends in Scotland to pay for mental health. Rest of Penny only applies in England and pays for social care as well.

Guarantee the 1000 Scottish NHS doctors who are EU nationals can stay here.

Lift 1% public sector pay cap to retain staff.

UK-wide convention to look at sustainability. People living longer with new medicines.

Europe: Final chance for public to reject a bad deal (which we haven't seen yet) not leave it to small group of Tory ministers.

[People rejected the SNP's bad deal for independence in 2014.]

Labour voted for extreme Brexit with UKIP. SNP won't guarantee EU re-entry.

Indyref: We said last year "**No indyref full stop.**" We are sticking to that. SNP don't have proper majority. Greens said they needed a million signatures.

Pensions: Keep the triple lock. 2.5% or wages or inflation.

Police: Opposed centralisation. Loss of local control rooms has proved dangerous.

Respect role of expert, civilian back-up staff. They've been cut to keep officer numbers.

End the anomaly where Scottish Police and Fire pay VAT to the Treasury. Would save £30m a year. No other police in UK pay VAT.

End the 1% pay cap on the police.

Environment: Support renewables across UK. Bring back help for solar power cut by Tories. Wind power in the islands. High Speed Rail.

Tax: Modest 1p for transformational investment in education in Scotland.

Barnett consequentials to Scotland from our investment in England allow us to invest in mental health, social care, housing.

Young people: A chance to reject the Brexit deal. Housing benefit for 18-21 year olds. Climate change targets and renewable energy. Votes at 16.

Cannabis: Current drugs policy has not worked. A legal, highly-regulated market for cannabis. It can generate tax revenues according to expert group last year. Take the gangs out of cannabis. It works in Colorado. Hundreds of children are secretly trafficked to UK from Afghanistan and Vietnam to work in UK cannabis farms.

Use the Portugal system for other drugs – health treatment for users, jail for dealers.

Economy: Balance day-to-day spending from 2019-20 to protect the economy. Invest in education and skills. Capital investment boost for railways, housing and energy efficiency.

Defence: Lift the 1% pay cap on armed forces pay to give them respect they deserve.

Go down the nuclear ladder by cutting future Trident replacement back.

Student finance: Tuition fees abolished in Scotland under Lib-Lab coalition in 2000. We made mistake in rest of UK. Under SNP 152,000 college places lost.

Social Security: End the two-child rule which creates the rape clause. Women should get tax credits without this outrage.

Coalitions: No coalition with Theresa May or Jeremy Corbyn. No independence referendum. We will be a strong opposition to fight extreme Brexit and divisive indyref.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Key argument against SNP:

A vote for the SNP is a vote for independence. It always is.

The SNP have focused on independence and the price is being paid by public services.

- **Education slipping down the rankings.**
- **Literacy tumbling.**
- **Mental health neglected.**
- **Economy on edge of recession.**

Ten years in power. Not as good as supporters thought they would be.

The SNP spend their time planning their next referendum not focussed on the day job.

The SNP are using the votes of pro-EU people to get a referendum but won't guarantee they get the EU back from their referendum and risk leaving us out of both.

UK market worth 4 times EU market. Wrong to risk jobs with Indy

Key Evidence on the SNP

The Scottish Government produced referendum legislation in 44 days but took 15 months to renew their mental health strategy – even though tens of millions of pounds was waiting to be allocated when the strategy was agreed.

Children have to wait up to two years for urgent mental health treatment. Audit Scotland has shown 7 out of 8 waiting times targets have been missed. (Freedom of Information request to health boards)

Number of S2 children missing the literacy standard has doubled in the last four years. (Government survey)

Scottish economy shrank in the last quarter according to latest GDP figures. If it does it in the next quarter that is an official recession. (Scottish Government stats)

Scottish education system recently recorded its worst ever rating for maths, reading and science. 4000 teachers lost under the SNP and class sizes are rising.

Scotland suffering a GP crisis and will be 800 short by 2020.

The SNP voted against a Brexit deal referendum.

Promised to “dump the debt” but they doubled student debt. They have got rid of grants. Rich children four times more likely to get to uni.

Key argument against Conservatives

A vote for the Conservatives is for a cold, mean-spirited country and a damaging extreme Brexit.

Extreme Brexit costs 80,000 Scottish jobs.

The Scottish Conservatives are exactly the same as the UK. Their MPs will vote for the same cold, mean-spirited policies as their UK colleagues.

So that means ending the triple lock on pensions, keeping the ‘rape clause’ on tax credits, cutting support for renewables failing child refugees.

The Tories refuse to guarantee the right to stay for EU nationals. There are 1000 doctors in Scotland who are EU nationals.

The Conservative extreme Brexit puts the NHS at risk.

Nigel Farage said: “All the things that I've been banging on about for the last 20 years have now been adopted wholesale by Theresa May.”

The UK Tory policy on social care contrasts with the Lib Dems. Under Lib Dems we all pay 1p tax for care now. Under Tories the government takes your house when you die.

Tories cut support for solar when they took power. Privatised the Green Investment Bank.

TOP SIX FROM LIB DEMS

No indyref.

Public to get chance to reject bad Brexit deal.

Transformational investment in education.

Mental Health investment – paid by Penny.

Keep the pension triple lock.

Lift 1% public pay cap. Worth £780 average.