

Scottish Libertarians



Holyrood 2026 Manifesto

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FREEDOM

Libertarian Principles

Libertarians believe that the central role of government is to protect the rights of every individual, and with it government holds the duty not to violate those rights. These are three fundamental rights of human beings:

The Right to Life

and, accordingly, the right to protection by the government against the threat or action of violence.

The Right to Freedom of Speech

and, accordingly, the right to articulate opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation and censorship.

The Right to Property

and, accordingly, the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud and misrepresentation, as well as confiscation, nationalisation and compulsory purchase.

We oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary relations among individuals. We hold that people should be free to interact with one another as partners, collaborators and traders; or not at all!

We are the only political party committed to both civil liberties and the free market: we are against bailouts to bankers, handouts to big business and all forms of corporate welfare. We are opposed to foreign adventurism and neo-colonialism in all its forms.

We don't want to regulate your personal habits. We don't care what you smoke, what gender the person you want to marry is or how you choose to worship. We don't want to snoop on you, force you to take a vaccine you don't want, require 'health passports' or 'digital ID' or detain you without trial or charge.

What is most important to a libertarian is **Liberty, Personal Freedom** and **Individual Rights**. We hold that each individual is entitled to exclusive control of their choices, actions and body - so long as they do not violate the right of others to do the same. With the Scottish Libertarian Party, it is YOUR choice that matters.

[Join today!](#)



Foreword by Tam Laird

Leader, Scottish Libertarian Party

Home for the disillusioned and non voters, the unifying and wide ranging message is Libertarianism.

It's hard to find a place to live, everything is getting more and more expensive, and you can't even rant about it at the dinner table.

Your only option now, is to vote.

On May 7th, your vote in Scotland will be one of the most important of all our lives. We will be presented with a choice between further authoritarian rule or attempting to regain the free spirit of our nation.

The Libertarian message is simple:

Put control back into people's hands, instead of leaving it at the whim of incompetent bureaucrats;
Rescue the right to free expression and protect it from ideologues sitting in power;
Rein in reckless government spending so that more of your money can stay yours.

Scottish Libertarians are here to give you an option; an alternative to big-government parties of both left and right.

Our message is all-encompassing. We value freedom over 'free' stuff. We seek support from both ardent nationalists and life-long conservatives, civil-libertarians and anti-war activists alike. From the disillusioned voter tired of politics as usual. From people who

find no hope in any of the big parties, who have as much in common with one another as they have to set them apart from us!

We are ordinary people who want to stand up for ordinary people.

Let us, together, send a clear signal to the establishment that **we will not be trodden on**; that we are not a cash cow for their next political project. Help us to protect the people of Scotland against the worst kinds of Nationalism, Socialism and Conservatism - those which rely on force, rather than cooperation and voluntary action.



FREE MARKETS



Photo by Konrad Hofmann on Unsplash

1. The Economy & the ‘Cost of Living’

The cure is worse than the disease and our future looks bleak. Decades of out-of-control government spending and unaccountable ‘leaders’ have left our pockets empty, whilst opportunities and even hope seem to have vanished.

Inflation does not “just happen,” nor is it the fault of greedy billionaires: **it is always created by government by printing money and spending recklessly.** The so-called ‘Cost of Living Crisis’ is in fact the Cost of Government Crisis.

On top of that, senseless regulations cripple innovation and free enterprise. **The single and best thing government can do to ‘fix the economy’ is get out of the way.** Scottish Libertarians hold that it is up to individuals to decide how and with whom they do business, as well as whom they wish to employ.

We want people to work together peacefully, instead of having someone else manage their lives.

Our vision will spare us the road to serfdom and replace it with the path to freedom.



FREE MARKETS

1.1 Taxation

Scottish Libertarians hold the view that taxation is theft. Accordingly, we also believe that taxation should gradually be decreased until free market alternatives are established.

The devolved administration in Scotland now has responsibility over many areas of taxation. All political parties, with the exception of the Scottish Libertarians, are looking to increase the burden as taxpayers are left with an increasingly rotten deal.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

A full and swift review of the taxation system. This would be with a view to reducing the tax burden on individuals and halting the near-infinite debts being placed on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren.

Cutting taxes on SME and the abolition of hidden taxes such as Spaces for People and Business Improvement Districts (B.I.D.). These levies are helping to drive our high streets to extinction, small businesses into the ground and prices upwards.

The devolution of taxation to local government level with clearer guidelines between local and national spending.

Abolition and mitigation of 'sin taxes' which hurt the poorest most.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Further taxation, levies and penalties.

No fines for what you say, where you drink or for owning a television; no tax hikes at local or national level; no increased levies on local businesses and no corporate welfare.

Further burdens on licensed industry businesses and employees.

No compulsory training that staff and businesses have to pay for in low-paid positions; oppose costly bureaucracy and compliance - time and paperwork.

Case-in-Point

Sin-taxes are often used to dissuade people from doing something that the government disapproves of. Does that mean they also disapprove of individuals earning from work when they apply tax to that too?



FREE MARKETS

1.2 Regulation

Scottish Libertarians hold that **societies built on conscience, as opposed to compliance**, will be far more cohesive, harmonious, peaceful and high quality. Incessant interference by government bodies changes the way we think about right and wrong: it makes us ask 'What does the process dictate?' rather than 'What should I do to act correctly?'

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Reducing the legislative weight of government quangos. We advocate to lessen the mountain of red tape stifling innovation and productivity in our business sector.

Reduction in powers of governments aimed at telling you how to use your private property. The Scottish Libertarian Party will fight to allow small, independent house builders to do what they do best. We will end the monopolisation of building by government officials and by consequence end the inflationary effects of planning permission on housing for buyers everywhere - as well as the 'housing crisis'.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

The interference and backdoor monopolisation of the care industry. We oppose the costly administrative burdens on care homes and seek to lessen the intrusion by the Care Commission and social workers on private family affairs.

Additional regulation being imposed on low-skilled jobs which are affecting the self-employed and small businesses most.

Case-in-Point

The Scottish government responded to a FOI request made on 30/11/2020 requesting evidence of why they had restricted restaurants and pubs in service and opening times, as follows:

*"It is **not possible** to publish scientific evidence specifically on drinking and pubs specifically as in general neither **the Scottish Government, the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory group nor SAGE have produced evidence papers** on a sectoral basis. Instead, we have used scientific **evidence on transmission coupled with social and economic benefits of these facilities** which the Scottish Ministers have used to make decisions."*



FREE MARKETS

1.3 Education

Scottish Libertarians hold that **stewardship and responsibility over our children's education belongs to the parents** and, as much as possible, the individual child.

Scottish Libertarians also hold that **education should be sourced from communities upward**, instead of being imposed downwards from an intellectual elite.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The reformation of the widely-criticised Curriculum for Excellence and a reduction in powers by the Scottish Qualifications Authority. We want to focus the curriculum on basic skills while allowing employers to create apprenticeships and skill-enhancing, experience-building jobs. Ending the educational monopoly held by the SQA and keeping politicians out of the classroom.

A reduction of the government's role in education, giving teachers and parents direct responsibility for the child's education. Opening up communication channels between teacher and parent; making it easier to transfer schools and pursue alternative and innovative forms of education; easing the administrative and professional costs to teachers; devolving powers back to the local school level; supporting the right of parents to remove their children from the state education system.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Future attempts at 'Named Person Schemes'. We want to keep government away from children as much as possible; we oppose the idea that children belong to the state.

Politically motivated curriculums designed to indoctrinate children into the 'current thing'. We have a healthy scepticism towards all those who would target children and force their values on them, no matter how well-intended.

"I pledge my entire MSP salary of £74k back into the Glasgow community if elected."

Alan Findlay,
SLP Candidate



FREE SPEECH



Photo by Henk Mul on Unsplash

2. Civil Liberties

Our most basic rights are being dampened and eroded right before our eyes. Civil liberties are hard to come by and, once given away, they are easily not gained back. The Scottish Libertarian Party are staunch defenders of free speech and civil liberties, and stand against the surveillance state, detention without trial, trial without a jury, and any form of mandatory identification (digital ID) and regulation of personal habits.

Defending the right to free speech in Scotland has become of immediate urgency and we will seek to scrap the Hate Crime Act. Libertarians hold that no government ought to control or regulate the speech of any individual – rather, it is the government’s **duty** to uphold this basic right.

Legislation like this has no place in a liberal and free society and can only be used as a tool for silencing opposition. The Scottish Libertarian Party is the only Scottish party committed to defending individuals against the insidious orthodoxies being forced upon them – in media, at work, at school, and even in your own home.

Let us send to Holyrood voices that support the cause of freedom, and don’t cower in the face of controversy. The path to freedom starts with free speech – don’t let politicians take it away!



FREE SPEECH

2.1 Freedom of Speech

Scottish Libertarians hold that **one of the few legitimate duties of government is to defend freedom of speech**. We reject the idea that ‘speech is violence’ and any government guidelines or restrictions on speech. While we recognise the difference between socially acceptable and unacceptable forms of speech, we hold that a society cannot be free if people cannot speak freely.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The destruction of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act. The Scottish people do not need or want this act, hated by all those who have stayed away from the radical ends of politics.

The abolition of Equality and Diversity quangos, often highly paid and a waste of taxpayer money. We promote freedom of opportunity (if you can you may) and reject equality of outcome through the imposition of special privileges for any group based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or class. There are no groups; there are only people, and people come individually.

The rights to peaceful protest and political organisation. We reject any attempt by government to contain opposition and silence members of communities who wish to protest and/or demonstrate in a peaceful manner.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

All versions of the Hate Crime Act put before us. The current ‘middle-ground’ being sought is not good enough - the Scottish people do not need, or want this Act; there is already robust provision within existing law.

The suppression of the free press and ‘national conversations’. We will also oppose legislation and practices that dampen the ability of whistleblowers to be heard and oppose censorship in all it’s forms, especially in the medical profession.

Case-in-Point

Most ordinary people would give their left arm for a job like ‘Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer’, NHS, £100,000 – £140,000 or perhaps something a little more specific like ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Scottish Heritage’ at the University of Strathclyde.



FREE SPEECH

2.2 Law and Order

Scottish Libertarians believe in law and order, which are necessary to achieve a free society. This line of thinking is usually referred to as minarchist or minarchism: laws and regulations should be kept at a bare minimum to ensure peaceful, voluntary cooperation and maintain social cohesion.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Decentralisation of police forces back to the local level. We will support local police forces and stop government attempts at creating a controlled force.

Focusing police time and resources on protecting the core rights of individuals. Crimes of physical violence, theft, rape, murder and fraud would take precedence over immature online posts. This is in line with our views on regulation; stop over-regulating and police will have more time to do the things people need and want them to do.

Devolution of further drug laws to the Scottish Parliament with a view to ending the wasteful war on drugs and cleaning up the mess that current drug intervention has created.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Crimes against life, liberty and property whether that be by organised groups or on an individual level. We will not allow radical groups of any kind to destroy communities and harass the public and we will support the police in this role.

Burdening police with more bureaucracy and making up new crimes. Police belong on our streets, not at a desk; nor do they owe allegiance to radical 'social justice' causes.

"If elected, I will do everything I can... to leave you alone. As libertarians we believe in the principles of individual freedoms, personal and economic. We stand for choice in every aspect of life, from education to healthcare."

Daniel Fraser,
SLP Candidate



FREE SPEECH

2.3 Health

Scottish Libertarians hold that **the free market is best placed to provide quality and low cost** healthcare. Decades of socialised healthcare system have led to a situation where only the rich can now afford healthcare – with the underprivileged waiting the longest (now, more than 6 months) for basic procedures! The pandemic showed the NHS to be wholly inadequate, yet politicians would have us protect it with our lives.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Devolving the responsibility for training and delegation of tasks back to hospital staff, with a view to freeing up highly-skilled professionals to focus their time and attention on what they alone can do, while lower-skilled staff gain critical skills and experience to continue their professional education.

Complete reform of the NHS based on the successful Singapore model. This would include cutting middle-management and diversity hires, as well as working out better deals on supplies and contracts.

The Right to Try. We will support any individual's right to try whichever medical method they choose, regardless of their medical situation. Subsequently, we would support the loosening of restrictions on what medicines you can freely buy.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Forced medical intervention by the government, including forced vaccination, testing or mask-wearing.

We reject the the state having the right to make decisions on your health.

Repression and censorship of medical data and information. All public health data should be available for public to see, including data about the efficacy and complications of vaccines.

The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) 2019 Act. We will never allow the Government to assume ownership of your body.

Case-in-Point

5.2 million citizens a year visit their GPs with blocked noses and tens of thousands more suffering from other ailments like dandruff or travel sickness. These appointments put pressure on capacities, leading more people to turn up to A&E because they can't see their family doctor. As a consequence 3.7m A&E visits a year are for similar concerns including sprains, flus, colics and insect bites. Altogether these appointments cost the NHS £2bn a year!!



FREE PEOPLE



Photo by Paolo Chiabrando on Unsplash

3. Unity

Libertarianism is a far reaching and unifying ideology. Unlike other political groupings, we have no preference with regards to what you believe – as long as you do not want to force others to believe the same. That is why we are the home of disillusioned voters from all parts of the political spectrum, from conservative unionists to staunch nationalists.

The Scottish Libertarian Party is not nationalist but secessionist by virtue of being libertarian. While the right to self-determination is a pillar of our ethos, we do not share the unbridled enthusiasm for another referendum, as long as it puts re-joining the EU over genuine independence.

We maintain there are far more important, fundamental issues that need to be addressed right now. While we recognise the passionate feelings in Scottish politics regarding the political union with England, we stand with those in the disillusioned middle ground who are fed up of this constant argument. Like many, we are increasingly concerned by the authoritarian practices of both the Scottish National Party in Holyrood and all recent British governments in Westminster.



FREE PEOPLE

3.1 Upholding Democracy

Scottish Libertarians maintain that upholding democratic decisions – **especially when we don't like them** – is essential to maintaining faith in our country's institutions and trust in one another. Still, we also hold that government should be as small and as close to the people as possible.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

The mitigation of all new regulation or taxation imposed by Westminster, using the power of the Scottish Parliament to protect the rights and private property of individuals across Scotland.

Devolving powers as locally as possible.

The responsibilities taken on by Holyrood should be distributed down to the local level, including the individual level.

Independence from the bottom, up.

Scottish Libertarians believe that true independence exists at the individual level only. Independent individuals create independent families, who create independent communities, who then stand together as a truly independent nation.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Centralisation of power. We oppose the right of centralised organisations of imposing wide-reaching rules for wildly differing individuals and communities, whether that be in Holyrood or Westminster.

Being dragged back into the European Union by the backdoor. Scotland, let alone the UK, would not be independent in an increasingly authoritarian European Union. Scottish Libertarians reject all forms of supranational political organisation.

“One-man-one-vote combined with “free entry” into government democracy implies that every person and his personal property comes within reach of and is up for grabs by everyone else.”

Hans Hermann Hoppe,
Libertarian philosopher and economist



FREE PEOPLE

3.2 Local Government

Scottish Libertarians hold that government should be as close to the individual level as possible. We hold local government to the same standards as national government: minimal force and minimal intrusion.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

Making local officials focus on what matters – such as bins and roads! We would take issues relating to culture, arts, education, business and building (among other things) out of the hands of local bureaucrats and put them back into the hands of local individuals. It is not the business of councillors what you do with your time, money or property.

Increasing the responsibilities and accountability of local councillors. Right now they depend on Holyrood for money, rather than on their constituents. We would reform council finance so that they are accountable to those who pay their wages – the local tax payer!

Giving local residents the opportunity to serve their community. What is a local business but a local individual who sets out with the aim of providing a service to their community? We believe that prosperous and harmonious communities are built and maintained by the individuals who inhabit it.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

Any measures taken by councils to shut down or hinder businesses and consumers in the name of climate change or any other top-down governmental agenda. This includes restrictions on parking, circulation (LEZ) and shopping centres.

Council tax increases and more regulation. We will aim to keep government officials out of your life so that you can make the choices best suited to you.



FREE PEOPLE

3.3 Environment

As Libertarians we believe that resources are precious, including the planet we live on. As such, we aim at maintaining and improving our relationship with the beautiful part of the world we inhabit. We believe the free market is best suited to achieve this by bolstering innovation, but also because it gives people the time and resources to care about their surroundings – if you want green people, make them wealthy!

The Scottish Libertarian Party will support:

A recovery plan to mitigate the increase in poverty and general waste that governmental programs have caused. We support free market solutions and innovations that will allow us to produce all kinds of energy and waste options – recycling, hemp, The Ocean Clean-Up Project and cruelty-free products.

Allowing individuals full choice in their source of energy and opposing authoritarian measures by governments to limit choice in fuel source.

Charitable and voluntary organisations and actions which aim to tackle environmental issues at the local level such as litter picking and the development of garden plots.

The Scottish Libertarian Party will oppose:

The arbitrary taxes, regulations and climate quangos that merely provide a virtuous facade for politicians and corporatists to raid the pockets of taxpayers and dictate more of our choices. Regulatory barriers also prevent innovative ideas from competing with big energy, which receives millions in taxpayer pounds!

Manipulation of environmental data in order to drive big government. We oppose censorship in all its forms and will not hinder public debate, arguments and opinions on the environment and climate.

“It’s strange that the government’s solution to all environmental problems seems to be to give itself more money and power, at the expense of the taxpayer.”

Antony Sammeroff
SLP Spokesman on
Environment & Health



Libertarians believe that **all** rights, of **all** people matter **all** the time.

We are the only political party that respects your rights as a unique and competent individual.

What do we believe in?

That you and every person has the:

- Right to private property, including life and self-ownership
- Right to live your life however you choose and pursue happiness
- Right to worship and freedom of conscience
- Right to equal treatment before the law

We want everyone to live, work and prosper their own way – as long as they don't hurt people and don't take their stuff.

Each individual has the right to control his or her own body, actions, speech and property. And government's only role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force or fraud.

We want the government to be slim, effective and to stay within its budget – we don't want our children to inherit our debts! We want taxes to be low for everybody. We want people to be free to act and not need approval for everything from the state. We understand that the less bureaucracy and paperwork there is, the wealthier and freer a society we get.

We prefer voluntary associations, charity and the free market to politicians and their “solutions”.

We want peace, low crime, opportunity, education, healthcare. We want people to be happy and harmonious and tolerant of one another, to associate freely and live their lives how they please.

The Scottish Libertarian Party was created in 2012 to bring more freedom to the people of Scotland.

Come help us!

ScottishLibertarians.com/Join-Us

4 Reasons to Vote Libertarian

1

Defending Free Speech – the only Scottish party historically and consistently opposed to the dreaded Hate Crime Act and all attacks on Free Speech and Expression.

2

Ease the Burden of Government – the SLP are committed to cutting wasteful spending and keeping the government out of your pocket, business and bedroom!

3

Anti-Corruption, Anti-corporatist – kick out the quangos: B.I.D.s., Sustrans, and Spaces for People to name but a few. End corporate welfare and wasteful nationalisation.

4

Make Housing Affordable Again – deregulate housing, remove hurdles for building, buying, selling and renting, and let the free market be truly free. If you want to know more, check out scottishlibertarians.com/housing or scan the QR code below:



If you agree with these principles and want to reclaim your individual freedom, join us and become a member of the SLP. You can also support us by registering to vote and selecting a Scottish Libertarian Candidate on May 7th.

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