

## Lothian 2016 Results, Analysis And 2021 Projections



For elections to the Scottish Parliament, Scotland is divided into 8 Regions. Each Region can contain 8 to 10 Constituencies. So, everyone in Scotland gets 2 votes. A Constituency Vote and a Regional Vote. Normally people vote in both, but sometimes they only vote in one. Only voting in one does not spoil your other vote.

### Constituency Vote (Vote 1 – Constituency Ballot Paper)

Constituencies	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	SNP %	Total	Valid Votes	Turnout %
Almond Valley	10,082	18,475	1,007	5,308	-	52.98	64,901	34,872	53.7
Edinburgh Central	7,546	9,789	1,672	10,399	4,644	28.65	59,581	34,169	57.3
Edinburgh Eastern	11,673	16,760	1,264	5,700	-	47.35	62,817	35,397	56.3
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	10,576	17,322	1,779	6,081	-	46.69	67,273	37,102	55.2
Edinburgh Pentlands	7,811	13,181	1,636	10,725	-	39.52	55,241	33,353	60.4
Edinburgh Southern	13,597	12,474	2,216	9,972	-	32.60	59,587	38,259	64.2
Edinburgh Western	3,750	13,685	16,645	5,686	-	34.41	61,666	39,766	64.5
Linlithgow	10,027	19,362	1,319	7,699	-	50.41	71,434	38,407	53.8
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	9,913	16,948	1557	6,267	-	48.86	63,360	34,685	54.7
<b>Total Seats Awarded</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42.39</b>	<b>565,860</b>	<b>326,010</b>	<b>57.8</b>

### Regional Vote (Vote 2 – Regional Ballot Paper)

Regional Votes	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	D'Hondt Adjustment (Regional Party Totals ÷ Number of Seats Already Won + 1)
Regional Party Totals	67,991	118,546	18,479	74,972	34,551	For Round 1 (SNP - 118,546 ÷ 7 / Cons - 74,972 ÷ 2 Lab - 67,991 ÷ 2 / Lib Dem - 18,479 ÷ 2)
Round 1	33,996	16,935	9,240	37,486	34,551	Cons Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 3)
Round 2	33,996	16,935	9,240	24,991	34,551	Greens Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (Greens - 34,551 ÷ 2)
Round 3	33,996	16,935	9,240	24,991	17,276	Lab Win Round 3 - For Round 4 - (Lab - 67,991 ÷ 3)
Round 4	22,664	16,935	9,240	24,991	17,276	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 4)
Round 5	22,664	16,935	9,240	18,743	17,276	Lab Win Round 5 - For Round 6 - (Lab - 67,991 ÷ 4)
Round 6	16,998	16,935	9,240	18,743	17,276	Cons Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 5)
Round 7	16,998	16,935	9,240	14,994	17,276	Greens Win Round 7
<b>Total Seats Awarded</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	

(Total Votes – 565,860, Valid Votes – 327,178, Turnout – 57.82% and SNP Vote Share – 36.23%)

- The Regional Vote however is affected by how many Seats a Party wins in the Constituencies.
- Regional Seats are awarded by dividing Regional Party Totals by the Number of Seats already Won + 1 (D'Hondt System) over 7 Rounds. This might look complicated but it's really just simple adding and dividing.
- The basic premise is that if a Party does well with Constituency Seats, the System (D'Hondt) makes it very difficult for them to do well with Regional Seats.



## What can we say about the 2016 Election Results?

- In 2016 the SNP won 6 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by 6 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 7 from Round 1 going forward. Labour, Lib Dems and the Tories each won 1 constituency seat each, so their Regional Votes were divided by 1 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 2. The Greens running in Edinburgh Central almost certainly ensured the SNP lost this seat to the Tories by splitting the vote.
- Despite having 'by far' the largest number of regional votes the SNP won '0' regional seats in Lothian.
- Unionist Parties and the Greens however shared all the Regional Seats with the Greens winning the last one with 17,276 votes.
- That meant in 2016 the SNP would have needed 120,939 regional votes (an extra 2,393 votes) to win the last regional seat from the Greens in Lothian (a 2% increase).
- This is calculated as follows:  $(118,546 + 2,393 = 120,939 \text{ regional votes} - 120,939 \text{ regional votes} \div 7 \text{ (6 Constituency Seats + 1 (D'Hondt) = 17,277 regional votes)})$ .

## 2021 Projections For Additional Independence Parties Running On The Regional Vote

What might happen if another Independence Party ran on the Regional Vote and encouraged voters to vote for them instead of the SNP?

Regional Votes	Labour	SNP	Lib Dem	Cons	Green	ISP	D'Hondt Adjustment (Regional Party Totals ÷ Number of Seats Already Won + 1)
Regional Party Totals	67,991	101,269	18,479	74,972	34,551	17,277	For Round 1 (SNP - 101,269 ÷ 7 / Cons - 74,972 ÷ 2 Lab - 67,991 ÷ 2 / Lib Dem - 18,479 ÷ 2)
Round 1	33,996	14,467	9,240	37,486	34,551	17,277	Cons Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 3)
Round 2	33,996	14,467	9,240	24,991	34,551	17,277	Greens Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (Greens - 34,551 ÷ 2)
Round 3	33,996	14,467	9,240	24,991	17,276	17,277	Lab Win Round 3 - For Round 4 - (Lab - 67,991 ÷ 3)
Round 4	22,664	14,467	9,240	24,991	17,276	17,277	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 4)
Round 5	22,664	14,467	9,240	18,743	17,276	17,277	Lab Win Round 5 - For Round 6 - (Lab - 67,991 ÷ 4)
Round 6	16,998	14,467	9,240	18,743	17,276	17,277	Cons Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (Con - 74,972 ÷ 5)
Round 7	16,998	14,467	9,240	14,994	17,276	17,277	ISP Wins Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	2	0	0	3	1	1	

- Current Polling projects the SNP is on 52% Constituencies (48.85% in 2016) and 44% Regional (44.65% in 2016). The difference between the SNP vote in Constituencies and Regions is historic and usual because voters have more choice to express opinion on the Regional Ballot.
- Based on current polling the SNP is now projected to win 9 Constituency Seats in Lothian in 2021 meaning that their Regional Vote would be divided by 9 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 10. Using 2016 as a benchmark, the SNP would need 172,770 Regional votes (an extra 54,224 votes) to win a Regional Seat in Lothian in 2021. **Yes, you are reading that right. 54,224 extra votes.**
- This is calculated as follows:  $(118,546 + 54,224 = 172,770 \text{ regional votes} - 172,770 \text{ regional votes} \div 10 \text{ (9 Constituency Seats + 1 (D'Hondt) = 17,277 regional votes)})$ .
- In 2016 'BothVotesSNP' did not work and given current polling it will certainly not work in 2021 either. If SNP Votes transfer to other Independence Parties, then Independence MSP's will get elected instead of Unionists.
- If all Independence voters voted for the SNP in the Constituencies, and the SNP withdrew candidates from the Regional Vote, Independence and not an individual Party would be the winner.