

South Scotland 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 %
Ayr	5,283	15,433	716	16,183	-	41.03	61,567	37,615	61.1
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	8,684	14,690	640	7,666	-	46.37	59,368	31,680	53.4
Clydesdale	6,995	14,821	820	8,842	-	43.95	58,483	33,719	57.7
Dumfriesshire	9,151	12,306	1,267	13,536	-	33.94	60,698	36,260	59.7
East Lothian	14,329	13,202	1,337	9,045	-	34.82	60,848	37,913	62.3
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	1,766	10,521	2,551	18,257	-	31.79	54,517	33,095	60.7
Galloway and West Dumfries	4,876	13,013	947	14,527	-	39.00	56,321	33,363	59.2
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	7,853	19,047	888	6,597	-	55.39	63,257	34,385	54.4
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	5,701	16,031	3686	10,163	-	45.05	60,203	35,581	59.1
Total Seats Awarded	1	4	0	4	0	41.26	535,262	313,611	58.6

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	56,072	120,217	11,775	100,753	14,773	For Round 1 (SNP - 120,217 ÷ 5 / Cons - 100,753 ÷ 5) (Lab - 56,072 ÷ 2)
Round 1	28,036	24,043	11,775	20,151	14,773	Lab Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Lab - 56,072 ÷ 3)
Round 2	18,691	24,043	11,775	20,151	14,773	SNP Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (SNP - 120,217 ÷ 6)
Round 3	18,691	20,036	11,775	20,151	14,773	Cons Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Cons - 100,753 ÷ 6)
Round 4	18,691	20,036	11,775	16,792	14,773	SNP Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (SNP - 120,217 ÷ 7)
Round 5	18,691	17,174	11,775	16,792	14,773	Lab Win Round 5 - For Round 6 (Lab - 56,072 ÷ 4)
Round 6	14,018	17,174	11,775	16,792	14,773	SNP Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (SNP - 120,217 ÷ 8)
Round 7	14,018	15,027	11,775	16,792	14,773	Cons Win Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	2	3	0	2	0	

(Total Votes – 532,262, Valid Votes – 314,192, Turnout – 59.03% and SNP Vote Share – 38.26%)

- 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.

South Scotland 2016 Results, Analysis And 2021 Projections (Cont)

What can we say about the 2016 Election Results?

- In 2016 the SNP won 4 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by $4 + 1$ (D'Hondt) = 5 from Round 1 going forward. The Tories also won 4 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by $4 + 1$ (D'Hondt) = 5 and Labour won 1 Constituency Seat, so their Regional Votes were divided by $1 + 1$ (D'Hondt) = 2.
- The SNP also won 3 Regional Seats. Unionist Parties shared the rest of the Regional Seats with the Tories winning the last one with 16,792 votes.
- In 2016 'BothVotesSNP' worked in South Scotland because the SNP only performed average in the Constituencies.

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	56,072	101,526	11,775	100,753	14,773	18,691	For Round 1 (SNP - $101,526 \div 9$ / Cons - $100,753 \div 2$)
Round 1	56,072	11,280	11,775	50,376	14,773	18,691	Lab Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Lab - $56,072 \div 2$)
Round 2	28,036	11,280	11,775	50,376	14,773	18,691	Cons Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (Cons - $100,753 \div 3$)
Round 3	28,036	11,280	11,775	33,584	14,773	18,691	Cons Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Cons - $100,753 \div 4$)
Round 4	28,036	11,280	11,775	25,188	14,773	18,691	Lab Win Round 4 - For Round 2 (Lab - $56,072 \div 3$)
Round 5	18,690	11,280	11,775	25,188	14,773	18,691	Cons Win Round 5 - For Round 4 (Cons - $100,753 \div 5$)
Round 6	18,690	11,280	11,775	20,151	14,773	18,691	Cons Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (Cons - $100,753 \div 6$)
Round 7	18,690	11,280	11,775	16,792	14,773	18,691	ISP Wins Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	2	0	0	4	0	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 8 Constituency Seats in South Scotland in 2021 meaning that their Regional Vote would be divided by $8 + 1$ (D'Hondt) = 9.
- Using 2016 as a benchmark for South Scotland in 2021, the SNP Regional Votes of $120,217 \div 9$ would equal 13,358 in 2021. This is below the level any Regional Seats were awarded in 2016. The SNP would have won '0' Regional Seats, thereby presenting Unionists with easy wins.
- If as forecasted the SNP do well in the Constituencies in 2021, BothVotesSNP will not work in the Regional Vote. 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.