

West 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 %
Clydebank and Milngavie	7,726	16,158	2,925	6,029	-	49.21	54,769	32,838	60.0
Cunninghame North	6,735	16,587	780	7,863	-	51.89	55,645	31,965	57.4
Cunninghame South	7,723	13,416	616	3,940	-	52.21	50,214	25,695	51.2
Dumbarton	13,522	13,413	1,131	4,891	-	39.92	55,104	33,598	61.0
Eastwood	11,081	11,322	921	12,932	-	31.23	53,085	36,256	68.3
Greenock and Inverclyde	8,802	17,032	1,404	4,487	-	53.69	55,172	31,725	57.5
Paisley	9,483	14,682	1,766	3,533	-	49.83	51,673	29,464	57.0
Renfrewshire North and West	7,244	14,718	888	7,345	-	47.77	50,555	30,807	60.9
Renfrewshire South	9,864	14,272	793	4,752	-	48.08	49,422	29,681	60.1
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	8,288	17,060	4880	8,960	-	43.53	62,607	39,188	62.6
Total Seats Awarded	1	8	0	1	0	46.74	538,246	321,217	53.3

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	72,544	135,827	12,097	71,528	17,218	For Round 1 (SNP - 135,827 ÷ 9 / Lab - 75,544 ÷ 2) (Cons - 71,528 ÷ 2)
Round 1	36,272	15,092	12,097	35,764	17,218	Lab Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Lab - 72,544 ÷ 3)
Round 2	24,181	15,092	12,097	35,764	17,218	Cons Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (Con - 71,528 ÷ 3)
Round 3	24,181	15,092	12,097	23,843	17,218	Lab Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Lab - 72,544 ÷ 4)
Round 4	18,136	15,092	12,097	23,843	17,218	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - 71,528 ÷ 4)
Round 5	18,136	15,092	12,097	17,882	17,218	Lab Win Round 5 - For Round 6 (Lab - 72,544 ÷ 5)
Round 6	14,509	15,092	12,097	17,882	17,218	Cons Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (Con - 71,528 ÷ 5)
Round 7	14,509	15,092	12,097	14,306	17,218	Greens Win Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	3	0	0	3	1	

(Total Votes – 538,246, Valid Votes – 322,076, Turnout – 59.84 and SNP Vote Share – 42.17%)

- 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.

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

What can we say about the 2016 Election Results?

- In 2016 the SNP won 8 Constituency Seats, so their Regional Vote was divided by 8 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 9 from Round 1 going forward. Labour and the Tories won 1 Constituency Seat each, so their Regional Votes were divided by 1 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 2.
- Despite having 'by far' the largest number of regional votes the SNP won '0' regional seats in West Scotland.
- Unionist Parties and the Greens however shared all the Regional Seats with the Greens winning the last one with 17,218 votes.
- That meant in 2016 the SNP would have needed 154,971 regional votes (an extra 19,144 votes) to win the last regional seat from the Greens in West Scotland (a 14.1% increase). **Yes, you are reading that right. The SNP needed 19,144 extra votes.**
- This is calculated as follows: $(135,827 + 19,144 = 154,971 \text{ regional votes} - 154,971 \text{ regional votes} \div 9 (8 \text{ Constituency Seats} + 1 (D'Hondt)) = 17,219 \text{ regional votes})$.

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	72,544	118,608	12,097	71,528	17,218	17,219	For Round 1 (SNP - $135,827 \div 9$ / Lab - $75,544 \div 2$) (Cons - $71,528 \div 2$)
Round 1	36,272	13,178	12,097	35,764	17,218	17,219	Lab Win Round 1 - For Round 2 (Lab - $72,544 \div 3$)
Round 2	24,181	13,178	12,097	35,764	17,218	17,219	Cons Win Round 2 - For Round 3 (Con - $71,528 \div 3$)
Round 3	24,181	13,178	12,097	23,843	17,218	17,219	Lab Win Round 3 - For Round 4 (Lab - $72,544 \div 4$)
Round 4	18,136	13,178	12,097	23,843	17,218	17,219	Cons Win Round 4 - For Round 5 (Con - $71,528 \div 4$)
Round 5	18,136	13,178	12,097	17,882	17,218	17,219	Lab Win Round 5 - For Round 6 (Lab - $72,544 \div 5$)
Round 6	14,509	13,178	12,097	17,882	17,218	17,219	Cons Win Round 6 - For Round 7 (Con - $71,528 \div 5$)
Round 7	14,509	13,178	12,097	14,306	17,218	17,219	ISP Wins Round 7
Total Seats Awarded	3	0	0	3	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 10 Constituency Seats in West Scotland in 2021 meaning that their Regional Vote would be divided by 10 + 1 (D'Hondt) = 11. Using 2016 as a benchmark, the SNP would need 189,409 Regional votes (an extra 53,582 votes) to win a Regional Seat in West Scotland in 2021. **Yes, you are reading that right. 53,582 extra votes.**
- This is calculated as follows: $(135,827 + 53,582 = 189,409 \text{ regional votes} - 189,409 \text{ regional votes} \div 11 (10 \text{ Constituency Seats} + 1 (D'Hondt)) = 17,219 \text{ regional votes})$.
- 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.