






WHERE DO THEY STAND?

A guide to the positions of the parties standing for election in Scotland in 2026 on abortion and assisted suicide. Statements are taken from party manifestoes or official statements. "Vote" refers to the final vote on Liam McArthur's Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill on 17 March 2026.

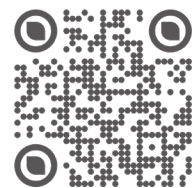
PARTY	POSITION ON ABORTION	POSITION ON ASSISTED SUICIDE
	<p>Manifesto says: "We do not support the restriction of existing abortion legislation as abortion is a legal right, and we will protect that right. We will take forward a consultation on the recommendations of the Abortion Law review chaired by Prof Anna Glasier, including on decriminalisation within the specified term limits."</p>	<p>Vote: 37 MSPs for, 22 against, 1 abstention. No explicit mention in manifesto. They commit to continued delivery of the Palliative Care Matters for All Strategy, increasing funding to £9.4 million this year, and developing a new funding model for hospices.</p>
	<p>No mention in manifesto.</p>	<p>Vote: 6 for, 22 against, 0 abstentions. No mention in manifesto, but they welcome the Palliative Care Matters for All strategy 2025-2030 and "would ensure this strategy is backed up with a new funding model to deliver the palliative care our country deserves."</p>
	<p>No explicit mention in manifesto, but it says they will "Protect women's reproductive rights, ensuring that they are able to access the full range of reproductive services, no matter where they live."</p>	<p>Vote: 3 for, 17 against, 0 abstentions. No mention in manifesto, but have sections with commitments on end of life and social care.</p>
	<p>Manifesto says: "We will treat abortion as a health-care issue and give MSPs the opportunity to vote on decriminalization."</p>	<p>Vote: 4 for, 1 against. No mention in manifesto, but includes commitments to end of life and social care. When asked about bringing assisted suicide legislation back in the next Parliament, party leader Alex Cole-Hamilton said: "I would hope it would be brought back in the next parliament."</p>
	<p>No mention in manifesto</p>	<p>Vote: 0 for, 1 against, 0 abstentions. No mention in manifesto.</p>

PARTY	POSITION ON ABORTION	POSITION ON ASSISTED SUICIDE
	<p>Manifesto says: <i>“The Scottish Greens believe access to abortion is a fundamental right. Abortion care is healthcare and should be treated like any other health procedure. That is why we want to end the antiquated “two doctor rule” and ensure that people do not have to give a reason for why they are seeking abortion care. Nobody should have to justify why they are seeking abortion care, and we believe this will help to remove the stigma around abortion.”</i></p> <p>Manifesto commitments include:</p> <p><i>“Decriminalise abortion and remove the ‘two doctor rule’ by bringing forward legislation that ensures there are no offences for anyone ending their own pregnancy.”</i></p> <p>Expand abortion services in Scotland so patients are not required to travel to England, and retain the 12-week limit on telemedical abortion care, reducing the need for women to have to travel long distances in Scotland.</p> <p>The manifesto lists <i>“Protected patients and staff from harassment outside abortion clinics, so everyone can safely access the healthcare they are entitled to”</i> as an achievement.</p>	<p>Vote: 7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.</p> <p>No mention in manifesto, but they say: <i>“It is vital that we also support people to die well and we need to have honest conversations about what a good death looks like. Palliative care has been neglected for too long and we will invest in services so that people can access help and support in their community, 24/7.”</i></p>
	<p>According to their website, they <i>“value every human life in the womb and affirm his or her right to life...Ultimately, we would like to see the law protect every human life by banning abortion in all cases except where the mother’s life is endangered.”</i></p>	<p>Vote: no elected MSPs.</p> <p>They <i>“oppose the introduction of assisted suicide and euthanasia (now misleadingly labelled as ‘assisted dying’).”</i></p>
	<p>No information. According to their website <i>“Our representatives will vote with their conscience on all matters, except for our singular commitment to advancing the cause of independence.”</i></p>	<p>No information. According to their website <i>“Our representatives will vote with their conscience on all matters, except for our singular commitment to advancing the cause of independence.”</i></p>

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SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN
 40 St Enoch Square, Glasgow, Scotland, G1 4DH, UK.
 TEL: +44 (0)141 221 2094 WEB: www.spuc.org.uk



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