

November 2014

Neil Findlay and Katy Clark win UNISON backing for Scottish Labour leadership

UNISON Labour Link Scotland choices for Leader and Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour on why you should vote for them see over for news report

I want to lead Scottish Labour because I want Labour to lead Scotland.

We as a party can change Scotland.

My own life is an example of that.

I left school with few qualifications but was able to serve an apprenticeship as a bricklayer.

It was the gains won for working people by the Labour Party that gave me the opportunity to go on to study, eventually becoming a teacher.

We are the party of more powers for Scotland. But that will count for little if we aren't telling people that we are the party of more jobs, more houses and more college places.

We need an economy that works for all the people - where all the people are able to work, and work in jobs with decent pay.

Instead we have children relying on food banks, huge housing waiting lists, creaking public services and the scandal of fifteen minute care visits. We can't go on like this.

Politics as usual won't address these problems.

We need a different approach in policy, strategy and leadership.

We need policies that recognise the challenges people face and are radical enough to tackle them.

We need to improve our organisation and structures to make sure those policies are communicated effectively.

I can represent and drive through that fresh approach, providing a contrast with our past shortcomings and our opponent's present failings.

Labour values for a Labour Scotland is a vision we all share. Let's make it happen.



Neil Findlay MSP



Katy Clark MP

I am standing for deputy to help deliver the social and political change that the people of Scotland are demanding.

Johann and Anas have given us strong leadership over the last three years but after a hard-fought referendum campaign we need to acknowledge that

we cannot go back to business as usual.

To reclaim the ground we have lost we must recognise that the mainstream of Scottish opinion is opposed to Trident, austerity, privatisation and attacks on welfare.

We all need a secure job, a decent home and good public services but this is prevented for too many by so much wealth and power being held in the hands of a few.

Labour has a proven track record of fighting for Scotland. The NHS, the Equal Pay Act, health and safety legislation, the National Minimum Wage and the establishment of the Scottish Parliament are just some of the examples of measures taken by Labour Governments that have improved the lives of people across Scotland.

We now need to demonstrate how we will continue to fight for Scotland and campaign for further redistribution of power from London to Scotland, and a fundamental redistribution of wealth and power within Scotland.

We need to get better at putting across Labour's message. I want to work closely with every CLP and the trade unions in doing that.

I will put members and trade union members at the top of my agenda and I will provide the vital link between Westminster and Holyrood to ensure that we are all speaking with one voice as Scottish Labour.

Scottish Labour Link Forum backs Neil Findlay for Scottish party leader and Katy Clark for deputy

UNISON Scotland's Labour Link has endorsed Neil Findlay MSP and Katy Clark MP in the election to be Leader and Deputy Leader of Scottish Labour after a hustings at the annual Labour Link Forum on 1 November.

Gordon McKay, chair of UNISON Labour Link Scotland said Lothians MSP Neil Findlay had outlined a radical new policy approach which members will welcome.

"Members have been hugely impressed with Neil Findlay since he became an MSP and in particular as Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing," Gordon McKay said.

"Neil understands that politics as usual isn't good enough and we believe he offers a fresh approach with a real experience and understanding of the concerns of working people".

Gordon McKay said Katy Clark, the MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, has a great record of campaigning on the issues that matter to UNISON members in Scotland, on public services, employment rights, pensions, inequality and many other concerns.

"Her views have remained consistent with Labour's traditions and values and that is vital if Scottish Labour is to build its support in Scotland. Katy has shown before and after becoming an MP that she is on the side of working people."

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT

As a UNISON Labour Link member you have a vote in the affiliated organisations section of the Labour electoral college. If you are a full member of the Labour Party you will also have a vote in the membership section.

Ballot papers for the Leader and Deputy Leader election will be sent to every affiliated fund member. The ballot closes on 10 December. Results will be declared on 13 December.

Help UNISON to make new challenges on Scottish Labour policy

Scottish Labour needs a brand new policy direction for the elections to the Holyrood parliament in 2016. And you can help to shape that manifesto as a member of UNISON Scotland Labour Link.

UNISON's Scottish Labour Link is fully engaged in the policy forums which are creating the 2016 Manifesto. Check out the 'Challenge papers' containing initial policy ideas:

- Providing opportunities for learning
- Working together to generate growth
- Building a healthier Scotland
- Creating safe and prosperous communities

These are available online at our Scottish Labour Link web page
www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink

And let us know what you think should be included.

Get in touch and get involved - in Labour Link

No matter who wins the Scottish Labour Party Leader election, we know that Labour has to change its policy direction to get in tune with the voters and win again in Scotland.

That means UNISON Labour Link members like you must get involved. We need Labour Link members to join the Labour Party. We need party members to become branch delegates to CLPs. We need activists to think of becoming elected representatives. We need to campaign to bring UNISON Labour Link policies into Labour.

Get in touch and help make the UNISON voice heard in Labour. Contact Malcolm Burns by email m.burns@unison.co.uk or phone 0141 342 2883 or by post at UNISON Scotland, 14 West Campbell Street, GLASGOW G2 6RX

www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink

Sign up as a Labour supporter - free

If you support Labour, you can give the Labour Party your details and they'll keep in touch with you regularly about campaigns and how you can get involved.

There's no charge to sign up as a Supporter.

As a member of an organisation affiliated to the Labour Party, you'll be an Affiliated Supporter, and you'll be entitled to attend some local Labour Party meetings.

Supporters can help our campaigns by volunteering locally, sharing Labour information with social media, or joining our online policy discussions.

Affiliated Supporters also get the chance to register to vote in future UK Labour leadership elections.

support.labour.org.uk