

A3-Holyrood Constituencies Branch Motion: Standing in constituencies for Holyrood 2021

Proposer: Alys Mumford (Lothian campaign board)

Motion text

1 Edinburgh branch supports the recommendation of the Lothian 2021 campaign board
2 to stand in two constituencies within our region and that:

- 3 • Those 2 constituencies should be the 2 in which Green vote share is
4 highest – namely Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Northern and Leith.
- 5 • The 2 candidates for those constituencies should be the 2 top-ranked
6 candidates on the Lothian list and our two sitting MSPs: Alison Johnstone
7 and Andy Wightman.

Reason

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While our Scottish parliament elections are focused on winning seats on the regional list, our long-term election strategy sees us contesting constituencies, with the aim of:

- increasing the profile of the party as a whole, and our top list candidates;
- supporting our 2022 council campaign with voter reach and canvassing data;
- offering (some) voters the opportunity to vote green for both the list and the constituency votes;
- "Emphasising that we offer a distinct and radical agenda from other parties rather than being solely a focus for list votes"

The 2021 strategy at a national level recommends that all branches stand in one constituency seat, and that seat be offered to the top candidate on the list. As Edinburgh currently has two sitting MSPs, and in order to continue the strategy started in 2016 (where Alison Johnstone stood in Edinburgh Central), the national party is happy to support the Lothian 2021 Campaign Board recommendation to stand in two constituencies. The top list candidates (Alison Johnstone, Andy Wightman and Lorna Slater) have been consulted with, and agree with this proposal. The costs incurred for this would be £500 for the second deposit, with the first being covered by the national party, which is reflected in the campaign budget.

Supporters

Rebecca Luff (Treasurer); Kate Nevens (Co-convener)