

May 6 - your vote counts! - Make it Labour

Every vote will count in this election, and it's never been more important to vote Labour:

The result of this election matters as much in Scotland as anywhere else in Britain – and a Tory Government would be bad news for union members, their families and their communities.

The rules that govern how long we work and how many holidays we are entitled to, the level of the minimum wage, and whether or not we receive tax credits, maternity pay and leave, paternity leave, and health and safety regulations are all issues at stake in the election.

Under Attack

All of these have been improved under Labour – and all of them will be

under attack if the Conservatives win. Labour introduced the minimum wage - and will increase it year on year. The Tories opposed the idea, voted against it and have no commitment to raise the minimum wage.

Labour has increased maternity pay *and* increased the amount of time it's paid for from 13 weeks under the Tories to 9 months under Labour

Labour has introduced paternity leave - and promised to expand it.



Labour introduced the Child Trust Fund – the Tories call it “a luxury” So it's unlikely to prosper in the “Age of Austerity” that the Tories are promising.

Labour has given Part Time workers equal rights at work - and will extend

them to agency workers.

'Red Tape'?

The Tories describe most of these advances for ordinary people as ‘red tape’ and are committed to ‘simplifying’ employment legislation. This will not just attack ordinary people it will make it more difficult for them to use their unions to stand up for themselves at their work.

All of these issues are decided at Westminster. So regardless of devolution, the outcome of this election will be felt as much in Saltcoats as Southampton, Inverness as Ipswich. So it's as important in Scotland as anywhere else that the message goes out -

If you don't want a Tory Government - Vote Labour.

The Tories do not care about workers' or trade union rights. If they win power they will take away our rights:

They opposed the introduction of the national minimum wage and have already said they will freeze incremental rises. They have pledged to pull out of the Europe-wide Social Charter that guarantees paid leave and breaks.

They have said they will scrap equal rights for part-time and agency workers.

David Cameron wants to weaken health and safety protection at work, relaxing the law and making employer regulations voluntary. It is proven that union-organised workplaces are safer than non organised workplaces – workers face a real and two sided attack on their rights and protection at work.

They are already gearing up to restrict union spaces and activities in the workplace.

Don't let the Tories turn the clock back on employment, the economy and our NHS. Labour is standing up for the many, not just the few.

The Tories haven't changed and they are coming after trade unions. Don't let them take away our rights.

This newsletter is published by the Scottish Trade Union Labour Party Committee
Chair: John Quigley (Unite). **Vice-Chair: Harry Donaldson** (GMB). **Treasurer: Willie Lawson** (CWU)
For further details contact the Secretary, Dave Watson(UNISON), **UNISON House, 14 West Campbell Street, Glasgow. G2 6RX** d.watson@unison.co.uk

Don't Vote SNP - don't let the Tories in through the back door

Even David Cameron doesn't think that the Tories will do well in Scotland, but voting Labour is as vital here as anywhere else in this election.

The last thing anyone wants is to let the Tories in by the back door, but that's exactly what will happen if people don't vote Labour in seats where the SNP are challenging.

The simple truth is that either Labour will win the election - or the Tories will. And any seat Labour loses to the SNP will make a Tory victory that much more likely - with all the disastrous consequences that will follow.

Not that the SNP deserve peoples votes. Since being elected two years ago there have been a string of broken promises and failures from the SNP in Holyrood. Whether it's on free school meals or grants for first time buyers or paying off student debt the SNP are failing to deliver on their promises. They promised to cut class sizes - instead they've cut the number of teachers .

A big boy did it

Alex Salmond tries to blame it all on the Government at Westminster. An "it wisnae me, I wisnae

there, a big boy did it and ran away" approach. But it's the SNP that have put a year on year Council Tax freeze in place which has cost local government over two hundred million pounds.

Not one brick

The Scottish Futures Trust that the SNP promised would replace PFI hasn't laid a single brick - but the SNP have made sure it has a Chief Executive being paid a six figure salary.

They've also opposed a Labour Bill in the Scottish Parliament to regulate buses - this would have allowed Community Transport to accept free bus passes and extend the free bus pass scheme to those on the lower rate of Disability Living Allowance.

Meanwhile, Labour in Holyrood have forced the SNP to increase the numbers of young people getting modern apprenticeships.

Incidentally - all suitably qualified school leavers in



England will be guaranteed an apprenticeship by 2013. The SNP aren't supporting a Labour bill in Holyrood to get the same guarantee.

Their record in Westminster isn't much better, Labour are putting an Equality Bill through the UK Parliament. One of its provisions is that Public Bodies would have a duty to consider what impact policies have on inequality. The SNP have opposed this. Voting with the Tories, as they have in two thirds of the votes in the House of Commons since 2005.

Does a Tory victory matter?

If the Tories win they will attack peoples rights at work, they will put through savage cuts in public services and make life harder for every one who uses (or delivers!) them. The SNP don't care whether we have a Labour or Tory government.

A Tory victory might not matter to the SNP - but it will matter in our workplaces and in our communities.

Every vote for the SNP makes a Tory win more likely - don't take the chance of letting the Tories in through the back

door - Vote Labour.

Labour

- securing the recovery

Faced with a global recession and the worst financial crisis in 60 years, Labour was not prepared to let the recession take its course.

Labour chose action at a local, national and global level to protect homes, jobs and businesses.

At a cost

This action cost money, but it is working - the rate of unemployment, business failures and home reposessions have been a lot lower than in the Tory recession of the 1990s. Now we must build our

"Under Labour, 60% of the taxes raised for fiscal consolidation will be on the wealthiest 5%."

economic future, using the potential of all our people, not just a few. It would be a huge mistake to cut support while the economy is still recovering.

Broad Shoulders

Labour will ensure that those with the broadest shoulders contribute most to our recovery. Under Labour, 60% of the taxes raised for fiscal consolidation will be on the wealthiest 5%. As of April 2010 those earning above £150,000 will pay 50% income tax.



John Park MSP - championed apprentice places

Cameron's Conservatives: warm words - cold realities



The Tories want you to be taken in by their warm words – but take a long careful look at the cold reality.

The Tories promise an age of austerity - but tax cuts for the richest.

The Tories would remove the child trust fund from two-thirds of families.

Handouts to the Rich

The Tories promise to cut inheritance tax. This would be a handout for the richest 300 or so people in Scotland who would benefit by at least £200,000 each. Not for people on modest incomes, not for people in middle incomes, not even for the moderately wealthy. No – they want



The Tories want to help the richest few estates

to help the richest few estates – giving them a tax hand out of £200,000 each. So, of Scotland's five million people there are about 300 of the wealthiest who would benefit from this £200,000 cut.

“Tories might have a lot of warm words. But the cold reality of their plans is to cut your benefits, cut your front-line services and cut your jobs.”

That's the Conservative Party; when it comes to a choice between child tax credits for millions, and inheritance tax cuts for 300 people they make the choice not for the many but for the few.

No connection we are sure, with the fact that Shadow Chancellor, George Osborne is heir to the Osborne and Little wallpaper fortune. He will also

inherit a knighthood from his father Sir Peter.



The Tories also say they will adjust National Insurance – but anything people gain from NI cuts they will lose in the £5bn cuts in public spending that the Tories are planning and that's before they put up VAT.

The Tories want to scrap the allowances on corporation tax that a business gets if it invests in growth, in order to lavish a massive tax break on big banks and corporations regardless of the quality or volume of jobs they create.

Handouts to the Banks

Their plans for corporation tax cuts would give the biggest handouts to the biggest companies and banks, whether they invest or not, and they would pay for this by taking most from the manufacturing companies that are critical to growth and jobs. It's classic Tory policy: reward the big banks that drove the recession and punish the industries that are driving the recovery.

The Tories say they want to 'simplify' employment law - what they mean is they want to make it more difficult for workers to use their unions to stand up for themselves. They also want to allow companies to have the right to refuse inspections from the Health and Safety Executive.

Let's be clear – the Tories might have a lot of warm words. But the cold reality of their plans is to cut your benefits, cut your frontline services and cut your jobs.

Time for a Change?



It depends what sort of change you are looking for. In this case it is wrong to think about it as the change you choose but more like the change you could lose.

Voting Conservative risks turning the clock back on hard won employment rights, the economy and our NHS.

The economy is showing signs that it's slowly emerging from recession – thanks to the decisive action of Labour in power, which the Tories opposed. The Tories would have 'let the recession run its course' forcing millions on to the scrapheap.

Labour Has the Will



Labour HAS

- **Introduced the national minimum wage – increasing it year on year.**
- **Created the right to 28 days paid holiday.**
- **Introduced equal pay and conditions for part-time workers** – including equal pro-rata pay, pension and holiday entitlements as full time employees.
- **Given every worker a right to join a trade union and to be informed of this right.**
- **Introduced rights for temporary workers** - which stop employers exploiting them and undercutting their permanent staff.
- **Introduced Working Time rules** - meaning that all workers have the right to decent breaks and mealtimes at work.
- **Vastly improved parental leave and pay.**
- **Brought in information and consultation rights for employees** - when employers propose changes to employment or redundancy.



Labour WILL

- **Increase the minimum wage**
- **Make sure that any 18-24 year old out of work for 6 months will be guaranteed work or training.**
- **Give the same protections to agency workers as full and part time employees.**
- **Maintain the Child Trust Fund that the Tories describe as “a luxury”**
- **Make people earning over £100 000 pay a greater share of their income in tax .**
- **Give a two-year Stamp Duty holiday for first-time buyers on residential property transactions up to £250,000**



Get involved!



- **Sign up for union campaigns...**
- **Make your voice heard...**
- **Find out about events in your area...**

The Tories are out of touch with hard-working people.

Help Labour win the fight for Britain's future.

As a trade unionist you can join the Labour Party at a reduced rate.

- Yes, I'm a Labour supporter. You can count on my support. Yes, I want to join Labour, please call me on:.....
- Yes, I'm a Labour supporter, please email me details of how to vote by post: at.....
- Yes, I'm interested in joining Labour, please email me more details at:
- Yes, I want to help Labour by making a donation, please call me on:
- Yes, I have friends and family who are Labour supporters.

Please call (full name)..... on (Tel No.)

Please call (full name)..... on (Tel No.)

Please call (full name)..... on (Tel No.)

Your details:

Name.....

Address.....

Tel Postcode..... Email.....

Complete this form and return in a stamped envelope to:

The Labour Party, National Communications Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3PW.

To Join the Labour Party now phone 0141 572 6900.

Scottish Labour Party E mail Scotland@new.labour.org.uk Website: www.scottishlabour.org.uk