

August 2008

Jamieson and Butler for leader and deputy

UNISON Labour Link's Scottish Committee has unanimously endorsed Cathy Jamieson MSP for Leader of Labour in Scotland, and Bill Butler MSP for Deputy.

Jamieson and Butler won the supporting nominations following a lively hustings meeting in Glasgow on Tuesday 12 August. All five leadership candidates spoke and answered questions from UNISON members.

Pat Rowland Chair of UNISON LabourLink Scotland said: "The Committee overwhelmingly agrees that Cathy Jamieson and Bill Butler best reflect the key Labour values that UNISON believes the Party has to champion if Labour is to retain the support of working people."

The deadline for returning your ballot paper is 9 September. Please use your vote. The winner will be declared on 13 September.

Cathy Jamieson for Leader

Labour's Deputy Leader in the Scottish Parliament, Cathy has been Acting Leader on three occasions, and has successfully taken on the SNP at First Minister's Questions.



Leader nominee: Cathy Jamieson

Cathy was Justice Minister in the last Scottish Parliament, responsible for a legislative programme including reform of Courts, policing, family law, and the Scottish Commission on Human Rights. Previously as Minister for Education and Young People, she took forward legislation on child protection, commenced the biggest school building programme in a generation, and modernised Social Work education.

Cathy has been MSP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley since 1999.



Deputy nominee: Bill Butler

Bill Butler for Deputy Leader

Bill Butler is MSP for Glasgow Anniesland, winning a by-election following the death of First Minister Donald Dewar.

He is a member of the Justice 2, Standards and Local Government & Transport Committees of the Parliament.

His backing in the last Scottish Parliament for a bill to make Scottish health boards part-elected resulted in a change to Labour's policy in line with UNISON.

Leadership Elections Hustings - where you can have your say

As part of the election process for the Labour Leader and Deputy Leader in the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Labour Party Executive Committee have arranged a series of hustings meetings around Scotland.

For those who have not attended a hustings before, this is a chance to hear the candidates make an opening statement and then face questions from you, the people who will be

voting in this election.

If you are an individual member of the Scottish Labour Party, tickets for hustings are available by emailing scotland@new.labour.org.uk or calling the Scottish Labour office on 0141 5726900.

If you are a UNISON Labour Link levy paying member eligible to vote in this election you can register for the hustings by emailing m.burns@unison.co.uk

Dates and times of hustings

The agenda of hustings meetings is as follows:

Sun 17 Aug 1.00pm	Aberdeen
Wed 20 Aug 7.00pm	Edinburgh
Fri 22 Aug 6.30pm	Inverness
Sun 24 Aug 2.00pm	Dunfermline
Mon 25 Aug 6.30pm	Dundee
Thurs 28 Aug 6.00pm	Glasgow
Sun 31 Sept 2.00pm	Stirling
Mon 1 Sept 6.00pm	Ayr

Get involved in making Labour Party policy

The Scottish Labour Policy Forum will kick off again in October. No matter who wins the Scottish Labour Party Leader and Deputy 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 in the policy process. You can help shape Labour's agenda.

Labour Policy Forum

UNISON feeds in to Labour's agenda through the Labour Party Policy Forum. At its meeting on August 12, the Scottish Labour Link Policy Committee agreed to appoint Pat Rowland, Katrina Murray and Dave Watson as delegates to the Labour Party Policy Forum.

How you can get involved

We need views and ideas from all Labour Link members - and that mean you - on which policies Labour needs to adopt in order to reconnect and engage with its core supporters. If you have an interest in any area of policy, we need to tap into your expertise.

Send us your views

The most effective way for you to communicate your views and ideas to us is by email, so if you are not already on our email list, please get in touch to be added.

Please see the box below for more on getting involved in our email network.

We will of course be happy to receive your views by post too.

Your local Labour Link

Your branch Labour Link Officer will have details of local activities, meetings and campaigns.

Labour Link Forum in Glasgow on 15 November

This year's Scottish Labour Link Forum will take place in Glasgow on Saturday 15 November. It will be an ideal opportunity for Labour Link members to have their voice heard and help to make policy. If you would like to take part in this conference please contact your Labour Link Branch officer.

If you need to find out who that is, or wish to know more about getting involved in the Labour Link policy process, and help UNISON Scotland to shape Labour's next Scottish election manifesto, please get in touch with us at Head Office.

Contact Malcolm Burns by post at UNISON Scotland, 14 West Campbell Street, GLASGOW G2 6RX, by email at m.burns@unison.co.uk or by telephone on 0141 342 2811.

● Remember to check out the UNISON Scotland Labour Link pages on our website: www.unison-scotland.org.uk/labourlink

Other Scottish Labour Leadership candidates

For Leader

Iain Gray was Scotland's Oxfam Campaigns Director for twelve years. He has held 4 different Ministerial posts. Since 2007, Iain has been Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

Andy Kerr has been MSP for East Kilbride since 1999. Andy is a UNISON member. In 2001, he joined the Scottish Executive as Finance Minister and was Health Minister from 2004-2007.

For Deputy Leader

Johann Lamont has been MSP for Glasgow Pollok since 1999 and has been Deputy Minister for Communities and for Justice.

● Find more on the leadership election and candidates at: www.scottishlabour.org.uk

Get in touch - send us your email addresses please!

If you have an email address and you would like to be added to our growing Scottish Labour Link email list, please email m.burns@unison.co.uk with your details. Email is faster, cheaper and more environmentally beneficial than sending letters.

It would be also useful to know what Constituency you are in, and to find out if you are already a delegate, or if you could be a delegate to your local Constituency Labour Party. We'd like to try and increase our numbers of delegates so the union's voice in the Labour Party is heard more clearly.

What we'd like to know:

- Email address (and phone number)
- Are you a Constituency Labour Party delegate from your UNISON branch? If so which CLP?
- If not, would you be interested in becoming a UNISON delegate to your local CLP?

Email your details to m.burns@unison.co.uk or call 0141 342 2811

● Join Labour for just £1 a month

As a UNISON member you can join the Labour Party at a special rate of just £1 per month.

Download the UNISON Labour application form here:

www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/B3330.pdf

or call the Labour membership hotline on 08705 900 200