



# Elect to cycle

With elections imminent for the Scottish and Welsh parliaments, as well as some English councils, Sophie Gordon explains what Cycling UK is pressing for – and what you can do

**T**his spring's elections look likely to transform large parts of the UK's political landscape. Wales may see the biggest shake-up since devolution began. Polls predict a move away from a longstanding Welsh Labour government. Plus, there's a new electoral system. Competition for seats in the Senedd will be fierce.

In Scotland, the polls suggest that the SNP looks set to secure the most seats but not necessarily a majority, and at least 39 current MSPs are standing down. With many seats predicted to go to the Scottish Greens, Liberal Democrats or Reform, there will be lots of new faces in Holyrood.

Then there's the turmoil around English local elections. Some councils were told to delay until 2027, only to be thrust back into election mode this year.

## The youth vote

All this change makes it crucial to engage with incoming politicians from all parties to find allies who will champion cycle-friendly policies. Election candidates hear a lot about issues like security, immigration and the cost of living. Active travel is unlikely to be top of their list of voter concerns. We need to prove that it's important to their constituents, and show how more cycling can solve other problems.

Young people especially care about this. In Scotland, 74% of under-25s support redesigning streets to improve safety for

walking and cycling (source: YouGov polls for Cycling UK). Feelings are equally strong in Wales. Three quarters of 16- to 30-year-olds support street improvements, and 6 in 10 favour allocating 10% of the transport budget to walking and cycling.

Millie, a 16-year-old student from Penarth, told us: "The issue is, we really need more separated cycle lanes, like the ones around Newport Road. More dedicated cycle lanes would be a game changer for how people like me get around."

Gwenda Owen, Cycling UK's Wales Advocacy and Development Lead, said: "This should send a clear message to candidates standing in May's Senedd elections. Young people across Wales strongly support investment in cycling and walking, and want to see practical changes that make active travel safer and easier."

## Cycling UK's demands

Our manifestos for Scotland and Wales carry a simple message for future governments: make cycling the easy choice.

Here's how they can do that:

- 1 Invest in active travel
- 2 Create safer roads for everyone
- 3 Improve access to green spaces
- 4 Increase transport choice and connectivity for all
- 5 Enable more children to cycle, especially in Scotland

## Your voice matters

First of all, visit [cyclinguk.org/elections2026](https://cyclinguk.org/elections2026). Then:

- **Join a hustings event**  
On 14 and 15 April, we're hosting online hustings events for the Welsh and Scottish elections, along with other walking and cycling organisations. It's an opportunity to quiz party representatives about what they'll do to create places that are better for cycling and walking, to help you make up your mind how to vote. The events are open to everyone to attend – all you need to do is register online.
- **Question your candidates**  
Candidates are keen to hear what you care about, so make sure you tell them. We've set up an online tool to help you quickly find out who your candidates are and ask them what they will do to make cycling easier where you live.
- **Get involved locally**  
Whether it's Scottish and Welsh national elections, or local elections in England, our elections toolkit is packed with practical ideas for engaging candidates, organising events and sharing positive stories.

Clockwise from top left: Morever, Andy Catlin, Morever, Cycling UK