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# **FOR Argyll and Bute**

**Election statement of Mick Rice,  
Independent Socialist candidate  
for Argyll and Bute.**



## Reclaim Politics for Argyll & Bute

You don't have to be a radical socialist to agree that the old, top-down parties have let us down. From ferry failures to housing crises, they've treated our communities as an afterthought.

### The Ferry Failure

We've endured years of broken vessels, cancelled sailings, and a lifeline service run into the ground. Island communities have been cut off, businesses have lost trade, and families have missed appointments and celebrations. The old parties have had decades to fix this and have failed us utterly **We need a publicly-owned ferry service, built and maintained in Scotland, with crewed vessels as backup—not just profit-driven contracts.**

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### The Housing Crisis

Across Argyll & Bute, young people cannot afford to stay. Second homes sit empty while families are priced out. Our teachers, nurses, and hospitality workers cannot find homes. **We need a massive council house building program, rent controls, and action on empty homes—so our communities can thrive again.**

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### Rural Health Under Threat

Our NHS is on its knees. We struggle to recruit GPs, our dental services have collapsed, and travel to appointments is a nightmare. The old parties cut and privatise while telling us there's no money. **We want increased funding for rural healthcare, fair pay for workers, and a fully public NHS—not backdoor privatisation.**

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### Cost-of-Living Crisis

Our weekly shop gets ever more expensive. Heating costs spiral. Fuel poverty is rampant. Meanwhile, energy giants make record profits from our Scottish resources. **We want public ownership of energy—so Scottish resources benefit Scottish communities, not corporate shareholders.**

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### The Truth About Our Economy

The UK pays more than £100 billion a year—this is more than 50% of the NHS budget—to US

corporations in commission and transaction charges. Our wealth is extracted by global elites while our potholes go unfilled and our school's crumble. **We need economic democracy, worker cooperatives, and keeping wealth in our communities.**

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### **Beyond War and Division**

While Westminster parties rush to militarisation—spending billions on weapons instead of welfare—our communities need peace dividends, not war profits. Whether it's the ongoing horror in Gaza or the sabre-rattling with Russia, ordinary people pay the price for elite conflicts. **I will always speak up for peace, human rights, and an end to the genocide in Palestine. Everyone deserves freedom and dignity.**

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### **A New Kind of Politics**

The old parties want us to feel helpless—accepting ferry cancellations, accepting unaffordable housing, accepting endless wars. They are controlled by top-down

elites sponsored by the super-rich.

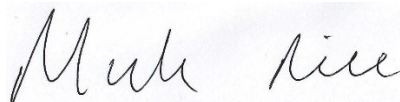
There is a better way. A new world is possible. We, ordinary people, need to organise. That's why I'm standing with Your Party—to give Argyll & Bute a real voice, not another Westminster loyalist.

If you vote for me, it's a commitment for us to organise together—to resist the billionaires and techno-elites who grow ever richer by keeping us poor, and to rebuild community power from the ground up.

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**£15 Minimum Wage**  
**NHS Pay Rise**  
**Subsidise Basic Foods**  
**Workers on Boards**  
**Stop War, Fund Welfare**

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**Mick Rice**  
**Constituency Candidate**  
**for Argyll & Bute**

**Argyll and Bute needs a radical socialist voice  
that speaks up for ordinary people.**

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# I PLEDGE TO FIGHT FOR:

## **Ferry Revolution**

Public ownership of all ferry services. Vessels built and maintained in Scotland. Crewed backup vessels. Affordable fares for islanders and businesses.

## **Housing Justice in Argyll**

Massive council house building. Rent controls. Action on second homes and empty properties. A future for our young people.

## **NHS Protection**

Fully public NHS with increased funding. Recruit and retain rural GPs. Restore NHS dentistry. Fair pay for all healthcare workers.

## **Rural Transport Revolution**

Public ownership of buses and trains. Integrated ticketing. Affordable fares for all. Improved connections between our towns and islands.

## **Green Industrial Revolution**

Public ownership of energy. Investment in renewables. Green jobs in Argyll. Use Scottish energy at cost—lower bills for all.

## **Free Education**

Lifelong learning for all. Support rural education access. Keep education free—no to tuition fees.

## **Economic Democracy**

Worker cooperatives. Living wage for all. Wealth redistribution through progressive taxation. Local wealth kept local.

## **Land Reform**

Break up landed estates. Community right to buy. Support for crofting and small-scale agriculture.

## **Digital Rights**

Broadband as a right—not a luxury. Full fibre for every home and business in Argyll

& Bute.

## **Peace & Justice**

End the genocide in Gaza. Stop war funding—invest in communities instead. Scotland must be a voice for peace.

## **Independence**

The people must decide. Genuine independence—not managed by Westminster or Brussels—so Scotland can build the fairer society we need.

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**If elected I will only pay myself the average Scottish wage and donate the surplus to Your Party – in Argyll and Bute**

Please see my detailed policy proposals at [www.electmick.vote](http://www.electmick.vote).



**[www.electmick.vote](http://www.electmick.vote)**