



Scottish independence referendum, 2014

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A referendum on Scottish independence took place on 18 September 2014.^[1] The referendum question, which voters answered with "Yes" or "No", was "Should Scotland be an independent country?"^[2] The "No" side won, with 2,001,926 (55.3%) voting against independence and 1,617,989 (44.7%) voting in favour. The turnout of 84.6% was the highest recorded for an election or referendum in the United Kingdom since the introduction of universal suffrage.

The Scottish Independence Referendum Bill, setting out the arrangements for this referendum, was passed by the Scottish Parliament in November 2013, following an agreement between the Scottish and the United Kingdom governments, and was enacted as the Scottish Independence Referendum Act 2013. To pass, the independence proposal required a simple majority. With some exceptions, all European Union (EU) or Commonwealth citizens resident in Scotland aged 16 or over could vote, a total of almost 4.3 million people. This was the first time that the electoral franchise was extended to include 16 and 17 year olds in Scotland.

Yes Scotland was the main campaign group for independence, while Better Together was the main campaign group in favour of maintaining the union. Many other campaign groups, political parties, businesses, newspapers and prominent individuals were also involved. Prominent issues raised during the referendum included which currency an independent Scotland would use, public expenditure, EU membership, and North Sea oil.

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Scottish independence referendum

Should Scotland be an independent country?

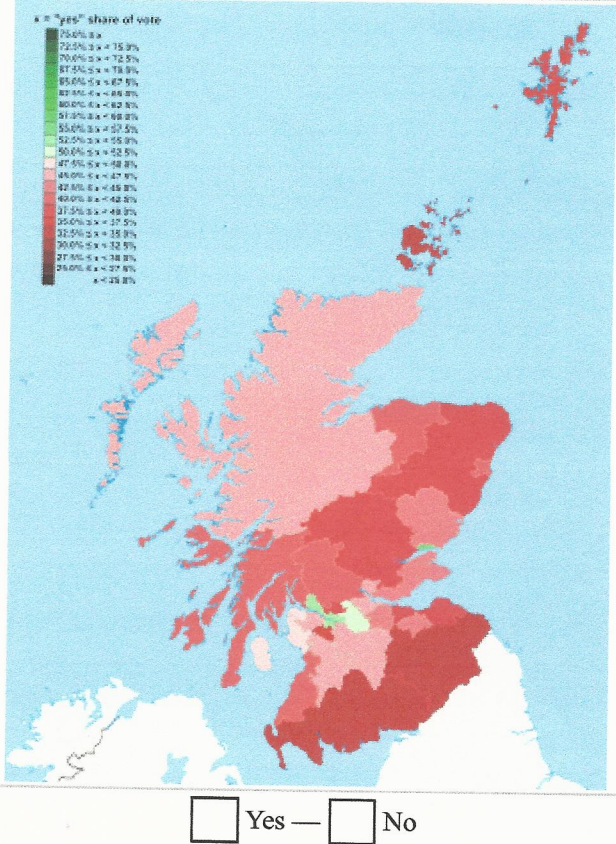
Location Scotland

Date 18 September 2014

Results

	Votes	%
✓ Yes	1,617,989	44.70%
✗ No	2,001,926	55.30%
Valid votes	3,619,915	99.91%
Invalid or blank votes	3,429	0.09%
Total votes	3,623,344	100.00%
Registered voters/turnout	4,283,392	84.59%

Results by council area



Note: Saturation of colour denotes strength of vote