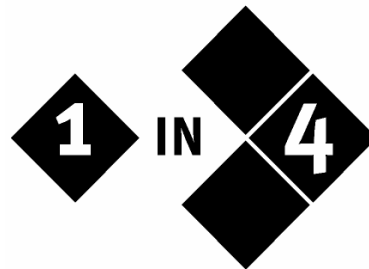


CAPABILITY SCOTLAND

TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY



**Summary Findings of Scottish Elections Voting
Intentions Survey 2003**

Main Findings of Scottish Elections Voting Intentions Survey 2003

Key Themes:

- Respondents voted largely the way the rest of the population did in 1999
- This time round, people may be preparing to move their vote
- Disabled people and their families have similar policy priorities as other voters – but also rank issues particular to their life circumstances more highly
- Respondents feel the last four years of devolved government have done little to improve their living circumstances
- Instead of staying away like the general electorate, most respondents still intend to vote on 1 May

General Findings:

- 146 participants – 41% of 1 in 4 poll panel members – responded to this survey
- 41% of respondents were male, 58% female
- nearly a third of respondents were aged between 35 and 44 with 25% aged between 45 and 54
- three quarters of respondents describe themselves as having a disability or a medical condition or illness

How people voted in 1999 and intend to vote in 2003:

- 92% stated that they voted in the last Scottish elections in 1999 with little difference in the level of participation between disabled people and carers
- the same percentage intend to vote in the 2003 Scottish elections, with over three quarters intending to vote in person rather than use an absent voting method
- in 1999, disabled people and carers voting patterns largely mirrored those of the general population
- on the constituency vote in the Scottish Parliament elections (the first vote) 13% voted Conservative, 40% voted Labour, 13% voted Liberal Democrat, 24% voted SNP and 2% voted SSP; general voting patterns were as follows: 16% Conservative, 39% Labour, 14% Liberal Democrat, 29% SNP and 1% SSP
- in 2003, many respondents appear to be considering switching their constituency vote with the biggest potential losers being Labour – 23% of respondents said they intended to vote Labour this time compared to 40% having voted for them in 1999 on the first vote
- on the second regional vote, 11% voted Conservative (compared to 15% of the general population), 36% voted Labour (34%), 15% voted Liberal Democrat (12%), 22% voted SNP (28%) and 3% voted SSP (2%)
- again, a large number of respondents appear to be thinking of shifting their vote on the 2nd ballot in 2003
- nearly one in four respondents are unsure who they will be voting for in either of the Scottish Parliament ballots on 1 May

- the SNP appears to have the strongest core vote of the parties with nearly three quarters of respondents who voted for them in 1999 intending to do so this time on both votes
- sharing the same polling day may help lift turnout in the council elections with 95% of respondents intending to vote for a new councillor on 1 May

What 1 in 4 poll Members think about issues and devolved government:

- disabled people and their families are just as concerned about mainstream issues as ones that are particular to their circumstances – their priorities mirror the rest of the population
- health, community care, crime, equal rights and poverty rank highest in order of importance among 1 in 4 poll respondents
- when asked to name one thing the Scottish Executive had done to make life better for disabled people, over 1 in 5 stated “nothing”
- over two thirds of respondents feel the Scottish Executive has made no difference to their lives in the last four years – only 12% feel better off
- about half of respondents have had contact either with their MSP or with their local councillor