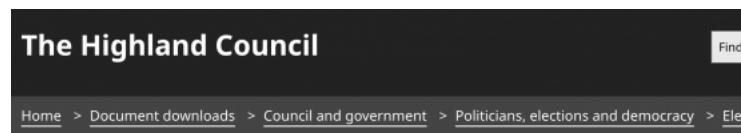


Funding the Future

Who is bringing up the rear?

Published: January 13, 2026, 2:05 pm

I was fascinated [by this election result](#):



The Highland Council

Home > Document downloads > Council and government > Politicians, elections and democracy > Election results > Ward 6 - Cromarty Firth Results 2025

Ward 6 - Cromarty Firth Results 2025

Declaration Of Results Report

By-Election 19th June 2025

File type: PDF

Size: 4.41 KB

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

[Request this file in another format](#) such as large print, Braille or in a different language.

These were the first preference votes cast:

Contest Name Ward 6 - Cromarty Firth

I will now declare the result of the election in the Ward 6 - Cromarty Firth. There is 1 Councillor to be elected.

The electorate was 9,774 and the number of ballot papers received was 2,410 giving a percentage turnout of 24.7%. There were 25 rejected ballot papers. The quota of votes for a candidate to be elected was 1,193.

The number of first preference votes for each of the candidates was:

Candidate Name	Affiliation	Number of First Preference Votes
Steve CHISHOLM	Alba Party for independence	91
Ross COSTIGANE	Scottish Liberal Democrats	290
Richard James CROSS	Independent	503
Ryan FORBES	Scottish Conservative and Unionist	48
ALLAN MACDONALD	Reform UK	348
ODETTE MACDONALD	Scottish National Party (SNP)	566
Michael Robert PERERA	Scottish Labour Party	77
Martin RATTRAY	Independent	368
Anne THOMAS	Scottish Greens	92
		Total 2,385

After application of the Election Rules, I declare that the following is elected as Councillor for the Ward 6 - Cromarty Firth:

Candidate Name	Affiliation	Stage at which Candidate was Elected
Richard James CROSS	Independent	9

Not who came last. It was the Tories, with 48 votes.

And who came second from the bottom? Labour, with 77 votes.

This is out of 2,385 votes cast.

And yes, of course, this is in a quite literally outlying region. And it is in an area where there is proportional representation for council elections. But, maybe that only adds to the importance of the message, because when there is a real choice, people do not want these parties.

I am not in any way suggesting this is a portent of things to come. But it's a fascinating insight into what might happen in a new political era.

Has such a rejection of the two supposedly mainstream political parties ever happened before in the modern political era?