

How the major parties line up on key issues facing local shops ahead of the Welsh elections in May 2026.

<p>LABOUR</p> 	<p>PLAID CYMRU</p> 	<p>LIBERAL DEMOCRATS</p> 	<p>CONSERVATIVE</p> 	<p>REFORM</p> 	<p>GREEN PARTY</p> 
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CRIME

<p>Work in close partnership with policing to reduce anti-social behaviour and support victims and survivors of crime, including shopworkers</p>	<p>Maintain Welsh Government support for Police Community Support Officers</p>	<p>Devolve powers over policing, prisons, youth justice and probation to Wales</p> <p>Work with Police and Crime Commissioners to halt the use of facial recognition</p>	<p>Improve community safety and security with a Safer Streets Fund</p> <p>Reject Labour and Plaid Cymru's efforts to devolve policing, justice and elements of welfare</p>	<p>Allocate more resources for licensing enforcement at local authority level, with transparent reporting</p>	<p>Reduce the prison population and expand community-based alternatives to custody</p>
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EMPLOYMENT

<p>100,000 apprenticeships in next Senedd term</p> <p>No raises of Welsh income tax in next Senedd term</p>	<p>Strengthen apprenticeships, expand work experience, and collaboration between education and employers</p> <p>Continue to call for full devolution of employment law</p>	<p>Invest in high-quality apprenticeships and training, deepening connections between colleges and universities to address skills shortages for 'new' jobs and technologies</p>	<p>Cut basic rate of income tax by 1p</p> <p>Deliver 125,000 apprenticeships over next Senedd term</p>	<p>Cut 1p on all income tax bands by end of next Senedd term</p> <p>Launch a national rural Wales apprenticeship scheme</p>	<p>Support a gradual shift towards a four-day working week</p> <p>Introduce a Green Jobs Workforce Plan</p>
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HIGH STREETS AND BUSINESS RATES

<p>Fundamental review of business rates</p> <p>Continued RHL relief</p> <p>More power to local authorities to prevent oversaturation of certain businesses on high streets</p>	<p>Reform and rebalance business rates to support RHL businesses</p> <p>Protect and restore face to face banking services on the high street</p>	<p>£400m town centre fund to make streets safer, cleaner and greener</p> <p>Permanently extend rate relief for RHL businesses</p> <p>Increase 2% online sales levy on large online retailers</p>	<p>Scrap business rates for small firms, pubs and post offices</p> <p>Pilot business rate free periods for new retailers on Welsh high streets</p> <p>Secure more banking hubs where banks have closed</p>	<p>Undertake a root and branch review of the rates system</p> <p>Permanently lower multiplier for pubs, hotels and hospitality venues</p>	<p>Replace business rates with a land-value based system so small businesses pay less while large corporations pay more</p>
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ENVIRONMENT/DRS

<p>Deliver a UK-leading Deposit Return Scheme.</p> <p>Ban more single-use plastics and build on ban of single-use vapes</p> <p>Green business loans fund for SMEs to cut energy costs</p>	<p>Introduce a Welsh DRS for plastic and metal drinks containers - including glass when practically feasible, with relevant exemptions to prevent added costs for small businesses</p>	<p>No specific manifesto commitments to date relevant to local shops</p>	<p>Ensure alignment between Wales and the rest of the UK on DRS to avoid confusion, unnecessary costs, and ensure consistency for retailers</p> <p>Improve the EV charging network across Wales</p>	<p>Ensure any DRS operates on a UK-wide basis. A Wales-only scheme is opposed as it "will impose unnecessary costs and complexity, particularly those operating near the English border"</p>	<p>Press for a 'polluter pays' tax targeting the largest contributors to environmental damage</p>
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PUBLIC HEALTH

<p>Restrict sales of energy drinks to under-16s</p>	<p>Develop a new comprehensive Public Health Strategy and Framework for Wales</p>	<p>Introduce a National Food Strategy for Wales to ensure food security, tackle food poverty and improve health and nutrition</p> <p>Introduce clearer food labelling that includes strong protections for Welsh produce</p>	<p>Enhance smoking cessation services with the use of e-cigarettes as a tool to help people quit smoking for good</p>	<p>Strengthen early intervention for obesity-related risks and publish quarterly diabetes statistics via a national dashboard</p> <p>Promote healthier lifestyles via public awareness "without mandating nanny state policies"</p>	<p>Enshrine the right to healthy food in law and regulate 'harmful' food environments</p> <p>Strengthen work on healthy relationships, sexual health, drugs and alcohol</p>
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