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The Scottish Government declared a housing emergency on May 15, 2024, under First Minister John Swinney, responding to mounting pressure from Scottish Labour. The declaration sought to avert a potentially embarrassing defeat in the Scottish Parliament after Labour introduced a motion condemning the current housing situation.

Labour’s motion followed declarations of housing emergencies by five Scottish local authorities, including the major cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The coalition breakdown between the SNP and the Scottish Greens has left the separatist party without a reliable majority in Parliament, compelling Swinney to act.

Social Justice Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville highlighted the government's decision to move beyond problem identification to seeking actionable solutions. She emphasized the need for collaboration among various levels of government to address the housing crisis.

However, Scottish Conservatives housing spokesman Miles Briggs criticized the SNP for their delayed recognition of the issue, citing years of ignored calls for action from charities and local councils.

Concurrently, recent polling by Savanta suggests a significant political shift, with the SNP and Labour tied at 35% for Holyrood constituency voting intention. Analysis by Ballot Box Scotland predicts that former Scottish First Ministers Nicola Sturgeon and Humza Yousaf could lose their Glasgow seats to Labour. This comes amid a turbulent period for the SNP, following Sturgeon's resignation and a police investigation into the party's finances. Swinney assumed leadership earlier this month after the power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens collapsed.