

Research Briefing

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UK Election Statistics: 1918-2023, A Long Century of Elections



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1 Introduction

This paper provides summary results for UK elections from 1918 to 2022, giving more extensive details about UK general elections.

1918 marked a major shift in British electoral politics. An extension of the electoral franchise meant women aged over 30 were able to vote in general elections for the first time. It was also no longer necessary to hold property to be able to vote, thus bringing many more working-class men into the electorate too. The Liberals' position as one of the two dominant parties in British politics alongside the Conservatives was threatened by splits in the party leadership. Labour became the main opposition party at the 1918 General Election as a consequence of a Conservative-Liberal coalition, and by 1922 Labour had supplanted the Liberals as the Conservatives' main challenger.

Since 1918, British elections have been dominated by the Conservatives and Labour. In 18 out of 28 general elections since 1918 the Conservative Party won most seats, while Labour won most seats on the other ten occasions. In all general elections between 1918 and 1935 the Conservatives received more votes than any other party. Since 1945 the Conservatives' lowest vote share was 31% in 1997, and Labour's 28% in 1983.

Labour did not win a House of Commons majority until 1945, although it twice formed minority governments after the 1923 and 1929 elections. Labour became the second largest party at Westminster behind the Conservatives in 1922, when it received slightly more votes than the Liberals but won more than twice as many seats.

Between 1945 and 1970 all but a handful of House of Commons seats were held by the Conservatives and Labour, who together took about nine in every ten votes cast in general elections over this period. From 1974 to 2010 an increasing share of the vote went to the Liberal Party and its successor, the Liberal Democrats. The Scottish National Party became the third largest in Parliament in 2015 with 56 MPs and retained that position with 48 seats in 2019. The number of Liberal Democrat MPs decreased from 57 in 2010 to 8 in 2015 before rising to 12 in 2017 and 11 in 2019. Support for independent candidates and candidates from parties other than the largest four (those with eight or more MPs) increased from less than 1% in 1951 to nearly 20% in 2015, but since fell to 8% in 2019.

The profile of Members of Parliament elected at general elections has altered since 1918. Only one of the 707 MPs elected in 1918 was a woman, compared to 220 out of 650 MPs in 2019. Four Labour MPs elected in 1987 were the first MPs with a minority ethnic background to sit in the House in the post-war era; it is

estimated that 65 MPs elected in 2019 were from minority ethnic backgrounds. Today more MPs have been to university than was the case sixty years ago, while the numbers who attended private schools or went to Oxbridge has decreased.

The growth in support for other parties at general elections can also be observed in local government elections and elections to the European Parliament. The Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties won 97% of the vote in the 1979 European Parliament elections but only 56% in 2014 and 43% in 2019. The introduction of a proportional voting system for European Parliament elections in 1999 was a factor in more MEPs being elected from other parties. The First Past the Post electoral system used in Westminster elections and local elections in England and Wales means that the increase in votes for other parties has not translated to the same extent into an increase in their number of MPs or councillors.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru have generally performed better in devolved elections than in Westminster elections. While the SNP has improved on its performance in the first Scottish Parliament election in 1999, Plaid Cymru has been unable to match its performance in 1999 at subsequent elections.

Parliamentary by-elections are now less common than 50 years ago and in areas that have moved from a two-tier structure to unitary status, local elections are less frequent. However, devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the introduction of elected mayors and police and crime commissioners mean additional events have been added to the electoral calendar.

1 Further information

Detailed results from individual elections can be found in relevant House of Commons Library research papers, and underlying data for each chart and figure and additional statistics can be found in the accompanying Excel file. This paper replaces Library Briefing Paper 7529 “Election Statistics: 1918-2021: A Century of Elections” (18th August 2021) and has been updated to include results of the 2022 Northern Ireland Assembly and local elections. It will be updated to take account of any subsequent elections and when new data becomes available.

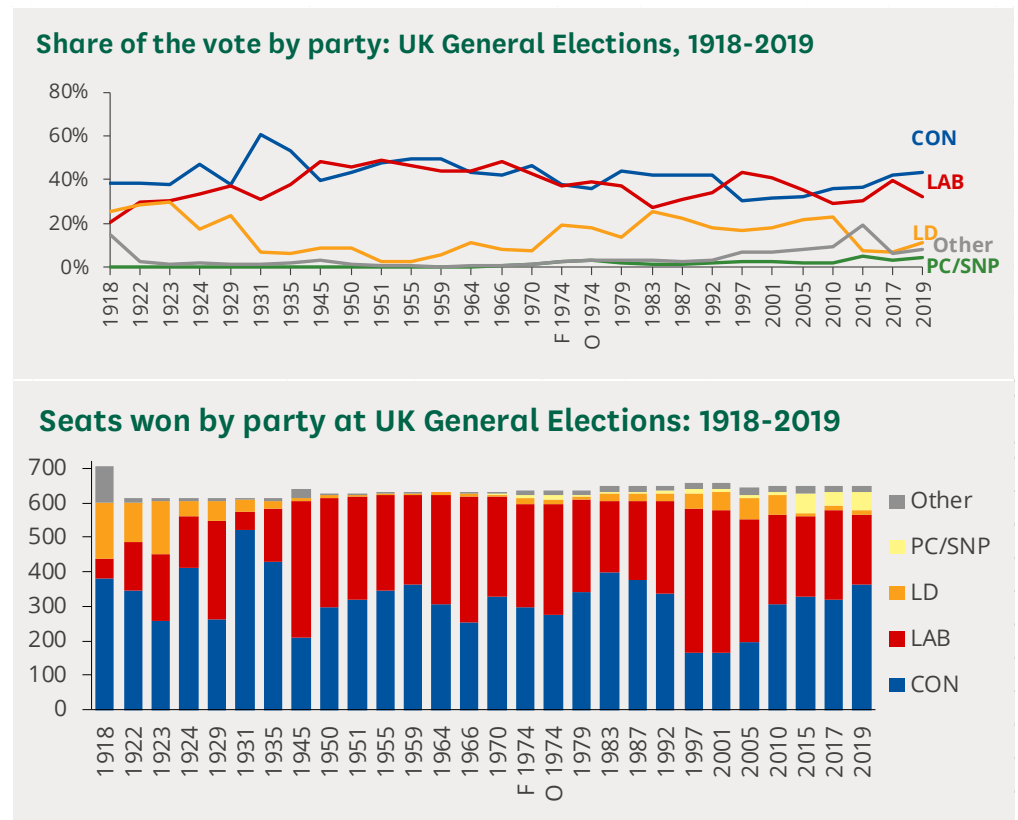
2 General elections since 1918

2.1 Summary of results

There have been 28 UK general elections since 1918. On 18 occasions the Conservatives won the most seats while Labour won the most seats on ten occasions.

On three occasions, the party with the most votes did not win the most seats. In 1929 and in February 1974, Labour polled fewer votes than the Conservatives but had more MPs. In 1951 the Conservatives won the most seats but received fewer votes than Labour.

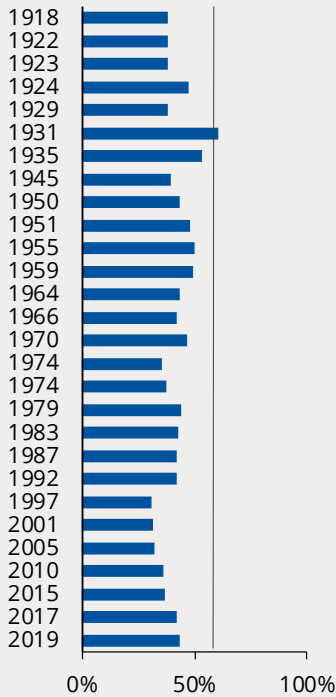
Most recently, in 2019, the Conservatives won the largest number of seats and votes with 365 seats and 43.6% of votes across the UK. The Party's share of the vote was the highest for any single party since their 43.9% share in 1979. Detailed analysis of the 2019 General Election is available in [House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP-8749](#).



Note: Liberal vote share/seats include votes/seats won by Liberal/SDP alliance (1983-87) and Liberal Democrats from 1992. Figures for 1918 include all Ireland

Conservative vote share

1918-2019



Conservatives

The Conservatives' best results in terms of both share of the vote and seats was in the 1931 General Election, which followed the creation of a National Coalition government between Ramsay MacDonalld's National Labour, the Conservatives and some Liberal Members. The Conservatives received 55.5% of the vote and won 474 seats (60.8% of the vote and 522 seats if National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates are included). The Party's best result in terms of seats won since 1945 was at the 1983 General Election, when 397 Conservative MPs were elected. Its highest share of the vote was 49.7% in 1955. At the 1997 General Election, there were 165 Conservative MPs elected and the Party received 30.7% of the vote. This was its worst performance in terms of share of the vote and seats since 1918.

Labour

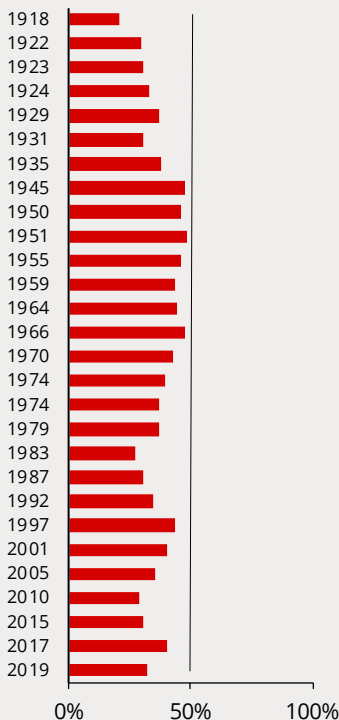
The first Labour majority government was elected in 1945, although it had twice formed a minority government (following the 1923 and 1929 general elections). After the 1918 election, a coalition between Conservatives and Liberals meant Labour became the largest opposition party despite having only 59 MPs. The 1929 election was the first time they were the largest party in terms of MPs elected, winning 287 out of 615 seats. However, only 52 Labour MPs were returned in the 1931 General Election, following the formation of the National Coalition government.

418 Labour MPs were elected in 1997, the highest number ever. The highest share of the vote received by Labour in a general election was 48.8% in 1951, when the Conservatives won the most seats despite polling fewer votes.

Labour's lowest vote share of the post-war years was in 1983, with 27.6% of the vote and 209 seats. In 2019, Labour won 32.1% of the total votes and 202 seats, their lowest number since 1935.

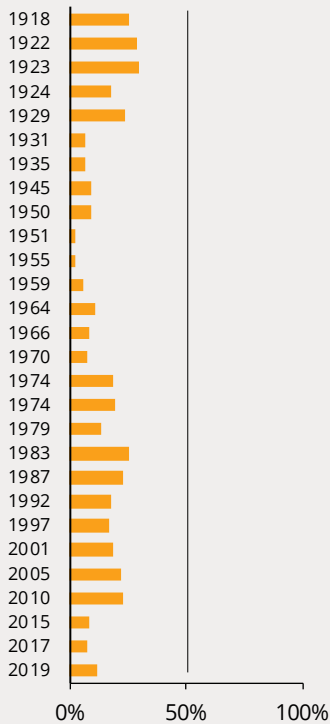
Labour vote share

1918-2019



Lib Dem vote share

1918-2019



Liberal Democrats (Liberals)

The Liberal Party was replaced by Labour as the main challenger to the Conservatives in the aftermath of the First World War. The Liberal Party won 399 seats at the 1906 General Election, a majority of 129, and in both elections of 1910 they were the largest party in terms of seats won.

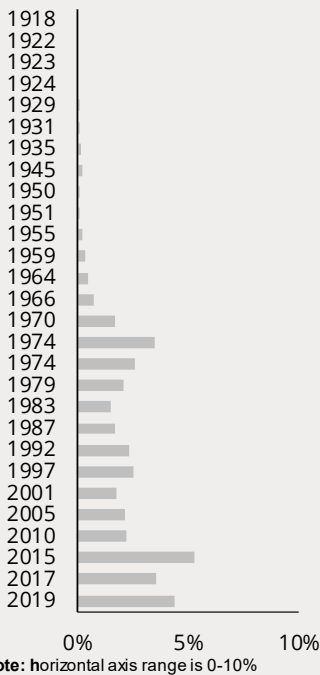
However, after the 1929 election, when 59 Liberal MPs were elected, the party ceased to challenge on the same scale as the Conservatives and Labour. The party split in 1931/32, with National Liberals in government under Ramsay MacDonald. Only 117 Liberal candidates contested the 1931 election; 36 were elected.

The Liberal Party contested the 1983 and 1987 elections in alliance with the Social Democratic Party (SDP), before the two parties merged in 1988 to form the Liberal Democrat Party. The SDP had been established in January 1981 and by March 1982 it had 29 MPs, most of whom had defected from Labour. The Alliance received a quarter of votes cast in the 1983 election but won only 23 seats.

62 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected in 2005, the highest number for the Party and its predecessors since 1923 (when the Liberals won 158 seats). In 2010, there were 57 Liberal Democrat MPs, but their number fell to 8 in 2015. In 2017 the number of Liberal Democrat MPs rose to 12, before decreasing to 11 in 2019.

PC/SNP vote share

1918-2019



Scottish National Party

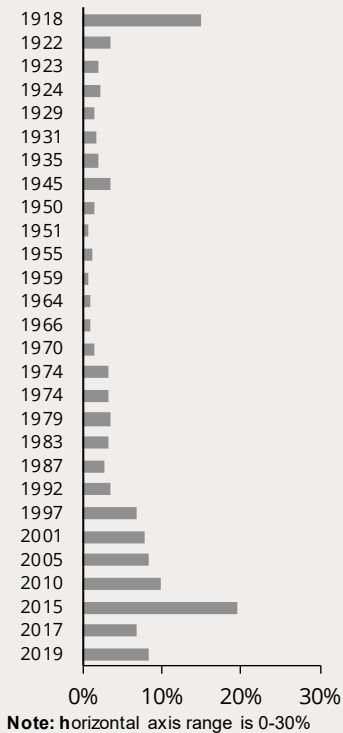
The Scottish National Party (SNP) won its first seat at a general election in 1970, although it had previously won seats at by-elections in 1945 and 1967. The May 2015 election, when the party received 50% of the vote in Scotland and won 56 seats, was the SNP's best performance. In 2019, the SNP won 48 seats and 45% of the vote share. This was 8.0 percentage points up on 2017, although below its previous height of 50% in 2015.

Plaid Cymru

Plaid Cymru won its first seats in a general election in February 1974, having previously won a by-election in 1966. Its highest share of the vote in Wales was 14.3% in 2001. The most seats won by Plaid Cymru at a general election is four, in 1992, 1997, 2001, 2017 and 2019.

Others vote share

1918-2019



Other parties

In 2019 the 'Other' political parties received 8.4% of the UK vote, this was an increase from 6.8% in 2017 - the lowest percentage of the vote since 1997. In 2019, 'Other' parties also secured 3.1% of Commons seats, compared to 14.9% in 1918.

The **UK Independence Party (UKIP)** received its highest share of votes (with 12.6% of the total vote) in 2015 when it won its first ever seat. The Party lost this seat in 2017 and failed to regain it in 2019. In the 2019 General Election, UKIP recorded its lowest vote share since its establishment in 1991. It is likely that it lost some of its support to the Conservatives and the **Brexit Party**, headed by its former leader, Nigel Farage. The Brexit Party won 2% of the vote across the UK and did not win any seats in 2019.

The **Green Party** won a House of Commons seat for the first time at the 2010 General Election, this seat (Brighton Pavilion) remained the only Green seat after the 2015, 2017 and 2019 General Elections. In 2019, the party increased its vote share compared with 2017. However, it did not equal the record 3.8% vote share it won at the 2015 General Election.

In the years after Northern Ireland was established in 1922, the **Ulster Unionists** dominated elections to Westminster as well as to the devolved Northern Ireland Parliament, and the few seats that did not return Unionist candidates were generally won by the Nationalist Party. Northern Ireland politics altered in the early 1970s when new parties were created. On the unionist side, there were the Democratic Unionists and the Vanguard Unionists, while the SDLP swiftly emerged as the main nationalist party after its formation in 1970.¹ The Ulster Unionists took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972. In this paper, Ulster Unionist general election candidates are listed as Conservatives for elections up to 1970 but are listed separately from 1974.

The **Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)** replaced the **Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)** as the main unionist party in 2001. In 2019, the DUP won eight seats, two fewer than in 2017. Unionists now have fewer Westminster seats than Nationalists for the first time since Northern Ireland's establishment in 1922.

Sinn Féin had seven MPs after the 2019 General Election, the same as in 2017. This is their highest number since the establishment of Northern Ireland in 1922. Sinn Féin has an abstentionist policy and its MPs have not taken their seats in the House of Commons.

The **Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)** gained two seats in 2019. This was a recovery from failing to win any seats in the House of Commons in the 2017 General Election – the first time since the Party's formation in 1970.

¹ Sydney Elliot, 'Voting systems and political parties in Northern Ireland', in Brigid Hadfield (ed.), Northern Ireland: Politics and the Constitution (1992), 85-90.

Speaker

The Speaker of the House of Commons now contests general elections as “the Speaker seeking re-election” rather than as a party candidate. By convention the main parties generally do not stand against the Speaker in a general election, although there have been occasions on which the Speaker faced opposition from candidates for the main parties (most recently in 1987). In this paper, the Speaker is listed under ‘Other’ for elections from 1997 onwards. For elections before 1997, the Speaker is listed under the party for which he or she was formerly a Member.

2.2

Governments formed

Since 1918 there have been thirteen Conservative governments, eleven Labour governments, two national governments and two coalition governments.

The Conservatives held the most seats following the 1923 General Election but resigned government to be replaced by a minority Labour administration. Labour was the largest party in the House of Commons after the 1929 and February 1974 general elections and on both occasions formed a minority government. In 2010, the Conservatives were the largest party and formed a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats. In 2017, the Conservatives lost the majority they had in 2015. They had the highest number of seats but were ten seats short of a majority and formed a minority government. In 2019, the Party regained its majority position with 365 seats in the House of Commons.

The table below shows governments formed following general elections since 1918.

Governments formed following general elections

Date	Party forming government	Prime Minister	Majority ¹
14/12/1918 ²	Coalition	David Lloyd George	283
15/11/1922	Conservative	Andrew Bonar Law	74
06/12/1923 ³	Labour	Ramsay MacDonald	None
29/10/1924	Conservative	Stanley Baldwin	210
30/05/1929	Labour	Ramsay MacDonald	None
27/10/1931 ⁴	National	Ramsay MacDonald	492
14/11/1935 ⁵	National	Stanley Baldwin	242
05/07/1945	Labour	Clement Attlee	147
23/02/1950	Labour	Clement Attlee	6
25/10/1951	Conservative	Sir Winston Churchill	16
26/05/1955	Conservative	Sir Anthony Eden	59
08/10/1959	Conservative	Harold Macmillan	99
15/10/1964	Labour	Harold Wilson	5
31/03/1966	Labour	Harold Wilson	97
18/06/1970	Conservative	Edward Heath	31
28/02/1974	Labour	Harold Wilson	None
10/10/1974	Labour	Harold Wilson	4
03/05/1979	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	44
09/06/1983	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	144
11/06/1987	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	101
09/04/1992	Conservative	John Major	21
01/05/1997	Labour	Tony Blair	178
07/06/2001	Labour	Tony Blair	166
05/05/2005	Labour	Tony Blair	65
06/05/2010 ⁶	Coalition	David Cameron	77
07/05/2015	Conservative	David Cameron	11
08/06/2017	Conservative	Theresa May	None
12/12/2019	Conservative	Boris Johnson	81

Notes:

1. Government majority is calculated as the number of seats held by the governing parties minus the number of seats held by all other parties or independent Members. The Speaker is excluded when calculating the majority, but MPs who did not take their seats (for example Sinn Féin Members) are included.
2. The Conservatives and Prime Minister David Lloyd George's wing of the Liberal Party contested the 1918 General Election as a Coalition. More than half of House of Commons seats were won by Conservative candidates, so that the subsequent Coalition government was Conservative dominated.
3. Majority of 283 is calculated including the 73 Sinn Fein Members who did not take their seats.
4. Labour formed a government after the 1923 election but the Conservatives had won the most seats (although not a majority).
5. Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald led a 'National Government' into the 1931 election which consisted of the Conservative and Liberal parties along with a few National Labour Members like MacDonald. Conservatives won over three quarters of seats so that the National Government was Conservative dominated.
6. The Conservatives contested the 1935 election again as part of a National Government. The Prime Minister before and after the election, Stanley Baldwin, was a Conservative. The National Government remained Conservative dominated as over half of House of Commons seats were won by Conservative candidates.
7. The Conservatives were the largest party following the 2010 election but did not have a majority. A coalition government was formed with the Liberal Democrats.

Sources:

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006
Peter Joyce, Politico's Guide to UK General Elections 1832-2001
House of Commons Library, General Election 2017: results and analysis
House of Commons Library, General Election 2019: results and analysis

2 National and Coalition Governments 1918-2022

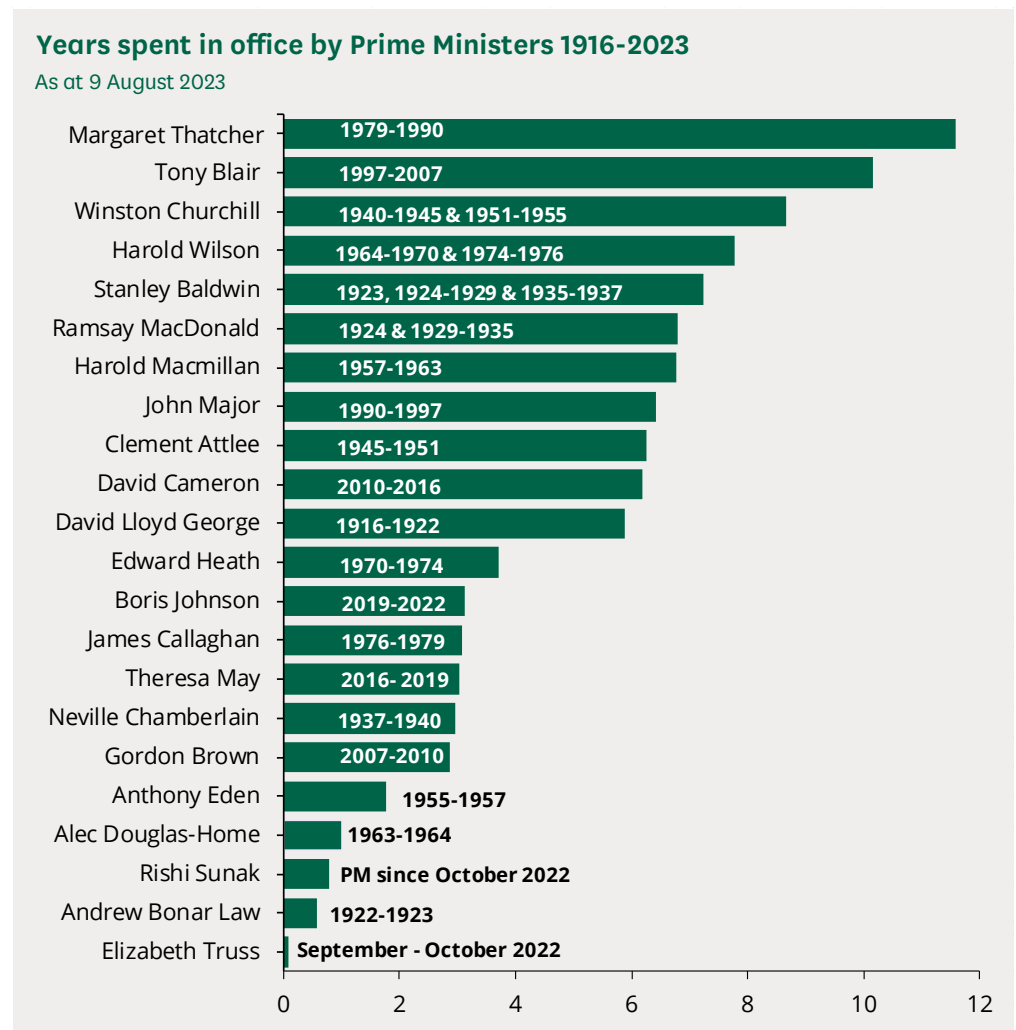
National Governments:

- 1931: Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald led a 'National Government' into the 1931 election which consisted of the Conservative and Liberal parties along with a few National Labour Members like MacDonald. Conservatives won more than three quarters of seats so that the National Government was Conservative dominated.
- 1935: The Conservatives contested the 1935 election again as part of a National Government. The Prime Minister before and after the election, Stanley Baldwin, was a Conservative. The National Government remained Conservative dominated as over half of House of Commons seats were won by Conservative candidates.

Coalition Governments:

- 1918: The Conservatives and Prime Minister David Lloyd George's wing of the Liberal Party contested the 1918 General Election as a Coalition. The subsequent Coalition government was Conservative dominated, as the Conservatives won more than half of seats.
- 2010: The Conservatives were the largest party following the 2010 election but did not have a majority. A coalition government was formed with the Liberal Democrats.

The chart below shows the number of years each Prime Minister since 1916 spent in office. Margaret Thatcher was the longest serving Prime Minister and Liz Truss the shortest.



Source: David Butler and Gareth Butler (2011), *British Political Facts*, House of Commons Library CBP-7979 & CBP-8749

The tables below show the results for all general elections since 1918 for the UK, Great Britain and England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

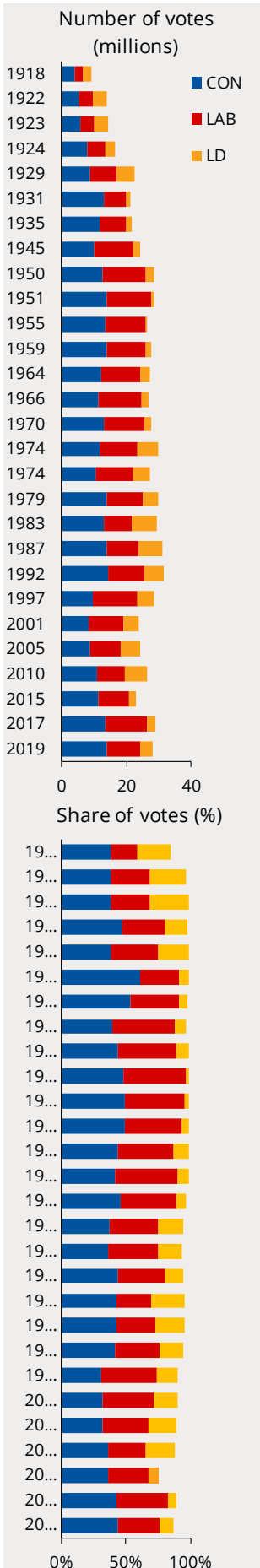


Table 1a: General Election Results, 1918-2019: UK¹

	Votes (millions)					
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918 ⁴	4.14	2.25	2.79	..	1.61	10.79
1922	5.50	4.24	4.14	..	0.51	14.39
1923	5.51	4.44	4.30	..	0.29	14.55
1924	7.85	5.49	2.93	..	0.37	16.64
1929	8.66	8.37	5.31	0.00	0.31	22.65
1931	13.16	6.65	1.48	0.02	0.35	21.66
1935	11.76	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.44	22.00
1945	9.97	11.97	2.25	0.05	0.86	25.10
1950	12.49	13.27	2.62	0.03	0.36	28.77
1951	13.72	13.95	0.73	0.02	0.18	28.60
1955	13.31	12.41	0.72	0.06	0.26	26.76
1959	13.75	12.22	1.64	0.10	0.16	27.86
1964	12.00	12.21	3.10	0.13	0.22	27.66
1966	11.42	13.10	2.33	0.19	0.23	27.26
1970	13.15	12.21	2.12	0.48	0.39	28.34
1974 Feb	11.87	11.65	6.06	0.80	0.96	31.34
1974 Oct	10.46	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.92	29.19
1979	13.70	11.53	4.31	0.64	1.04	31.22
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.96	30.67
1987	13.76	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.86	32.53
1992	14.09	11.56	6.00	0.78	1.18	33.61
1997	9.60	13.52	5.24	0.78	2.14	31.29
2001	8.34	10.72	4.81	0.66	1.83	26.37
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	2.24	27.15
2010	10.70	8.61	6.84	0.66	2.88	29.69
2015	11.30	9.35	2.42	1.64	6.00	30.70
2017	13.64	12.88	2.37	1.14	2.18	32.20
2019	13.97	10.27	3.70	1.40	2.69	32.01

	Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918 ⁴	38.7%	20.8%	25.6%		14.9%	100%
1922	38.5%	29.7%	28.8%		3.0%	100%
1923	38.0%	30.7%	29.7%		1.6%	100%
1924	46.8%	33.3%	17.8%		2.1%	100%
1929	38.1%	37.1%	23.5%	0.0%	1.3%	100%
1931	60.7%	30.9%	7.0%	0.1%	1.3%	100%
1935	53.3%	38.0%	6.7%	0.1%	1.9%	100%
1945	39.6%	48.0%	9.0%	0.2%	3.2%	100%
1950	43.4%	46.1%	9.1%	0.1%	1.3%	100%
1951	48.0%	48.8%	2.6%	0.1%	0.6%	100%
1955	49.7%	46.4%	2.7%	0.2%	1.0%	100%
1959	49.4%	43.8%	5.9%	0.4%	0.6%	100%
1964	43.4%	44.1%	11.2%	0.5%	0.8%	100%
1966	41.9%	48.0%	8.5%	0.7%	0.9%	100%
1970	46.4%	43.1%	7.5%	1.7%	1.4%	100%
1974 Feb	37.9%	37.2%	19.3%	2.6%	3.1%	100%
1974 Oct	35.8%	39.3%	18.3%	3.4%	3.1%	100%
1979	43.9%	36.9%	13.8%	2.0%	3.3%	100%
1983	42.4%	27.6%	25.4%	1.5%	3.1%	100%
1987	42.3%	30.8%	22.6%	1.7%	2.6%	100%
1992	41.9%	34.4%	17.8%	2.3%	3.5%	100%
1997	30.7%	43.2%	16.8%	2.5%	6.8%	100%
2001	31.6%	40.7%	18.3%	2.5%	6.9%	100%
2005	32.4%	35.2%	22.0%	2.2%	8.2%	100%
2010	36.1%	29.0%	23.0%	2.2%	9.7%	100%
2015	36.8%	30.4%	7.9%	5.3%	19.5%	100%
2017	42.3%	40.0%	7.4%	3.5%	6.8%	100%
2019	43.6%	32.1%	11.5%	4.4%	8.4%	100%

Number of candidates

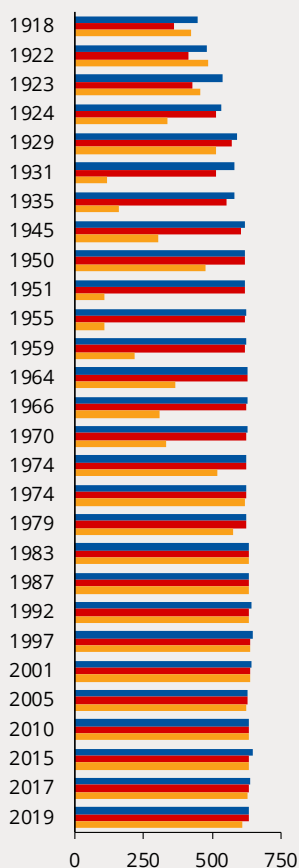
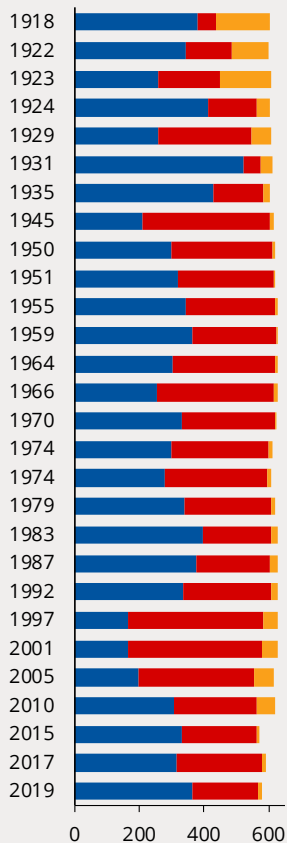


Table 1b: General Election Results, 1918-2019: UK¹

	Candidates					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	
1918 ⁴	445	361	421	..	396	1,623
1922	482	414	485	..	60	1,441
1923	536	427	457	..	26	1,446
1924	534	514	339	..	41	1,428
1929	590	569	513	3	55	1,730
1931	583	516	117	7	69	1,292
1935	583	552	161	9	43	1,348
1945	618	603	306	15	141	1,683
1950	619	617	475	10	147	1,868
1951	617	617	109	6	27	1,376
1955	624	620	110	13	42	1,409
1959	625	621	216	25	49	1,536
1964	630	628	365	38	96	1,757
1966	629	622	311	43	102	1,707
1970	628	625	332	101	151	1,837
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	266	2,135
1974 Oct	622	623	619	107	281	2,252
1979	622	623	577	107	647	2,576
1983	633	633	633	110	569	2,578
1987	633	633	633	109	317	2,325
1992	645	634	632	107	931	2,949
1997	648	639	639	112	1,686	3,724
2001	643	640	639	112	1,285	3,319
2005	630	627	626	99	1,572	3,554
2010	631	631	631	99	2,158	4,150
2015	647	631	631	99	1,963	3,971
2017	638	631	629	99	1,307	3,304
2019	635	631	611	95	1,348	3,320

Number of seats won



	Seats won					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	
1918	382	57	163	..	105	707
1922	344	142	115	..	14	615
1923	258	191	158	..	8	615
1924	412	151	40	..	12	615
1929	260	287	59	0	9	615
1931	522	52	36	0	5	615
1935	429	154	21	0	11	615
1945	210	393	12	0	25	640
1950	298	315	9	0	3	625
1951	321	295	6	0	3	625
1955	345	277	6	0	2	630
1959	365	258	6	0	1	630
1964	304	317	9	0	0	630
1966	253	364	12	0	1	630
1970	330	288	6	1	5	630
1974 Feb	297	301	14	9	14	635
1974 Oct	277	319	13	14	12	635
1979	339	269	11	4	12	635
1983	397	209	23	4	17	650
1987	376	229	22	6	17	650
1992	336	271	20	7	17	651
1997	165	418	46	10	20	659
2001	166	412	52	9	20	659
2005	198	355	62	9	22	646
2010	306	258	57	9	20	650
2015	330	232	8	59	21	650
2017	317	262	12	39	20	650
2019	365	202	11	52	20	650

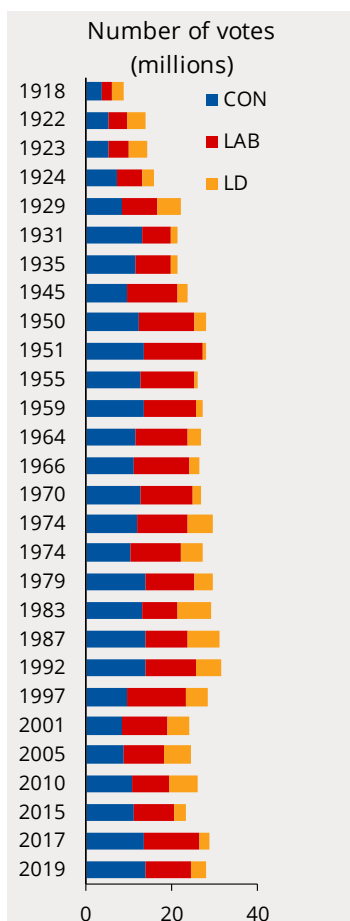
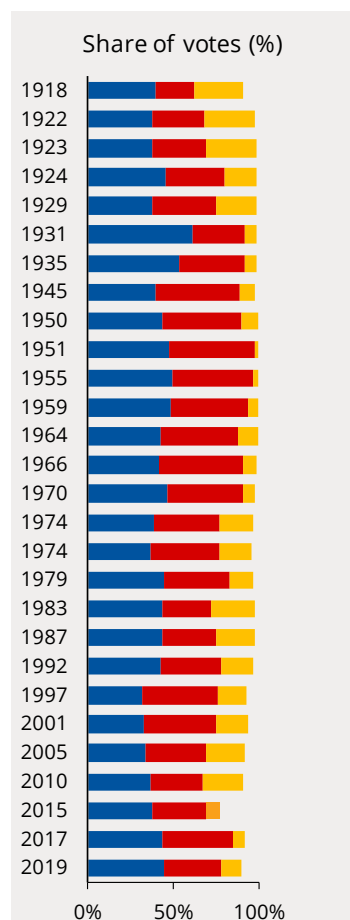


Table 1c: General Election Results, 1918-2019: GB¹

	Votes (millions)					
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918	3.85	2.25	2.79	..	0.86	9.75
1922	5.39	4.24	4.14	..	0.41	14.18
1923	5.40	4.44	4.30	..	0.17	14.31
1924	7.40	5.49	2.93	..	0.30	16.12
1929	8.30	8.37	5.21	..	0.25	22.14
1931	13.01	6.64	1.48	0.02	0.23	21.37
1935	11.46	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.28	21.55
1945	9.58	11.90	2.25	0.05	0.59	24.38
1950	12.14	13.20	2.62	0.03	0.22	28.21
1951	13.44	13.89	0.73	0.02	0.05	28.13
1955	12.87	12.37	0.72	0.06	0.10	26.11
1959	13.31	12.17	1.64	0.10	0.07	27.29
1964	11.60	12.10	3.08	0.13	0.10	27.02
1966	11.05	13.02	2.30	0.19	0.11	26.67
1970	12.72	12.11	2.11	0.48	0.15	27.57
1974 Feb	11.87	11.65	6.06	0.80	0.24	30.62
1974 Oct	10.46	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.21	28.49
1979	13.70	11.53	4.31	0.64	0.34	30.53
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.20	29.91
1987	13.76	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.13	31.80
1992	14.05	11.56	6.00	0.78	0.44	32.83
1997	9.59	13.52	5.24	0.78	1.36	30.50
2001	8.34	10.72	4.81	0.66	1.02	25.56
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	1.52	26.43
2010	10.70	8.61	6.84	0.66	2.21	29.01
2015	11.29	9.35	2.42	1.64	5.29	29.98
2017	13.63	12.88	2.37	1.14	1.37	31.39
2019	13.96	10.27	3.70	1.40	1.89	31.22



Share of vote (%)

	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
	1918	39.5%	23.0%	28.6%	..	9.0%	100%
1922	38.0%	29.9%	29.2%	..	2.9%	100%
1923	37.7%	31.0%	30.1%	..	1.2%	100%
1924	45.9%	34.0%	18.2%	..	1.9%	100%
1929	37.5%	37.8%	23.5%	0.0%	1.2%	100%
1931	60.9%	31.1%	6.9%	0.1%	1.0%	100%
1935	53.2%	38.6%	6.7%	0.1%	1.4%	100%
1945	39.3%	48.8%	9.2%	0.2%	2.4%	100%
1950	43.0%	46.8%	9.3%	0.1%	0.8%	100%
1951	47.8%	49.4%	2.6%	0.1%	0.2%	100%
1955	49.3%	47.4%	2.8%	0.2%	0.4%	100%
1959	48.8%	44.6%	6.0%	0.4%	0.3%	100%
1964	42.9%	44.8%	11.4%	0.5%	0.4%	100%
1966	41.4%	48.8%	8.6%	0.7%	0.4%	100%
1970	46.2%	43.9%	7.6%	1.7%	0.5%	100%
1974 Feb	38.8%	38.0%	19.8%	2.6%	0.8%	100%
1974 Oct	36.7%	40.2%	18.8%	3.5%	0.8%	100%
1979	44.9%	37.8%	14.1%	2.1%	1.1%	100%
1983	43.5%	28.3%	26.0%	1.5%	0.7%	100%
1987	43.3%	31.5%	23.1%	1.7%	0.4%	100%
1992	42.8%	35.2%	18.3%	2.4%	1.3%	100%
1997	31.5%	44.3%	17.2%	2.6%	4.5%	100%
2001	32.6%	42.0%	18.8%	2.6%	4.0%	100%
2005	33.2%	36.1%	22.6%	2.2%	5.8%	100%
2010	36.9%	29.7%	23.6%	2.3%	7.6%	100%
2015	37.7%	31.2%	8.1%	5.5%	17.7%	100%
2017	43.4%	41.0%	7.6%	3.6%	4.4%	100%
2019	44.7%	32.9%	11.8%	4.5%	6.1%	100%

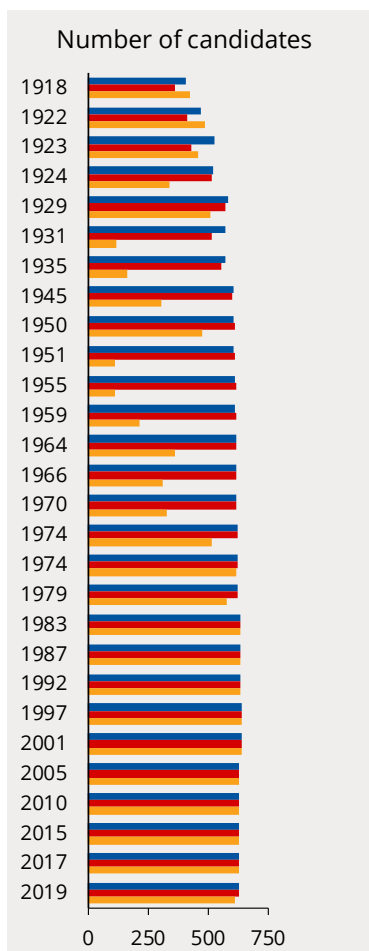
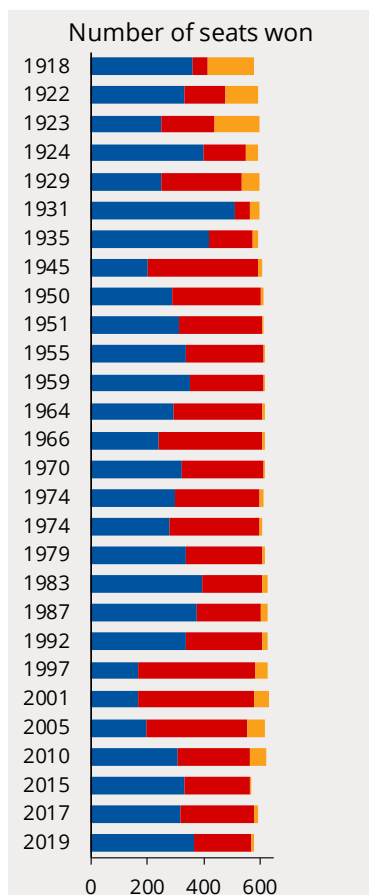


Table 1d: General Election Results, 1918-2019: GB¹

	Candidates					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	
1918	409	361	421		228	1,419
1922	470	414	485		57	1,426
1923	524	427	457		22	1,430
1924	522	514	339		31	1,406
1929	580	569	507	3	49	1,708
1931	571	515	117	7	66	1,276
1935	571	552	161	9	38	1,331
1945	606	598	306	15	134	1,659
1950	607	612	475	10	141	1,845
1951	605	613	109	6	23	1,356
1955	612	617	110	13	29	1,381
1959	613	618	215	25	36	1,507
1964	618	618	361	38	83	1,718
1966	617	618	308	43	94	1,680
1970	616	618	328	101	134	1,797
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	218	2,087
1974 Oct	622	623	619	107	238	2,209
1979	622	623	577	107	583	2,512
1983	633	633	633	110	474	2,483
1987	633	633	633	109	240	2,248
1992	634	634	632	107	842	2,849
1997	640	639	639	112	1,569	3,599
2001	640	640	639	112	1,188	3,219
2005	627	627	626	99	1,470	3,449
2010	631	631	631	99	2,050	4,042
2015	631	631	631	99	1,841	3,833
2017	631	631	629	99	1,205	3,195
2019	631	631	611	95	1,250	3,218



Seats won

	Seats won					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC/SNP	Other	
1918	359	57	163		27	606
1922	334	142	115		12	603
1923	248	191	158		6	603
1924	400	151	40		12	603
1929	250	287	59	0	7	603
1931	512	52	36	0	3	603
1935	419	154	21	0	9	603
1945	202	393	12	0	21	628
1950	288	315	9	0	1	613
1951	312	295	6	0	0	613
1955	335	277	6	0	0	618
1959	353	258	6	0	1	618
1964	292	317	9	0	0	618
1966	242	364	12	0	0	618
1970	322	288	6	1	1	618
1974 Feb	297	301	14	9	2	623
1974 Oct	277	319	13	14	0	623
1979	339	269	11	4	0	623
1983	397	209	23	4	0	633
1987	376	229	22	6	0	633
1992	336	271	20	7	0	634
1997	165	418	46	10	2	641
2001	166	412	52	9	2	641
2005	198	355	62	9	4	628
2010	306	258	57	9	2	632
2015	330	232	8	59	3	632
2017	317	262	12	39	2	632
2019	365	202	11	52	2	632

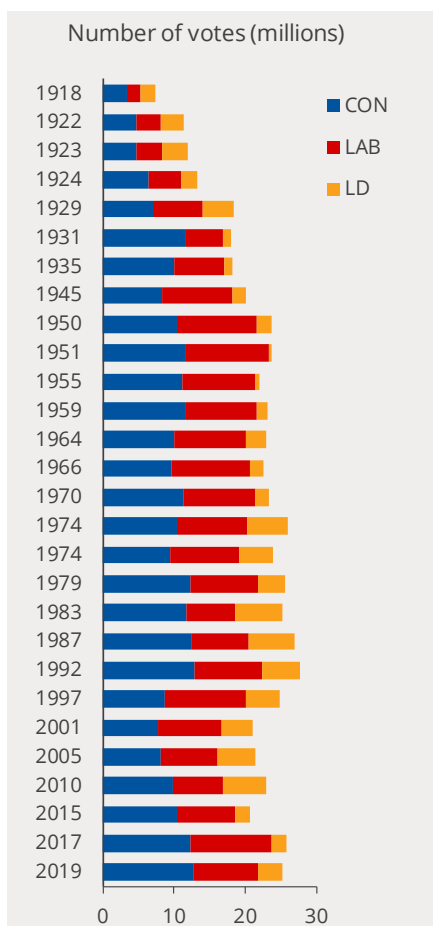
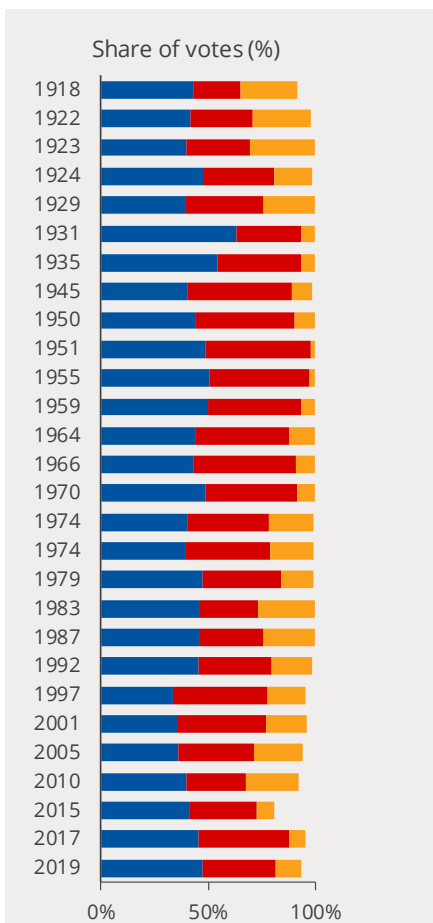


Table 1e: General Election Results, 1918-2019: England¹

	Votes (millions)				Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918	3.41	1.81	2.14	0.69	8.05
1922	4.81	3.37	3.21	0.31	11.70
1923	4.73	3.55	3.57	0.07	11.93
1924	6.46	4.47	2.39	0.25	13.56
1929	7.18	6.85	4.34	0.13	18.50
1931	11.48	5.46	1.04	0.10	18.08
1935	9.99	7.05	1.11	0.12	18.27
1945	8.27	9.97	1.91	0.38	20.54
1950	10.50	11.05	2.25	0.16	23.95
1951	11.62	11.63	0.54	0.04	23.83
1955	11.17	10.36	0.57	0.04	22.14
1959	11.56	10.09	1.45	0.03	23.13
1964	10.11	9.98	2.78	0.07	22.94
1966	9.69	10.89	2.04	0.08	22.69
1970	11.28	10.13	1.85	0.09	23.36
1974 Feb	10.51	9.84	5.57	0.22	26.14
1974 Oct	9.41	9.70	4.88	0.20	24.19
1979	12.26	9.53	3.88	0.31	25.97
1983	11.71	6.86	6.71	0.18	25.47
1987	12.55	8.01	6.47	0.11	27.13
1992	12.80	9.55	5.40	0.40	28.15
1997	8.78	11.35	4.68	1.25	26.06
2001	7.71	9.06	4.25	0.86	21.87
2005	8.11	8.05	5.20	1.34	22.70
2010	9.91	7.04	6.08	2.06	25.08
2015	10.45	8.09	2.10	4.94	25.57
2017	12.35	11.39	2.11	1.31	27.16
2019	12.71	9.13	3.34	1.73	26.91



Share of vote (%)

	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	Other	Total
1918	42.6%	22.6%	26.3%	8.5%	100%
1922	41.5%	28.8%	27.2%	2.5%	100%
1923	39.8%	29.7%	29.9%	0.6%	100%
1924	47.7%	32.8%	17.6%	1.9%	100%
1929	38.8%	36.9%	23.6%	0.7%	100%
1931	63.3%	30.2%	6.0%	0.5%	100%
1935	54.5%	38.5%	6.3%	0.7%	100%
1945	40.2%	48.5%	9.4%	1.9%	100%
1950	43.8%	46.1%	9.4%	0.7%	100%
1951	48.8%	48.8%	2.3%	0.1%	100%
1955	50.4%	46.8%	2.6%	0.2%	100%
1959	50.0%	43.6%	6.3%	0.1%	100%
1964	44.1%	43.5%	12.1%	0.3%	100%
1966	42.7%	48.0%	9.0%	0.3%	100%
1970	48.3%	43.4%	7.9%	0.4%	100%
1974 Feb	40.2%	37.7%	21.3%	0.8%	100%
1974 Oct	38.9%	40.1%	20.2%	0.8%	100%
1979	47.2%	36.7%	14.9%	1.2%	100%
1983	46.0%	26.9%	26.4%	0.7%	100%
1987	46.2%	29.5%	23.8%	0.4%	100%
1992	45.5%	33.9%	19.2%	1.4%	100%
1997	33.7%	43.5%	18.0%	4.8%	100%
2001	35.2%	41.4%	19.4%	3.9%	100%
2005	35.7%	35.5%	22.9%	5.9%	100%
2010	39.5%	28.1%	24.2%	8.2%	100%
2015	40.9%	31.6%	8.2%	19.3%	100%
2017	45.5%	41.9%	7.8%	4.8%	100%
2019	47.2%	33.9%	12.4%	6.4%	100%

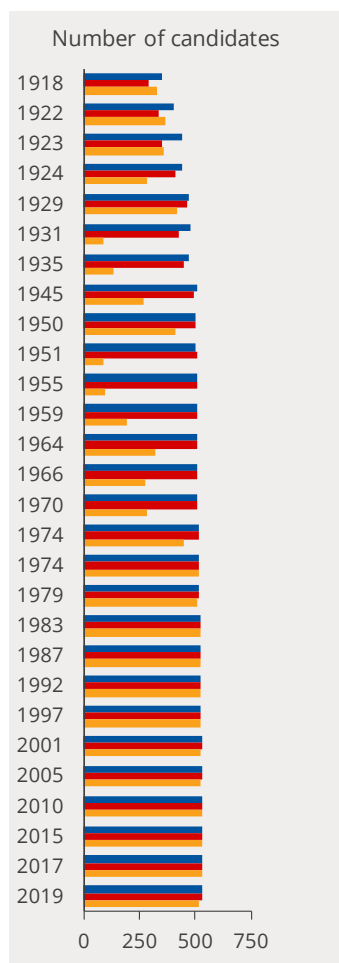
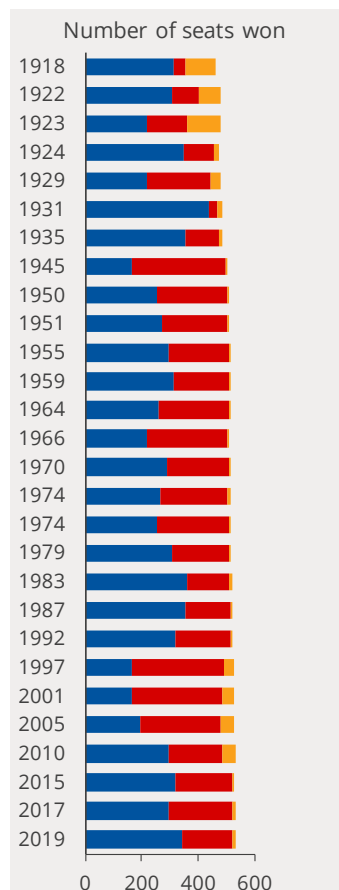


Table 1f: General Election Results, 1918-2019: England¹

	Candidates				Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918	352	291	327	181	1,151
1922	406	340	368	42	1,156
1923	444	350	362	10	1,166
1924	440	414	280	25	1,159
1929	469	467	422	30	1,388
1931	476	428	87	41	1,032
1935	473	452	132	21	1,078
1945	507	494	265	97	1,363
1950	504	505	413	106	1,528
1951	502	506	91	13	1,528
1955	509	510	95	20	1,134
1959	509	511	191	23	1,234
1964	511	511	323	64	1,409
1966	510	511	273	69	1,363
1970	510	511	282	100	1,403
1974 Feb	516	516	452	190	1,674
1974 Oct	515	516	515	220	1,766
1979	516	516	506	536	2,074
1983	523	523	523	431	2,000
1987	523	523	523	213	1,782
1992	524	524	522	758	2,328
1997	528	527	527	1,363	2,945
2001	529	529	528	1,002	2,588
2005	529	529	528	1,231	2,817
2010	532	532	532	1,829	3,425
2015	532	532	532	1,613	3,209
2017	532	532	530	1,122	2,716
2019	532	532	520	1,126	2,710



	Seats won				Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918	315	42	107	21	485
1922	307	95	75	8	485
1923	221	138	123	3	485
1924	347	109	19	10	485
1929	221	226	35	3	485
1931	436	29	19	1	485
1935	357	116	11	1	485
1945	167	331	5	7	510
1950	253	251	2	0	506
1951	271	233	2	0	506
1955	293	216	2	0	511
1959	315	193	3	0	511
1964	262	246	3	0	511
1966	219	285	6	1	511
1970	292	216	2	1	511
1974 Feb	268	237	9	2	516
1974 Oct	253	255	8	0	516
1979	306	203	7	0	516
1983	362	148	13	0	523
1987	358	155	10	0	523
1992	319	195	10	0	524
1997	165	328	34	2	529
2001	165	323	40	1	529
2005	194	286	47	2	529
2010	297	191	43	2	533
2015	318	206	6	3	533
2017	296	227	8	2	533
2019	345	179	7	2	533

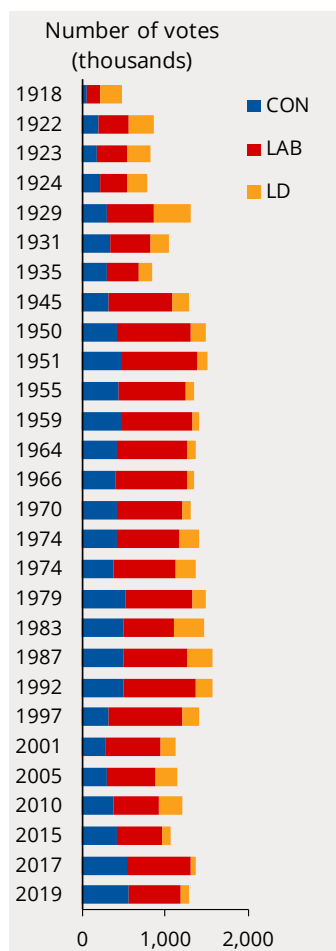
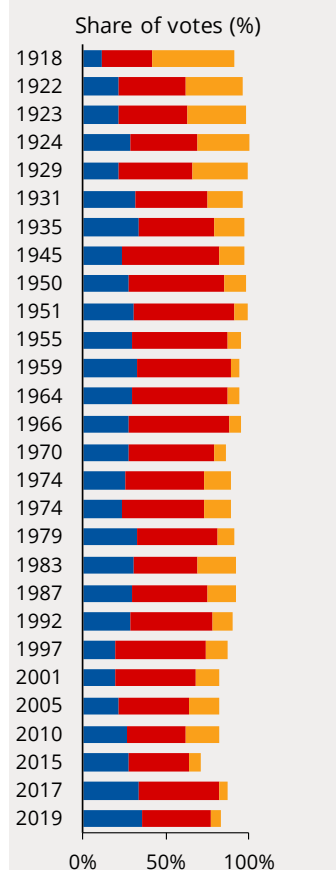


Table 1g: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Wales¹

	Votes (thousands)					
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC	Other	Total
1918	59.6	163.1	258.8		47.6	529.0
1922	190.9	363.6	306.0		32.3	892.7
1923	178.1	355.2	299.3		12.5	845.1
1924	224.0	320.4	244.8		0.0	789.2
1929	289.7	577.6	440.9	0.6	8.1	1316.9
1931	340.7	479.5	229.0	1.1	38.2	1088.5
1935	292.5	395.8	157.1	2.5	23.3	871.3
1945	316.7	779.2	198.6	14.3	21.9	1,330.7
1950	418.7	888.0	193.1	17.6	11.2	1,528.6
1951	471.3	925.8	116.8	10.9	4.6	1,529.4
1955	428.9	825.7	104.1	45.1	30.0	1,433.7
1959	486.3	841.5	79.0	77.6	7.0	1,491.3
1964	425.0	837.0	106.1	69.5	9.4	1,447.0
1966	396.8	863.7	89.1	61.1	12.8	1,423.4
1970	419.9	781.9	103.7	175.0	36.0	1,516.6
1974 Feb	412.5	745.5	255.4	171.4	9.0	1,593.8
1974 Oct	367.2	761.4	239.1	166.3	3.8	1,537.8
1979	526.3	795.5	173.5	132.5	8.8	1,636.6
1983	499.3	603.9	373.4	125.3	7.2	1,609.0
1987	501.3	765.2	304.2	123.6	3.7	1,698.1
1992	499.7	865.7	217.5	154.9	11.0	1,748.8
1997	317.1	886.9	200.0	161.0	54.9	1,620.1
2001	268.7	667.0	189.4	195.9	51.6	1,372.5
2005	297.8	594.8	256.2	174.8	69.0	1,392.7
2010	382.7	531.6	295.2	165.4	91.8	1,466.7
2015	407.8	552.5	97.8	181.7	258.3	1,498.1
2017	528.8	771.4	71.0	164.5	40.1	1,575.8
2019	557.2	632.0	92.2	153.3	109.7	1,544.4



	Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC	Other	Total
1918	11.3%	30.8%	48.9%		9.0%	100%
1922	21.4%	40.8%	34.2%		3.6%	100%
1923	21.1%	42.0%	35.4%		1.5%	100%
1924	28.4%	40.6%	31.0%		0.0%	100%
1929	22.0%	43.9%	33.5%	0.0%	0.6%	100%
1931	31.3%	44.1%	21.1%	0.1%	3.4%	100%
1935	33.6%	45.4%	18.0%	0.3%	2.7%	100%
1945	23.8%	58.5%	14.9%	1.1%	1.7%	100%
1950	27.4%	58.1%	12.6%	1.2%	0.7%	100%
1951	30.8%	60.5%	7.6%	0.7%	0.3%	100%
1955	29.9%	57.6%	7.3%	3.1%	2.1%	100%
1959	32.6%	56.4%	5.3%	5.2%	0.5%	100%
1964	29.4%	57.8%	7.3%	4.8%	0.6%	100%
1966	27.9%	60.7%	6.3%	4.3%	0.9%	100%
1970	27.7%	51.6%	6.8%	11.5%	2.4%	100%
1974 Feb	25.9%	46.8%	16.0%	10.8%	0.6%	100%
1974 Oct	23.9%	49.5%	15.5%	10.8%	0.2%	100%
1979	32.2%	48.6%	10.6%	8.1%	0.5%	100%
1983	31.0%	37.5%	23.2%	7.8%	0.4%	100%
1987	29.5%	45.1%	17.9%	7.3%	0.2%	100%
1992	28.6%	49.5%	12.4%	8.9%	0.6%	100%
1997	19.6%	54.7%	12.3%	9.9%	3.4%	100%
2001	19.6%	48.6%	13.8%	14.3%	3.8%	100%
2005	21.4%	42.7%	18.4%	12.6%	5.0%	100%
2010	26.1%	36.2%	20.1%	11.3%	6.3%	100%
2015	27.2%	36.9%	6.5%	12.1%	17.2%	100%
2017	33.6%	49.0%	4.5%	10.4%	2.5%	100%
2019	36.1%	40.9%	6.0%	9.9%	7.1%	100%

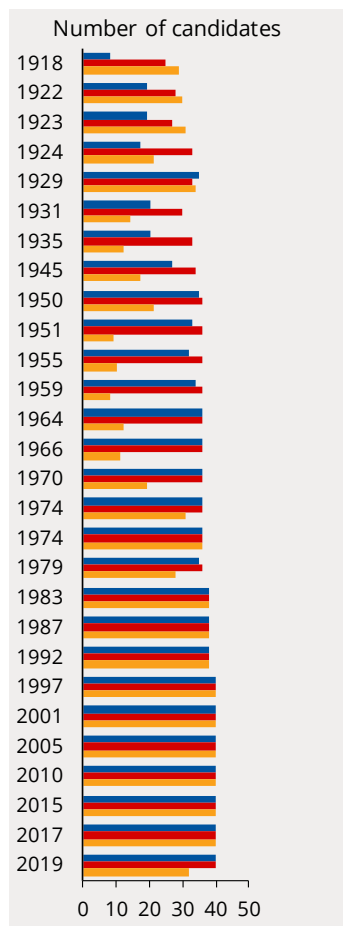
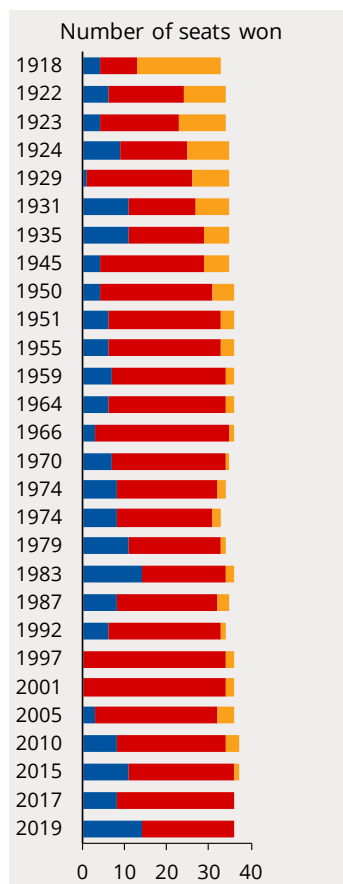


Table 1h: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Wales¹

		Candidates					
		CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC	Other	Total
1918		8	25	29		9	71
1922		19	28	30		3	80
1923		19	27	31		1	78
1924		17	33	21		0	71
1929		35	33	34	1	3	106
1931		20	30	14	1	7	72
1935		20	33	12	1	2	68
1945		27	34	17	6	3	87
1950		35	36	21	7	6	105
1951		33	36	9	4	2	84
1955		32	36	10	11	2	91
1959		34	36	8	20	3	101
1964		36	36	12	23	5	112
1966		36	36	11	20	8	111
1970		36	36	19	36	11	138
1974	Feb	36	36	31	36	9	148
1974	Oct	36	36	36	36	6	150
1979		35	36	28	36	19	154
1983		38	38	38	38	17	169
1987		38	38	38	38	6	158
1992		38	38	38	35	31	180
1997		40	40	40	40	63	223
2001		40	40	40	40	64	224
2005		40	40	40	40	90	250
2010		40	40	40	40	108	268
2015		40	40	40	40	118	278
2017		40	40	40	40	53	213
2019		40	40	32	36	68	216



		Seats won					
		CON ²	LAB	LD ³	PC	Other	Total
1918		4	9	20		2	35
1922		6	18	10		1	35
1923		4	19	11		1	35
1924		9	16	10		0	35
1929		1	25	9	0	0	35
1931		11	16	8	0	0	35
1935		11	18	6	0	0	35
1945		4	25	6	0	0	35
1950		4	27	5	0	0	36
1951		6	27	3	0	0	36
1955		6	27	3	0	0	36
1959		7	27	2	0	0	36
1964		6	28	2	0	0	36
1966		3	32	1	0	0	36
1970		7	27	1	0	1	36
1974	Feb	8	24	2	2	0	36
1974	Oct	8	23	2	3	0	36
1979		11	22	1	2	0	36
1983		14	20	2	2	0	38
1987		8	24	3	3	0	38
1992		6	27	1	4	0	38
1997		0	34	2	4	0	40
2001		0	34	2	4	0	40
2005		3	29	4	3	1	40
2010		8	26	3	3	0	40
2015		11	25	1	3	0	40
2017		8	28	0	4	0	40
2019		14	22	0	4	0	40

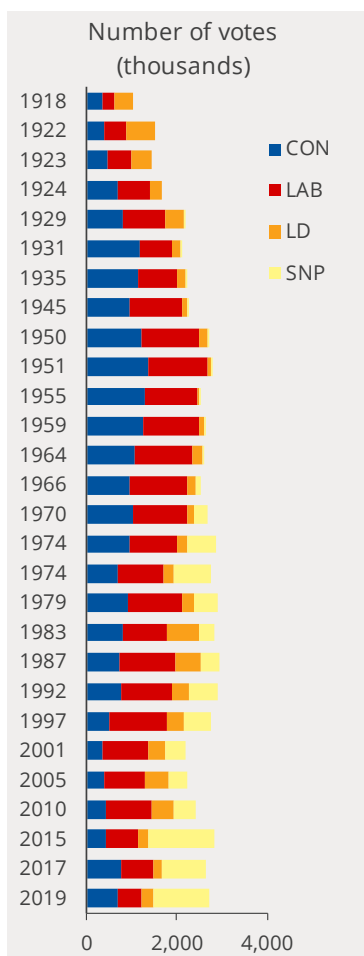
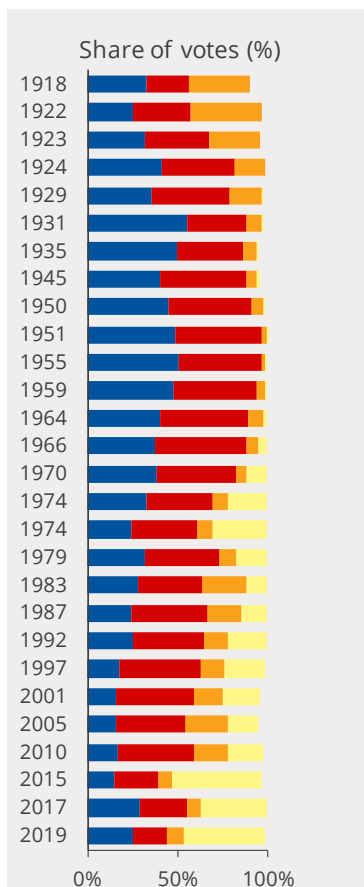


Table 1i: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Scotland¹

	Votes (thousands)					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	SNP	Other	
1918	358.5	265.7	385.1		117.4	1126.7
1922	379.4	501.3	617.2		71.5	1569.4
1923	468.5	532.5	423.0		77.4	1501.3
1924	688.3	697.1	286.5		45.1	1717.1
1929	792.1	937.3	407.1	3.3	103.2	2242.9
1931	1180.0	696.2	205.4	21.0	71.7	2174.3
1935	1135.4	863.8	174.2	25.7	124.7	2323.8
1945	964.1	1,144.3	132.8	30.6	118.0	2,389.9
1950	1,222.0	1,259.4	180.3	9.7	55.3	2,726.7
1951	1,349.3	1,330.2	76.3	7.3	14.7	2,777.8
1955	1,273.9	1,188.1	47.3	12.1	21.9	2,543.3
1959	1,260.3	1,245.3	109.0	21.7	31.3	2,667.5
1964	1,069.7	1,283.7	200.1	64.0	17.1	2,634.5
1966	960.7	1,273.9	172.4	128.5	16.9	2,552.4
1970	1,020.7	1,197.1	147.7	306.8	16.0	2,688.2
1974 Feb	950.7	1,057.6	229.2	633.2	16.5	2,887.1
1974 Oct	681.3	1,000.6	228.9	839.6	7.7	2,758.1
1979	916.2	1,211.4	262.2	504.3	22.6	2,916.6
1983	801.5	990.7	692.6	332.0	7.8	2,824.6
1987	713.1	1,258.1	570.1	416.5	10.1	2,967.8
1992	752.0	1,142.9	383.9	629.6	23.4	2,931.7
1997	493.1	1,283.4	365.4	621.6	53.4	2,816.7
2001	360.7	1,001.2	378.0	464.3	109.5	2,313.7
2005	369.4	907.2	528.1	412.3	116.9	2,333.9
2010	412.9	1,035.5	465.5	491.4	60.5	2,465.8
2015	434.1	707.1	219.7	1,454.4	95.2	2,910.5
2017	757.9	717.0	179.1	977.6	18.1	2,649.7
2019	692.9	511.8	263.0	1,242.4	48.5	2,759.1



	Share of vote (%)					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	SNP	Other	
1918	32.8%	22.9%	34.1%		10.2%	100%
1922	25.1%	32.2%	39.2%		3.5%	100%
1923	31.6%	35.9%	28.4%		4.1%	100%
1924	40.7%	41.1%	16.6%		1.6%	100%
1929	35.9%	42.3%	18.1%	0.2%	3.5%	100%
1931	55.4%	32.6%	8.6%	1.0%	2.4%	100%
1935	49.8%	36.8%	6.7%	1.1%	5.6%	100%
1945	40.3%	47.9%	5.6%	1.3%	4.9%	100%
1950	44.8%	46.2%	6.6%	0.4%	2.0%	100%
1951	48.6%	47.9%	2.7%	0.3%	0.5%	100%
1955	50.1%	46.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	100%
1959	47.2%	46.7%	4.1%	0.8%	1.2%	100%
1964	40.6%	48.7%	7.6%	2.4%	0.6%	100%
1966	37.6%	49.9%	6.8%	5.0%	0.7%	100%
1970	38.0%	44.5%	5.5%	11.4%	0.6%	100%
1974 Feb	32.9%	36.6%	7.9%	21.9%	0.6%	100%
1974 Oct	24.7%	36.3%	8.3%	30.4%	0.3%	100%
1979	31.4%	41.5%	9.0%	17.3%	0.8%	100%
1983	28.4%	35.1%	24.5%	11.8%	0.3%	100%
1987	24.0%	42.4%	19.2%	14.0%	0.3%	100%
1992	25.6%	39.0%	13.1%	21.5%	0.8%	100%
1997	17.5%	45.6%	13.0%	22.1%	1.9%	100%
2001	15.6%	43.3%	16.3%	20.1%	4.7%	100%
2005	15.8%	38.9%	22.6%	17.7%	5.0%	100%
2010	16.7%	42.0%	18.9%	19.9%	2.5%	100%
2015	14.9%	24.3%	7.5%	50.0%	3.3%	100%
2017	28.6%	27.1%	6.8%	36.9%	0.7%	100%
2019	25.1%	18.6%	9.5%	45.0%	1.8%	100%

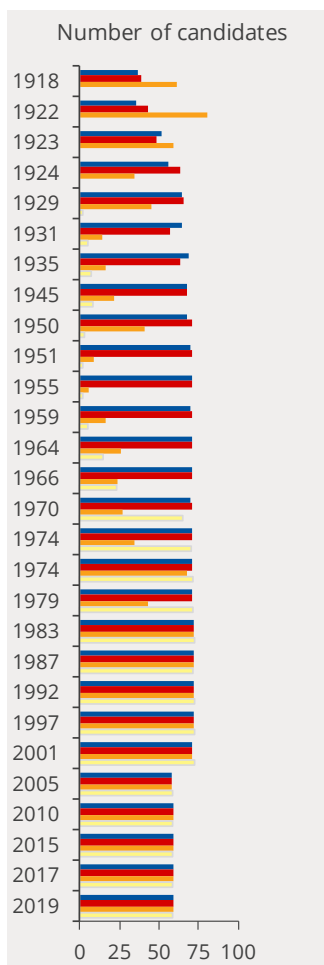
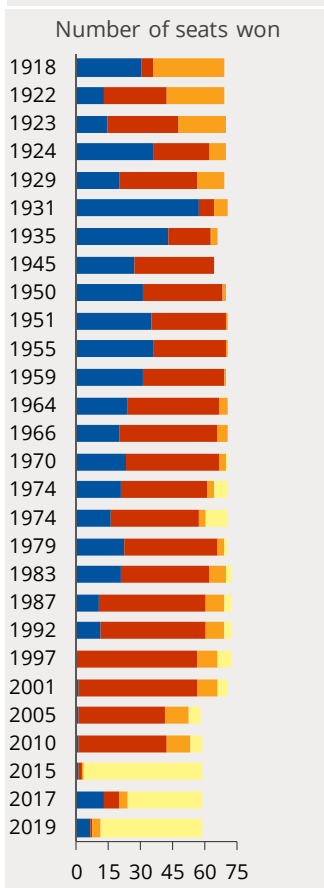


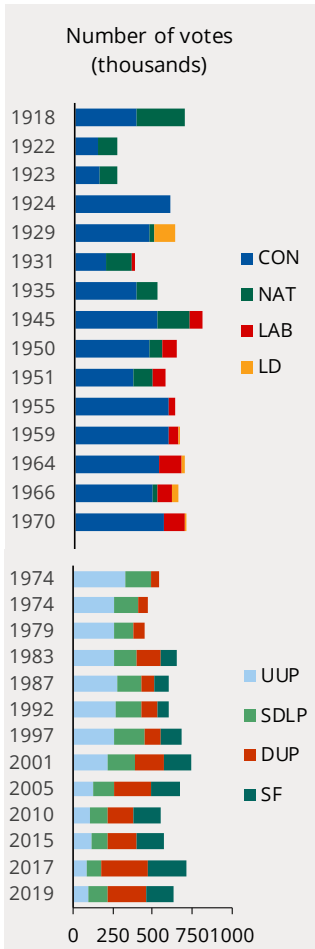
Table 1j: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Scotland¹

	Candidates					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	SNP	Other	
1918	37	39	61		28	165
1922	36	43	81		8	168
1923	52	48	59		8	167
1924	56	63	34		3	156
1929	65	66	45	2	14	192
1931	65	57	14	5	14	155
1935	69	63	16	7	12	167
1945	68	68	22	8	18	184
1950	68	71	41	3	29	212
1951	70	71	9	2	8	160
1955	71	71	5	2	7	156
1959	70	71	16	5	10	172
1964	71	71	26	15	14	197
1966	71	71	24	23	17	206
1970	70	71	27	65	23	256
1974 Feb	71	71	34	70	19	265
1974 Oct	71	71	68	71	12	293
1979	71	71	43	71	28	284
1983	72	72	72	72	26	314
1987	72	72	72	71	21	308
1992	72	72	72	72	53	341
1997	72	72	72	72	143	431
2001	71	71	71	72	122	407
2005	58	58	58	59	149	382
2010	59	59	59	59	113	349
2015	59	59	59	59	110	346
2017	59	59	59	59	30	266
2019	59	59	59	59	56	292

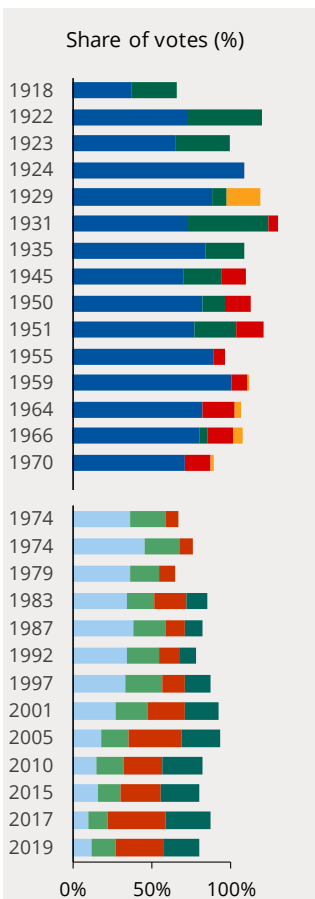


	Seats won					Total
	CON ²	LAB	LD ³	SNP	Other	
1918	30	6	33		2	71
1922	13	29	27		2	71
1923	14	34	22		1	71
1924	36	26	8		1	71
1929	20	36	13	0	2	71
1931	57	7	7	0	0	71
1935	43	20	3	0	5	71
1945	27	37	0	0	7	71
1950	31	37	2	0	1	71
1951	35	35	1	0	0	71
1955	36	34	1	0	0	71
1959	31	38	1	0	1	71
1964	24	43	4	0	0	71
1966	20	46	5	0	0	71
1970	23	44	3	1	0	71
1974 Feb	21	40	3	7	0	71
1974 Oct	16	41	3	11	0	71
1979	22	44	3	2	0	71
1983	21	41	8	2	0	72
1987	10	50	9	3	0	72
1992	11	49	9	3	0	72
1997	0	56	10	6	0	72
2001	1	55	10	5	1	72
2005	1	40	11	6	1	59
2010	1	41	11	6	0	59
2015	1	1	1	56	0	59
2017	13	7	4	35	0	59
2019	6	1	4	48	0	59

Table 1k: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Northern Ireland¹



	Votes (thousands)					Total
	CON ²	NAT	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918 ⁴	289.2	228.9	..	..	521.1	1039.2
1922	108.0	90.1	..	..	9.9	207.9
1923	117.2	87.7	..	..	37.4	242.3
1924	451.3	..	..	..	68.1	519.4
1929	354.7	24.2	..	100.1	31.1	510.1
1931	149.6	123.1	9.4	..	..	282.0
1935	292.8	101.5	..	..	56.8	451.2
1945	392.5	148.1	65.5	..	113.8	719.8
1950	352.3	65.2	67.8	..	76.1	561.4
1951	274.9	92.8	62.3	..	33.2	463.2
1955	442.6	..	35.6	..	168.4	646.6
1959	445.0	..	44.4	3.3	83.5	576.1
1964	401.9	..	102.8	17.4	116.3	638.3
1966	368.6	22.2	72.6	29.1	103.7	596.2
1970	422.0	..	98.2	12.0	246.9	779.1
	UUP ⁵	SDLP	DUP	SF ⁶	Other	Total
1974 Feb	326.4	160.4	58.7	..	172.1	717.6
1974 Oct	256.1	154.2	59.5	..	232.4	702.1
1979	254.6	126.3	71.0	..	244.0	695.9
1983	260.0	137.0	152.7	102.7	112.5	764.9
1987	276.2	154.1	85.6	83.4	130.8	730.1
1992	271.0	154.4	103.0	78.3	178.3	785.1
1997	258.3	190.8	107.3	126.9	107.3	790.8
2001	216.8	169.9	182.0	175.9	65.7	810.4
2005	127.4	125.6	241.9	174.5	48.2	717.6
2010	102.4	111.0	168.2	171.9	120.4	673.9
2015	114.9	99.8	184.3	176.2	142.9	718.1
2017	83.3	95.4	292.3	238.9	102.3	812.2
2019	93.1	118.7	244.1	181.9	161.2	799.0



	Share of vote (%)					Total
	CON ²	NAT	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918 ⁴	28.4%	22.0%	..	..	49.6%	100%
1922	55.8%	36.3%	..	..	7.9%	100%
1923	49.4%	27.3%	..	..	23.3%	100%
1924	83.8%	..	..	..	16.2%	100%
1929	68.0%	6.6%	..	16.8%	8.6%	100%
1931	56.1%	38.9%	5.0%	..	..	100%
1935	64.9%	18.3%	..	..	16.8%	100%
1945	53.7%	18.8%	11.4%	..	16.1%	100%
1950	62.8%	11.6%	12.1%	..	13.6%	100%
1951	59.4%	20.0%	13.5%	..	7.2%	100%
1955	68.5%	..	5.5%	..	26.0%	100%
1959	77.2%	..	7.7%	0.6%	14.5%	100%
1964	63.0%	..	16.1%	2.7%	18.2%	100%
1966	61.8%	3.7%	12.2%	4.9%	17.4%	100%
1970	54.2%	..	12.6%	1.5%	31.7%	100%
	UUP ⁵	SDLP	DUP	SF ⁶	Other	Total
1974 Feb	45.5%	22.4%	8.2%	..	24.0%	100%
1974 Oct	36.5%	22.0%	8.5%	..	33.1%	100%
1979	36.6%	18.2%	10.2%	..	35.1%	100%
1983	34.0%	17.9%	20.0%	13.4%	14.7%	100%
1987	37.8%	21.1%	11.7%	11.4%	17.9%	100%
1992	34.5%	19.7%	13.1%	10.0%	22.7%	100%
1997	32.7%	24.1%	13.6%	16.1%	13.6%	100%
2001	26.8%	21.0%	22.5%	21.7%	8.1%	100%
2005	17.8%	17.5%	33.7%	24.3%	6.7%	100%
2010	15.2%	16.5%	25.0%	25.5%	17.9%	100%
2015	16.0%	13.9%	25.7%	24.5%	19.9%	100%
2017	10.3%	11.7%	36.0%	29.4%	12.6%	100%
2019	11.7%	14.9%	30.6%	22.8%	20.2%	100%

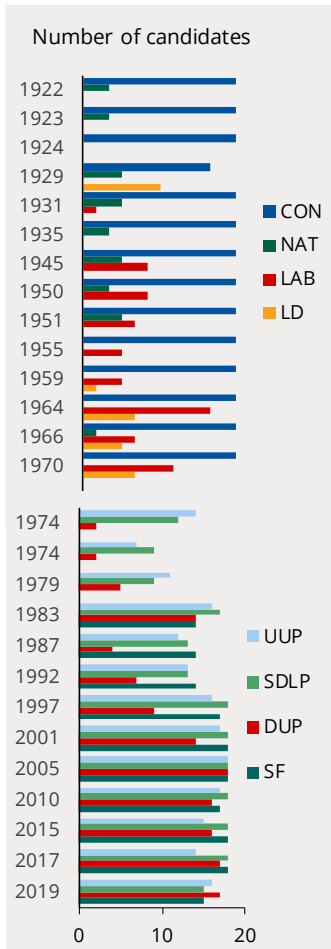
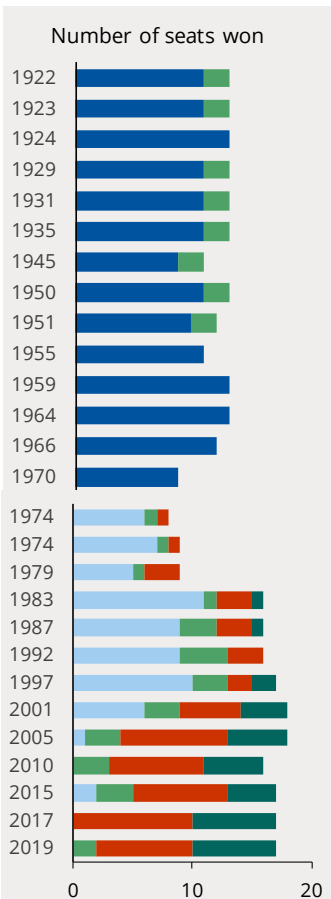


Table 1: General Election Results, 1918-2019: Northern Ireland¹

	Candidates					Total
	CON ²	NAT	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918 ⁴	36	56	..	..	112	204
1922	12	2	..	..	1	15
1923	12	2	..	..	2	16
1924	12	..	..	..	10	22
1929	10	3	..	6	3	22
1931	12	3	1	..	..	16
1935	12	2	..	..	3	17
1945	12	3	5	..	4	24
1950	12	2	5	..	4	23
1951	12	3	4	..	1	20
1955	12	..	3	..	13	28
1959	12	..	3	1	13	29
1964	12	..	10	4	13	39
1966	12	1	4	3	7	27
1970	12	..	7	4	17	40
	UUP ⁵	SDLP	DUP	SF ⁶	Other	Total
1974 Feb	14	12	2	..	20	48
1974 Oct	7	9	2	..	25	43
1979	11	9	5	..	39	64
1983	16	17	14	14	34	95
1987	12	13	4	14	34	77
1992	13	13	7	14	53	100
1997	16	18	9	17	65	125
2001	17	18	14	18	33	100
2005	18	18	18	18	33	105
2010	17	18	16	17	40	108
2015	15	18	16	18	71	138
2017	14	18	17	18	42	109
2019	16	15	17	15	39	102



	Seats won					Total
	CON ²	NAT	LAB	LD ³	Other	
1918 ⁴	23	6	..	..	72	101
1922	10	2	..	..	0	12
1923	10	2	..	..	0	12
1924	12	..	..	..	0	12
1929	10	2	..	0	0	12
1931	10	2	0	..	..	12
1935	10	2	..	..	0	12
1945	8	2	0	..	2	12
1950	10	2	0	..	0	12
1951	9	2	0	..	1	12
1955	10	..	0	..	2	12
1959	12	..	0	0	0	12
1964	12	..	0	0	0	12
1966	11	0	0	0	1	12
1970	8	..	0	0	4	12
	UUP ⁵	SDLP	DUP	SF ⁶	Other	Total
1974 Feb	7	1	1	..	3	12
1974 Oct	6	1	1	..	4	12
1979	5	1	3	..	3	12
1983	11	1	3	1	1	17
1987	9	3	3	1	1	17
1992	9	4	3	0	1	17
1997	10	3	2	2	1	18
2001	6	3	5	4	0	18
2005	1	3	9	5	0	18
2010	0	3	8	5	2	18
2015	2	3	8	4	1	18
2017	0	0	10	7	1	18
2019	0	2	8	7	1	18

Notes for tables 1a-1l

1. For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.
2. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.
3. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1988 onwards.
4. 1918 figures include all of Ireland. After the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922 Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom.
5. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in the table from 1974 onwards. Ulster Unionists took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972 and are listed as Conservatives for general elections up to 1970; from 1974 they are listed as UUP.
6. Includes Irish Nationalist/Anti-Partitionist

Sources for tables 1a-1l

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library general elections papers (results and analysis): 2010, 2015, 2017 & 2019

2.3

Turnout and electorate

Up to 1997, turnout at UK general elections had generally been above 70%. Turnout was only 57% in the 1918 General Election, although this was partly due to a low service (armed forces) vote and a large number of uncontested seats (107 out of a total of 707 seats).

In 2001, turnout fell to 59%, its lowest level since 1918 and down 12 percentage points compared with 1997. Although turnout rose from its 2001 low point, it has remained below 70% in each of the last six general elections.

Table 2a: Turnout at UK General Elections, 1918-2019

Valid votes as % of electorate

	Turnout at UK General Elections				United Kingdom
	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	
1918	55.7%	65.9%	55.1%	69.5%	57.2%
1922	72.8%	79.4%	70.4%	77.2%	73.0%
1923	71.1%	77.3%	67.9%	76.5%	71.1%
1924	77.4%	80.0%	75.1%	66.7%	77.0%
1929	76.6%	82.4%	73.5%	63.8%	76.3%
1931	76.1%	79.3%	77.4%	74.5%	76.4%
1935	70.7%	76.4%	72.6%	72.0%	71.1%
1945	73.4%	75.7%	69.0%	67.4%	72.8%
1950	84.4%	84.8%	80.9%	77.4%	83.9%
1951	82.7%	84.4%	81.2%	79.9%	82.6%
1955	76.9%	79.6%	75.1%	74.1%	76.8%
1959	78.9%	82.6%	78.1%	65.9%	78.7%
1964	77.0%	80.1%	77.6%	71.7%	77.1%
1966	75.9%	79.0%	76.0%	66.1%	75.8%
1970	71.4%	77.4%	74.1%	76.6%	72.0%
1974	79.0%	80.0%	79.0%	69.9%	78.8%
1974	72.6%	76.6%	74.8%	67.7%	72.8%
1979	75.9%	79.4%	76.8%	67.7%	76.0%
1983	72.5%	76.1%	72.7%	72.9%	72.7%
1987	75.4%	78.9%	75.1%	67.0%	75.3%
1992	78.0%	79.7%	75.5%	69.8%	77.7%
1997	71.4%	73.5%	71.3%	67.1%	71.4%
2001	59.2%	61.6%	58.2%	68.0%	59.4%
2005	61.3%	62.6%	60.8%	62.9%	61.4%
2010	65.5%	64.8%	63.8%	57.6%	65.1%
2015	66.0%	65.7%	71.0%	58.1%	66.2%
2017	69.1%	68.6%	66.4%	65.4%	68.8%
2019	67.5%	66.6%	68.1%	61.8%	67.3%

Note: 1. 1918 figures include all of Ireland.

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; House of Commons Library general election papers 2015, 2017 & 2019

The franchise for voting in Parliamentary elections has expanded since the start of the twentieth century. Prior to 1918, only male householders aged over 21 who paid taxes had the vote. The Representation of the People Act 1918 extended the franchise to women aged 30 and over and removed the property requirement. Women aged 21 and over were given the vote in 1928. The voting age for both men and women was lowered on an equal basis to 18 in 1969.

The 1918 Act permitted an extra vote to people who occupied business premises worth more than £10 per year, and to their spouse, provided the premises were in a different constituency to their residence. This extra business vote was abolished in 1949.²

² Women who occupied business premises in their own right had an extra vote if the property was worth more than £5 a year. From 1928, their husbands were also granted an extra vote. For more information see Robert Blackburn, *The Electoral System in Britain* (1995), 66-75.

Until 1945 there were University constituencies with their own MPs (12 in 1945). Graduates of these universities could vote for their university seats in addition to any other vote that they might have, regardless of where they lived. The number of Members elected per university constituency varied between three for the Combined Scottish Universities to one for London University. University representation was abolished by the time of the 1950 General Election.

The total registered electorate at the 2019 General Election was 47.6 million, 0.8 million higher than the electorate in 2017.

Table 2b: Electorates in the UK

Number of registered voters at the start of the register

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
1945	27,544,167	1,824,517	3,451,935	851,417	33,672,036
1946	28,865,697	1,871,665	3,584,289	864,709	35,186,360
1947	29,376,680	1,893,824	3,614,201	865,558	35,750,263
1948	29,715,892	1,913,969	3,642,497	874,342	36,146,700
1949	28,371,842	1,802,124	3,370,320	865,421	34,409,707
1950	28,408,683	1,797,984	3,404,101	865,364	34,476,132
1951	28,813,384	1,812,676	3,421,433	871,905	34,919,398
1952	28,896,772	1,813,666	3,413,792	873,596	34,997,826
1953	28,904,032	1,813,088	3,408,777	874,958	35,000,855
1954	28,923,119	1,814,300	3,407,253	874,701	35,019,373
1955	29,018,827	1,815,011	3,414,592	877,051	35,125,481
1956	29,117,160	1,810,769	3,410,718	875,384	35,214,031
1957	29,173,270	1,807,892	3,410,152	873,987	35,265,301
1958	29,237,876	1,808,422	3,407,801	872,647	35,326,746
1959	29,303,126	1,805,686	3,413,732	874,739	35,397,283
1960	29,415,941	1,803,777	3,414,572	880,202	35,514,492
1961	29,469,255	1,801,781	3,402,449	880,149	35,553,634
1962	29,589,260	1,804,483	3,404,172	883,693	35,681,608
1963	29,684,814	1,805,495	3,397,839	888,490	35,776,638
1964	29,804,374	1,805,495	3,393,391	891,043	35,894,303
1965	30,025,849	1,813,203	3,389,908	899,427	36,128,387
1966	30,185,780	1,816,565	3,385,710	906,634	36,294,689
1967	30,290,803	1,817,616	3,374,151	909,841	36,392,411
1968	30,570,603	1,827,670	3,387,905	916,866	36,703,044
1969	30,819,095	1,842,335	3,398,392	926,549	36,986,371
1970	32,960,554	1,971,629	3,659,107	1,025,215	39,616,505
1971	33,186,051	1,990,094	3,685,283	1,033,801	39,895,229
1972	33,316,464	1,997,400	3,691,007	1,033,608	40,038,479
1973	33,412,961	2,005,749	3,688,186	1,032,034	40,138,930
1974	33,492,353	2,016,741	3,704,631	1,041,886	40,255,611
1975	33,755,747	2,032,966	3,733,232	1,041,117	40,563,062
1976	33,928,554	2,046,444	3,764,194	1,033,240	40,772,432
1977	34,084,807	2,055,172	3,786,051	1,032,914	40,958,944
1978	34,279,940	2,065,019	3,809,091	1,033,702	41,187,752
1979	34,611,408	2,083,772	3,837,019	1,040,506	41,572,705
1980	34,831,958	2,098,552	3,860,551	1,049,466	41,840,527
1981	35,068,122	2,115,093	3,885,462	1,053,332	42,122,009
1982	35,363,733	2,127,935	3,913,385	1,057,263	42,462,316

Table 2b: Electorates in the UK (continued)

1983	35,569,726	2,138,385	3,934,220	1,061,185	42,703,516
1984	35,800,362	2,148,484	3,957,276	1,077,605	42,983,727
1985	35,937,374	2,142,609	3,967,943	1,082,609	43,130,535
1986	36,158,417	2,160,147	3,986,654	1,087,399	43,392,617
1987	36,393,203	2,175,168	3,994,893	1,103,111	43,666,375
1988	36,448,414	2,180,269	3,967,377	1,109,011	43,705,071
1989	36,364,782	2,194,625	3,932,911	1,120,508	43,612,826
1990	36,388,575	2,207,542	3,936,704	1,130,602	43,663,423
1991	36,302,099	2,207,283	3,914,590	1,132,811	43,556,783
1992	36,435,873	2,218,551	3,928,996	1,141,466	43,724,886
1993	36,411,280	2,222,624	3,931,429	1,153,204	43,718,537
1994	36,455,151	2,222,091	3,947,157	1,162,335	43,786,734
1995	36,544,929	2,220,290	3,961,566	1,169,423	43,896,208
1996	36,626,853	2,217,893	3,963,072	1,176,927	43,984,745
1997	36,806,467	2,222,533	3,984,406	1,190,198	44,203,604
1998	36,885,805	2,230,452	3,992,502	1,188,034	44,296,793
1999	36,947,525	2,227,571	4,011,450	1,202,339	44,388,885
2000	36,994,211	2,232,474	3,992,034	1,204,721	44,423,440
2001	37,101,328	2,238,211	4,001,018	1,205,097	44,545,654
2002	37,296,327	2,235,666	3,966,801	1,196,970	44,695,764
2003	37,179,095	2,225,599	3,887,059	1,071,600	44,363,353
2004	36,972,519	2,219,973	3,857,997	1,067,564	44,118,053
2005	37,043,608	2,233,467	3,857,631	1,045,537	44,180,243
2006	37,151,991	2,236,808	3,861,207	1,153,409	44,403,415
2007	37,588,775	2,243,244	3,872,901	1,070,265	44,775,185
2008	37,817,466	2,257,474	3,887,571	1,120,343	45,082,854
2009	37,912,549	2,261,769	3,885,148	1,134,983	45,194,449
2010	38,129,082	2,261,269	3,869,700	1,160,757	45,420,808
2011	38,443,481	2,281,596	3,928,979	1,190,635	45,844,691
2012	38,654,024	2,298,569	3,941,592	1,212,967	46,107,152
2013	38,597,137	2,297,250	4,027,187	1,218,366	46,139,940
2014	37,831,553	2,225,749	4,035,394	1,232,382	45,325,078
2015	37,399,942	2,181,841	3,896,852	1,243,369	44,722,004
2016	38,386,864	2,243,919	3,929,963	1,205,683	45,766,429
2017	38,693,859	2,261,233	3,950,643	1,242,300	46,148,035
2018	38,371,414	2,230,104	3,925,820	1,248,420	45,775,758
2019	39,476,140	2,313,851	3,988,550	1,296,307	47,074,848
2020	39,298,264	2,304,640	4,012,429	1,290,937	46,906,270
2021	38,889,429	2,307,877	4,028,717	1,334,429	46,560,452
2022	38,822,827	2,304,723	4,012,718	1,337,369	46,477,637

Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2012, [ONS electoral statistics](#)

2.4

Spoilt Ballots

Statistics relating to spoilt ballots (votes cast but which cannot be included in the count of votes) have been routinely collated for general elections since 1964. In 2019, there were 117,101 spoilt ballots.³ This was 747 fewer than the

³ Data on spoilt ballots for the 2019 General Election is based on information collected and published by The Electoral Commission.

highest number ever recorded in 1979, when the general election coincided with local elections and many voters received two ballot papers.

There have also been relatively large numbers of spoilt ballots in general elections since 1997, particularly those which have coincided with local elections. The lowest number of spoilt ballots per constituency was 57 or 0.11% of all ballots, which was recorded in 1987.

Table 3: Spoilt Ballot Papers in UK General Elections, 1964-2019

Years	Number of ballots rejected at the count				Total	Number per	
	Want of Official Mark	Voting for more than one candidate	Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	Unmarked or void for uncertainty		constituency	% of all ballots
1964	2,826	15,486	6,787	15,974	41,073	65	0.15%
1966	2,061	11,519	8,525	27,794	49,899	79	0.18%
1970	2,118	14,144	7,541	17,544	41,347	66	0.15%
1974 Feb	3,176	12,214	7,320	19,542	42,252	67	0.13%
1974 Oct	2,938	13,492	6,009	15,267	37,706	59	0.13%
1979	3,282	72,515	5,801	36,250	117,848	186	0.38%
1983	2,819	27,938	4,693	15,654	51,104	79	0.17%
1987	2,408	14,216	4,976	15,345	36,945	57	0.11%
1992	2,593	14,538	5,008	17,587	39,726	61	0.12%
1997	2,169	25,234	4,421	61,415	93,408	142	0.30%
2001	2,548	22,590	3,760	69,910	100,005	152	0.38%
2005	2,971	20,595	4,439	54,377	85,038	132	0.31%
2010	640	21,996	2,522	50,964	81,879	117	0.28%
2015	1,355	26,406	2,453	69,462	102,639	158	0.33%
2017	594	18,533	1,401	53,431	74,289	114	0.23%
2019	574	20,983	1,585	93,959	117,101	180	0.36%

Notes: Rows may not sum to the total. For some constituencies in some years the number of spoilt ballots by reason is not available. The total column also includes spoilt ballots classified as 'rejected in part'.

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006* and later editions; Electoral Commission, [Electoral data files and reports](#), accessed 19 November 2018; Data for 2019: Electoral Commission, [Report overview: 2019 Parliamentary general election](#), accessed 27th July 2021.

2.5 Postal votes

Figures on postal voting have been compiled since the 1945 General Election, when temporary provision was made for postal voting by service voters. The Representation of the People Act 1948 introduced postal voting for both service personnel and certain groups of civilians.

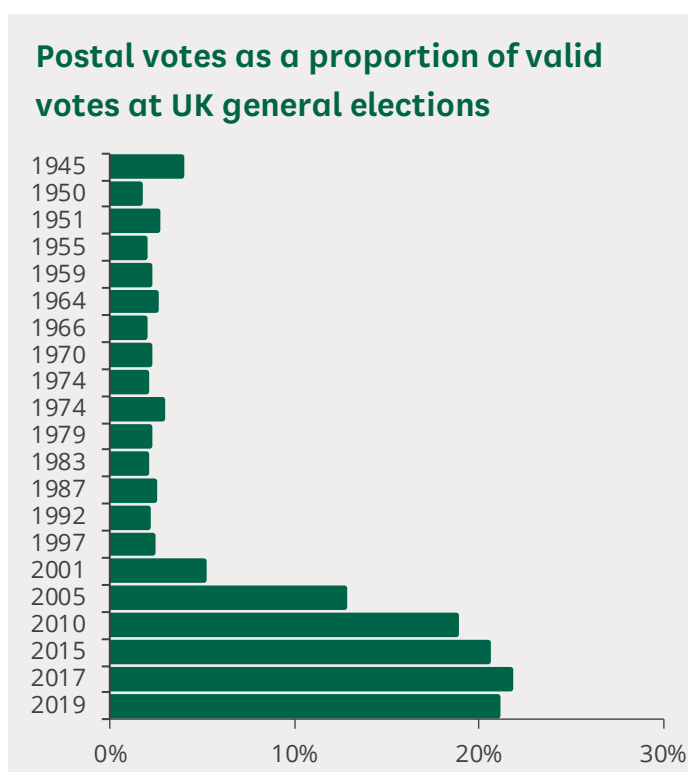
Since February 2001 it is possible to get a postal vote on demand; electors no longer have to state a reason for applying for an absent vote or to obtain attestation of illness (etc.) from a medical practitioner or employer. As a result, the number of postal votes issued at general elections rose from 800,000 before the change to around 6.9 million in 2019.

The number of postal votes returned in 2019 fell by just under 300,000 from a previous all-time peak of around 7.2 million in 2017.

Table 4: Postal Ballot Papers in UK Elections, 1945-2019

	Number of postal ballot papers issued	Covering envelopes returned before close of poll	Postal votes included in count		Postal votes as % of total valid votes
			Number	% of all postal ballot papers issued	
1945	1,219,519	1,032,688	1,018,329	83.5%	3.9%
1950	507,717	478,038	466,347	91.9%	1.6%
1951	831,877	756,967	742,574	89.3%	2.5%
1955	595,000	526,904	515,593	86.7%	1.9%
1959	692,827	612,231	598,559	86.4%	2.1%
1964	818,901	723,927	707,636	86.4%	2.5%
1966	617,481	528,006	513,041	83.1%	1.8%
1970	731,249	639,674	625,355	85.5%	2.2%
1974 Feb	743,441	645,080	628,907	84.6%	2.0%
1974 Oct	1,075,131	875,324	850,105	79.1%	2.8%
1979	847,335	714,892	691,969	81.7%	2.2%
1983	757,604	643,634	623,554	82.3%	2.0%
1987	947,948	818,349	793,062	83.7%	2.4%
1992	835,074	714,895	692,139	82.9%	2.0%
1997	937,205	764,366	738,614	78.8%	2.3%
2001	1,758,055	1,402,073	1,402,073	79.8%	5.0%
2005	5,362,501	4,110,039	3,963,792	73.9%	12.7%
2010	6,996,006	5,818,853	5,596,865	80.0%	18.8%
2015	7,592,735	6,516,228	6,302,073	83.0%	20.5%
2017	8,412,060	7,155,315	6,986,581	83.1%	21.7%
2019	8,034,718	6,866,494	6,717,670	83.6%	21.0%

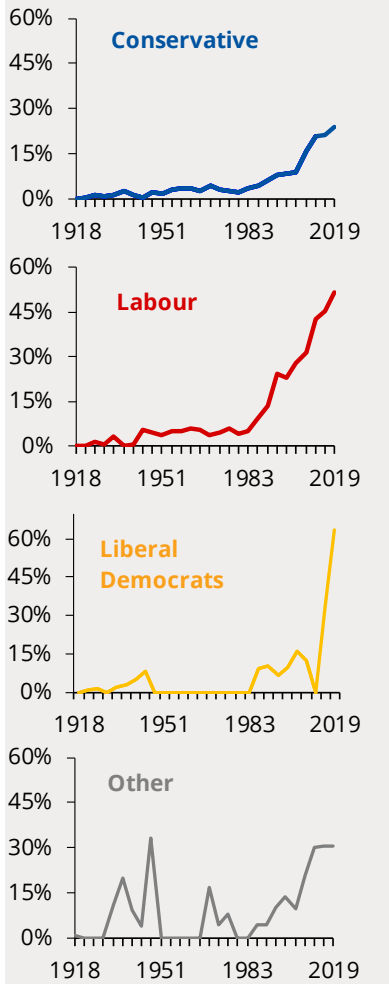
Source for table and chart below: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; Electoral Commission [results data](#)



2.6

Characteristics of Members of Parliament

Proportion of women MPs of total seats won by party



Data on the social background of MPs is not collected centrally. This section includes data published by David Butler, Dennis Kavanagh and others in the ‘The British General Election of...’ series. House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP-7583 [Social background of Members of Parliament 1979-2019](#) provides further analysis of the characteristics of MPs.

In the period from 1951 to 2010, 97% of elected MPs represented the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. After the 2019 election, 89% of seats were held by these parties, a two-percentage point decrease compared to 91% in 2017.

Gender

220 women were elected at the 2019 General Election (34% of all MPs), more than at any previous election. Women were first able to stand for Parliament in 1918 from the age of 21 years.⁴ Constance Markievicz became the first woman elected, at the 1918 General Election, but she did not take her seat along with other Sinn Féin MPs. Nancy Astor, elected in a 1919 by-election, became the first woman to sit in the House of Commons.

Until 1997, women had never held more than 10% of seats. The proportion of seats held by women doubled in 1997, when 120 female MPs were elected (18% of all MPs). In total, 552 women have been elected to the House of Commons since 1918, of whom four did not take their seat.

⁴ The Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918 allowed women aged 21 and over to stand for Parliament. Women aged 30 and over were given the vote in 1918. In 1928 the voting age for women was lowered to 21.

Table 5: Women MPs elected at general elections, by party

	CON ¹	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total	% MPs
1918 ³	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
1922	1	0	1	0	2	0.3%
1923	3	3	2	0	8	1.3%
1924	3	1	0	0	4	0.7%
1929	3	9	1	1	14	2.3%
1931	13	0	1	1	15	2.4%
1935	6	1	1	1	9	1.5%
1945	1	21	1	1	24	3.8%
1950	6	14	0	1	21	3.4%
1951	6	11	0	0	17	2.7%
1955	10	14	0	0	24	3.8%
1959	12	13	0	0	25	4.0%
1964	11	18	0	0	29	4.6%
1966	7	19	0	0	26	4.1%
1970	15	10	0	1	26	4.1%
1974 Feb	9	13	0	1	23	3.6%
1974 Oct	7	18	0	2	27	4.3%
1979	8	11	0	0	19	3.0%
1983	13	10	0	0	23	3.5%
1987	17	21	2	1	41	6.3%
1992	20	37	2	1	60	9.2%
1997	13	101	3	3	120	18.2%
2001	14	95	5	4	118	17.9%
2005	17	98	10	3	128	19.8%
2010	49	81	7	6	143	22.0%
2015	68	99	0	24	191	29.4%
2017	67	119	4	18	208	32.0%
2019	87	104	7	22	220	33.8%

Notes:

1. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-35; National and National Liberal for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative for 1945-70.

2. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance for 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992.

3. Figures for all Ireland, not just Northern Ireland.

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; House of Commons Library general election papers, 2010, 2015, 2017 & 2019

Age of MPs

In the period from 1979 to 2019, the average age of MPs at elections has been consistently around 50 years. From 1997 to 2005 the average age of MPs elected rose, from 49.3 years in 1997 to 51.2 years in 2005, before falling to 51 in 2019.

Table 6: Ages of Members of Parliament
Age at the time of general election

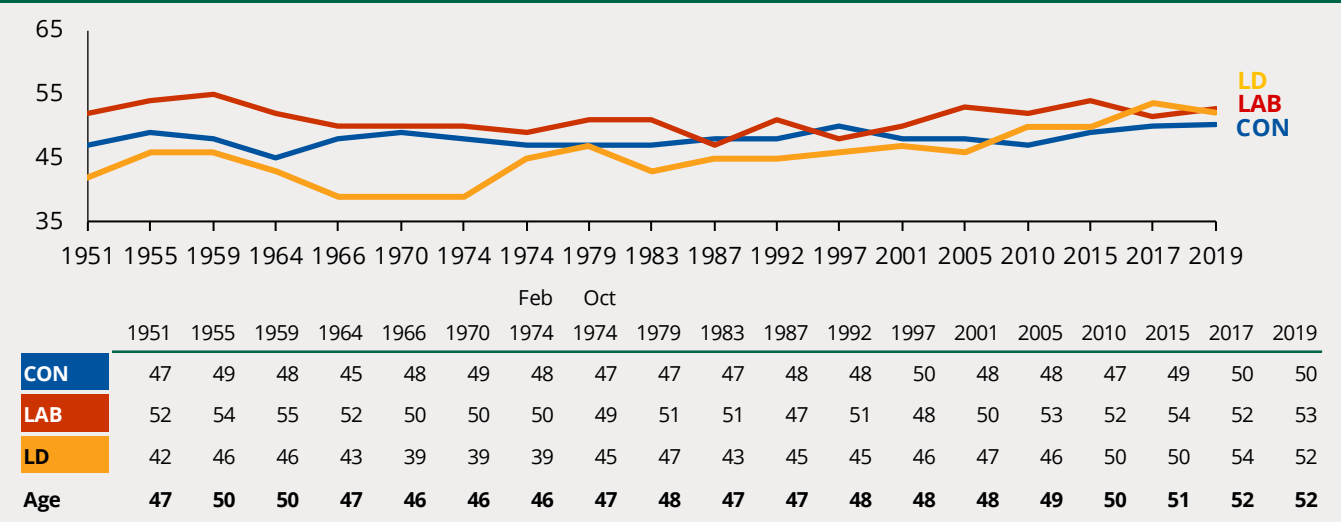
Election	Average Age at election (Years)	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Total
1979	49.6	6	120	205	203	87	14	635
1983	48.8	10	120	223	201	86	9	649
1987	49.0	4	112	252	197	79	6	650
1992	50.0	1	82	259	211	95	3	651
1997	49.3	10	92	255	225	69	8	659
2001	50.3	4	79	236	247	83	10	659
2005	51.2	3	89	191	249	100	14	646
2010	49.9	15	108	196	216	99	16	650
2015	50.6	13	89	205	212	107	24	650
2017	50.5	13	105	188	202	114	28	650
2019	49.3	21	120	189	199	101	20	650

Note: MPs report their date of birth voluntarily and some choose to exclude this information from the House of Commons Members' Names Information Service database (MNIS).

Sources: MNIS, Wikidata

Conservative MPs elected at general elections over the past sixty years have tended to be younger than their Labour counterparts, a roughly two-year gap separates the two at the most recent general election of 2019. The average age of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs increased from 47 in 1951 to 52 in 2019.

Table 7: Median age of Members of Parliament at General Elections, 1951-2019



Note: Data for 1983 and 1987 are for Liberals only (not SDP)

Source: David Butler, Dennis Kavanagh and others, The British General Election of... (1951-2019)

Ethnicity

As an individual’s ethnicity is self-defined, it is hard to obtain historical records of MPs’ ethnicity. It is generally said that the first MPs from minority ethnic backgrounds since World War II were elected in 1987, when four Labour MPs were from such backgrounds.

The first MP from a minority ethnic background elected at a post-war General Election for a party other than Labour and the Conservatives was Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, who was elected for the SNP in Ochil and South Perthshire in 2015.

The 2019 General Election saw 66 MPs from a minority ethnic background elected (an increase from 52 in 2017), making up 10% of all MPs.

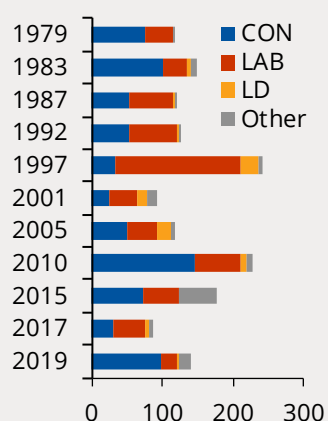
Table 8: MPs from minority ethnic backgrounds elected at general elections

1987-2019

Year	Number						% of all MPs					
	CON	LAB	LD	SNP	Other	Total	CON	LAB	LD	SNP	Other	Total
Non-white												
1987	0	4	0	0	0	4	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
1992	1	5	0	0	0	6	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
1997	0	9	0	0	0	9	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
2001	0	12	0	0	0	12	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%
2005	2	13	0	0	0	15	1%	4%	0%	0%	0%	2%
2010	11	16	0	0	0	27	4%	6%	0%	0%	0%	4%
2015	18	23	0	1	0	42	5%	10%	0%	1%	0%	6%
2017	20	32	1	0	0	53	6%	12%	8%	0%	0%	8%
2019	23	41	2	0	0	66	6%	20%	18%	0%	0%	10%

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; House of Commons Library general election papers, 2010, 2015, 2017 & 2019, [Ethnic diversity in politics and public life](#); Operation Black Vote, [BME politicians](#); British Future, [‘52 minority MPs to sit in ‘most diverse UK Parliament ever’](#) (2017), [“Diversity milestone” as one in ten MPs now from an ethnic minority background](#) (2019), personal correspondence

Number of new MPs



Parliamentary experience

A record number of first time MPs were returned in the 1945 General Election. 324 out of 640 MPs (51%) had no prior experience of the House of Commons.⁵ The election resulted in a landslide Labour victory and a change of government. The previous general election had been held ten years earlier in 1935.

Table 9 shows the number of MPs new to the House of Commons at general elections since 1979. At the 1997 and 2010 elections, over a third of MPs elected were new to the House. The high turnover of MPs on these occasions is attributable not only to the change of government but also the large numbers of incumbent MPs who did not seek re-election. 117 MPs stood down in 1997 and in 2010 there were 149 MPs who chose not to stand again.⁶

Table 9: MPs entering House of Commons for first time at general elections

1979-2019

	New MPs ¹					% of MPs who are new ¹					Total MPs elected				
	CON	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total	CON	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total	CON	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total
1979	77	37	0	2	116	23%	14%	0%	12%	18%	339	268	11	17	635
1983	100	34	7	9	150	25%	16%	30%	43%	23%	397	209	23	21	650
1987	53	62	3	3	121	14%	27%	14%	13%	19%	375	229	22	24	650
1992	54	66	4	3	127	16%	24%	20%	13%	20%	336	271	20	24	651
1997	33	178	26	6	243	20%	43%	57%	20%	37%	165	418	46	30	659
2001	26	38	14	14	92	16%	9%	27%	48%	14%	166	412	52	29	659
2005	51	41	20	7	119	26%	12%	32%	23%	18%	198	355	62	31	646
2010	147	63	10	7	227	48%	24%	18%	24%	35%	306	258	57	29	650
2015	73	50	0	54	177	22%	22%	0%	68%	27%	330	232	8	80	650
2017	30	46	4	7	87	9%	18%	33%	12%	13%	317	262	12	59	650
2019	97	24	3	16	140	27%	14%	27%	16%	22%	365	176	11	98	650

Notes:

1. Excludes former MPs returning to the Commons after time away from Parliament

2. Liberal Democrat includes predecessor parties

Source: Members Name Information Service

At three general elections since 1979 ‘Other’ parties have had the largest proportion of new Members of Parliament.

Most recently in 2019, 27% of Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs were new to Parliament, as were 14% of Labour MPs.

⁵ JFS Ross, *Elections and Electors*, 1955, p387

⁶ David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh, *The British General Election of 1997*; House of Commons Library Research Paper RP10/36, General Election 2010

Education

Around 88% of MPs elected in 2019 were university graduates. Just under one-third of MPs went to fee-paying schools. The Universities most attended by MPs were Oxford and Cambridge.

The proportions of MPs from Oxbridge and private (fee-paying) schools have fallen over the last 60 years. 338 out of a total number of 650 Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs elected in 1951 went to university, including 229 who went to Oxford or Cambridge. By comparison of the MPs with a known university level background (629) in the current parliament, 87% had been to university, and 22% went to Oxbridge.

65% of Conservative MPs elected in 1951 had been to university and 52% went to Oxford or Cambridge. By comparison 61% of Conservative MPs elected in 2019 had been to university and 27% went to Oxbridge.

In 1951, 19% of Labour MPs went to Oxbridge and 41% attended university. In 2019, 72% of Labour MPs went to university and 18% had graduated from Oxford or Cambridge. The share of Liberal Democrats that are Oxbridge graduates has fallen, from 83% in 1959 to 18% in 2019.

The proportion of Conservative, Labour and SNP MPs who attended university rose between 2017 and 2019, by 5, 6 and 8 percentage points respectively whilst Liberal Democrats' proportion fell by 1 percentage point.

Table 10: Education of Members of Parliament 1951-2019

Percentage of parties' MPs, by general election

	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10	15	17	19	
Conservative																				
Private School	75	76	72	75	81	74	74	75	73	70	68	62	66	64	60	54	50	44	41	
University	65	63	60	63	67	63	67	69	68	71	70	73	81	83	81	80	81	83	88	
Oxbridge	52	53	50	52	57	52	54	56	49	48	44	45	51	48	43	34	30	34	27	
Labour																				
Private School	20	22	18	18	18	17	16	18	18	14	14	15	16	17	18	12	16	13	14	
University	41	40	39	42	51	54	53	57	59	53	56	61	66	67	64	61	77	84	90	
Oxbridge	19	17	18	19	23	25	20	25	21	15	15	16	15	16	16	15	21	20	18	
Liberal Democrat																				
Private School	50	50	67	33	58	50	71	69	55	52	45	50	41	35	39	39	13	30	30	
University	100	100	100	78	83	100	71	62	45	65	73	75	70	69	79	81	100	92	91	
Oxbridge	67	67	83	44	50	50	43	38	27	30	27	30	33	27	31	28	13	17	18	
Scottish National																				
Private School																		7	6	7
University																		75	62	70
Oxbridge																		0	0	0

Sources: David Butler, Dennis Kavanagh and others, *The British General Election of...* (1951-2019); Montacute & Dawood (The Sutton Trust), [Parliamentary Privilege 2019: Educational Backgrounds of the new House of Commons](#)

Occupation

The occupational backgrounds of Members have changed over the past sixty years.⁷ In 1951, 18% of MPs from the three historically dominant parties were former manual workers, compared with none in 2019. The proportion of MPs who are barristers/legal professionals has also declined, from 16% in 1959 to 7% in 2019. Meanwhile, there has been an increase in the number of MPs entering the House of Commons with a background in politics: 3% of MPs elected for the three historically dominant parties in 1983 were previously politicians, political organisers or councillors, compared with roughly 30% of MPs elected for the four largest parties in 2015.

The proportion of MPs who were previously teachers (in schools or in further/higher education) peaked at around one-fifth in 1997, but decreased to 2% in 2019. MPs with a teaching background have tended to be Labour. Members with a background in business made up just under one-fifth of the MPs from the four largest parties in 2019 and are most often Conservatives.

The majority of MPs from the biggest four parties now have a background in 'instrumental' jobs closely related to formal politics.

Data for 2017 and 2019 have been compiled on a different basis and is not comparable with previous years; this data is presented below.

⁷ Members may have had multiple occupations before entering the House of Commons. Therefore, Members are classified to different occupational groups based on what is judged to have been their main former occupation. Source: Byron Criddle and others in David Butler, Dennis Kavanagh and others, *The British General Election of... (1951-2019)*

Table 11a: Summary (Con, Lab, SNP¹ and LD)

1951-2015

	51	55	59	64	66	70	Feb 74	Oct 74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10	15 ¹
Professions																	
Barrister	93	97	103	100	94	97	93	90	67	69	57	53	36	33	34	38	38
Solicitor	24	21	25	29	33	28	23	22	29	35	31	30	28	35	38	48	51
Civil service/local government	18	21	22	25	22	15	13	14	30	27	22	19	37	35	28	18	15
Teachers	47	43	41	57	77	66	77	92	77	75	84	102	126	117	91	49	32
Armed services	34	50	40	30	22	24	9	8	20	19	16	15	10	12	14	16	13
Other Professions	24	32	39	39	31	61	66	66	55	53	52	39	35	38	37	49	45
Business																	
Company Executive/Director	80	64	94	66	69	108	82	79	71	105	123	123	78	77	87	115	135
Other business	66	73	46	50	41	21	44	41	67	57	38	29	35	30	31	41	57
White collar																	
Politician/political organiser	18	24	18	18	12	21	13	12	21	20	34	46	60	66	87	90	107
Publisher/journalist	46	46	51	47	46	58	56	50	46	45	43	44	47	50	43	38	34
Miscellaneous white collar	16	9	10	17	29	4	7	10	9	21	28	46	72	76	80	94	23
Manual Workers																	
Miner	35	33	34	31	32	22	19	19	21	20	17	13	13	12	11	7	7 ²
Other Manual	74	65	57	74	79	56	71	72	65	54	52	50	43	41	27	24	19
Miscellaneous																	
Other	47	50	49	47	41	42	39	34	30	29	30	18	9	8	7	0	57
Total	622	628	629	630	628	623	612	609	608	629	627	627	629	630	615	621	626

Table 11b: Main former occupation of Members of Parliament

1951-2015

	Feb Oct																
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10	15
Conservative																	
Professions																	
Barrister	61	66	72	65	55	60	59	55	51	56	43	39	20	18	22	27	28
Solicitor	11	11	14	14	15	14	13	12	19	26	21	21	9	13	18	29	28
Civil service/local government	9	12	14	18	13	12	8	7	14	16	13	3	5	2	3	2	2
Teachers	5	4	5	5	4	9	10	12	18	20	25	22	8	7	6	4	6
Armed services	32	47	37	28	19	24	9	8	20	18	15	14	9	11	13	15	12
Other Professions	14	19	25	17	11	30	34	33	32	41	39	32	10	13	14	30	31
Business																	
Company Executive/Director	76	62	88	58	52	94	62	61	59	100	114	112	53	49	64	100	111
Other business	41	39	25	22	23	7	33	30	56	42	25	16	12	11	11	25	34
White collar																	
Politician/political organiser	12	17	11	11	2	10	5	4	8	12	21	20	15	18	20	31	40
Publisher/journalist	13	19	26	20	17	30	32	27	31	31	26	28	14	14	14	18	16
Miscellaneous white collar	4	4	4	5	7	1	0	0	4	6	8	9	2	2	4	23	4
Manual Workers																	
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ²
Other Manual	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	2	3	0	0	1	1	3
Miscellaneous																	
Other	42	43	43	39	33	37	31	26	24	25	23	16	7	7	7	0	15
Total	321	344	365	304	253	330	297	277	339	397	376	336	165	166	198	306	330
Labour																	
Professions																	
Barrister	28	27	27	31	36	34	31	32	15	9	9	9	12	13	10	9	9
Solicitor	12	9	10	15	18	13	9	9	10	8	9	8	17	18	18	17	17
Civil service/local government	9	9	8	7	9	3	5	7	16	10	8	16	30	30	22	13	10
Teachers	42	39	36	51	72	56	65	78	56	52	55	76	111	98	73	35	19
Armed services	2	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other Professions	10	13	14	22	18	31	28	30	20	8	12	6	18	19	17	14	8
Business																	
Company Executive/Director	4	2	6	6	14	14	19	17	12	5	9	9	16	15	10	8	14
Other business	24	33	20	28	18	14	10	10	10	14	11	13	21	18	15	12	12
White collar																	
Politician/political organiser	6	7	7	7	9	11	8	8	13	7	12	24	40	44	60	52	59
Publisher/journalist	33	27	25	27	29	27	23	22	13	9	14	13	29	32	24	15	14
Miscellaneous white collar	12	5	6	11	22	3	7	10	5	14	18	36	69	73	70	60	18
Manual Workers																	
Miner	35	33	34	31	32	22	19	19	21	20	16	12	12	11	10	6	6 ²
Other Manual	73	64	56	72	77	54	70	70	62	50	50	47	42	40	25	22	16
Miscellaneous																	
Other	5	7	6	7	6	5	7	7	5	3	6	2	1	0	0	0	35
Total	295	278	258	317	363	287	301	319	258	209	229	271	418	412	355	258	232

Table 11b: Main former occupation of Members of Parliament (continued)

1951-2015

	51	55	59	64	66	70	Feb 74	Oct 74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10	15
Liberal Democrat & predecessors																	
Professions																	
Barrister	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	1	4	5	5	4	2	2	2	0
Solicitor	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	2
Civil service/local government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	3	3	2
Teachers	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	7	12	12	10	2
Armed services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Other Professions	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	3	3	4	1	1	7	6	6	5	0
Business																	
Company Executive/Director	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	9	13	13	7	2
Other business	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	5	4	0
White collar																	
Politician/political organiser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	4	7	7	0
Publisher/journalist	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	4	4	5	5	0
Miscellaneous white collar	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	6	11	0
Manual Workers																	
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Miscellaneous																	
Other	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Total	6	6	6	9	12	6	14	13	11	23	22	20	46	52	62	57	8

Scottish National Party (2015 only)

Professions	Business	Manual Workers	
Barrister	1 Company Executive/Director	8 Miner	...
Solicitor	4 Other business	11 Other Manual	0
Civil service/local government	1 White collar	Miscellaneous	
Teachers	5 Politician/political organiser	8 Other	7
Armed services	0 Publisher/journalist	4 Total	56
Other Professions	6 Miscellaneous white collar	1	

Notes for tables 11a and 11b:

1. Scottish National Party data is only included from 2015;
2. The number of former miners is not recorded in the British General Election of 2015. The number for 2015 is based on the House of Commons Library calculations.
3. From 2010, Nuffield study category 'White collar' includes: misc. white collar; union official; public relations; and charity/voluntary sector

Sources for tables 11a and 11b:

P. Cowley and D. Kavanagh (eds), The British General Election of 2015 & earlier editions.

Main former occupations of Members of Parliament

1951-2015

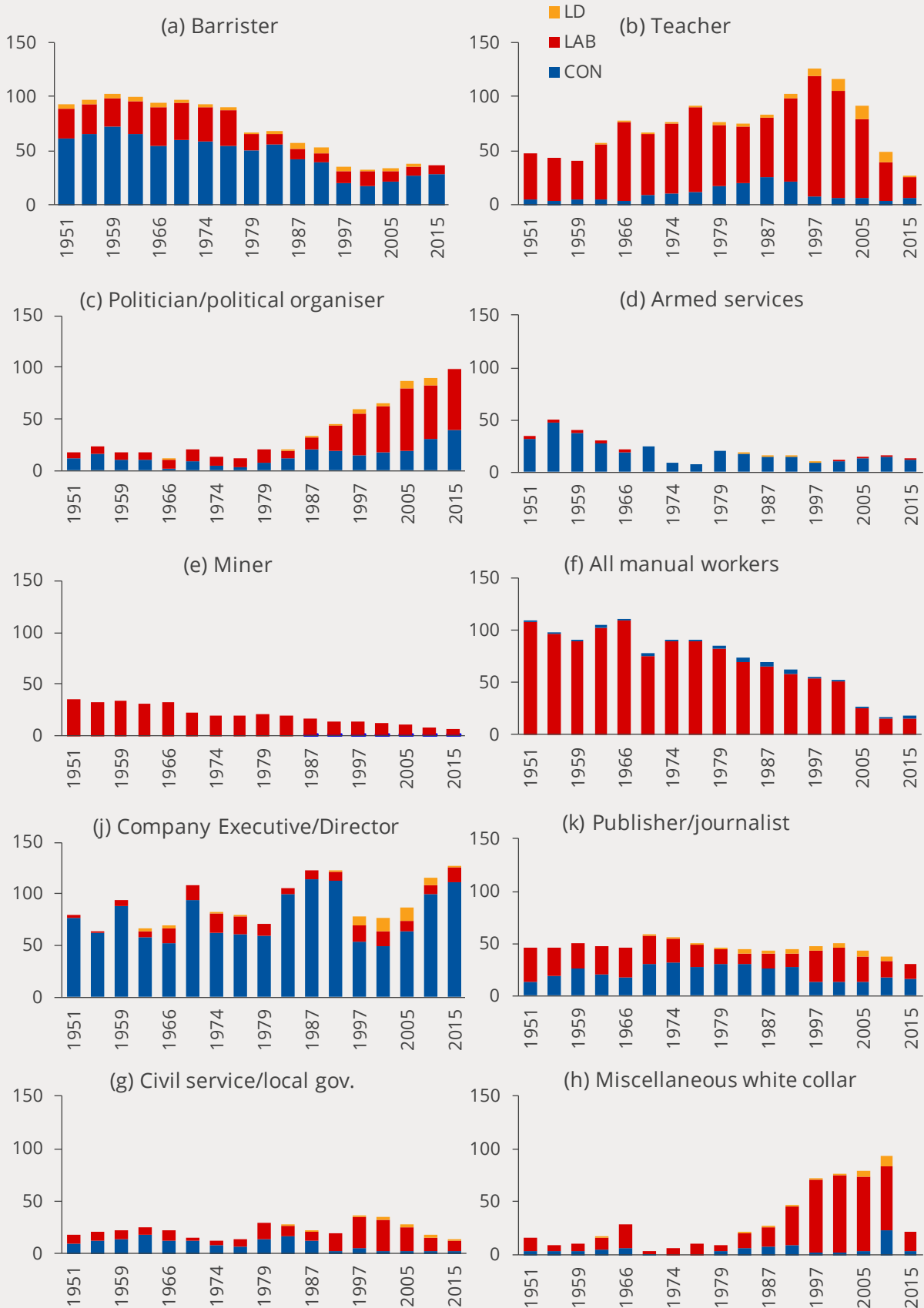


Table 11c shows MPs' occupations immediately before the 2017 and 2019 general elections. 'Instrumental' backgrounds were most common among MPs from all parties in 2019, ranging from 63.6% (Liberal Democrat MPs) to 74.4% (Labour MPs). The second category among Conservative MPs was a 'business/commerce' background (25.2% in 2019 and 41.0% in 2017), while for Labour MPs this was 'brokerage' (11.6%) in 2019 and 'Other' (24.4%) in 2017 - with most of these MPs coming from the voluntary sector.

Newly elected MPs' former occupations

Immediately before the 2017 and 2019 general elections

	2017					2019					Change
	CON	LAB	SNP	LD	Total	CON	LAB	SNP	LD	Total	
Brokerage	55	50	7	4	116	33	23	4	2	62	-54
Legal profession	38	25	1	2	66	29	15	2	1	47	
Education	6	20	3	2	31	4	8	2	1	15	
Physicians/dentists	7	3	2	--	12	4	0	1	0	5	
Architects/surveyors/engineers	4	2	1	0	7	8	0	0	0	8	
Instrumental	101	129	13	3	246	201	148	31	7	387	141
Councillor/other elected office	28	47	5	2	82	157	103	25	4	289	
Political/social/policy research	30	27	5	0	62	34	19	30	2	85	
Party official	14	14	2	0	30	10	1	3	0	14	
Journalism/broadcast/media	10	6	1	1	18	10	2	0	0	12	
Trade union official	0	30	0	0	30	0	23	0	0	23	
Lobbyist	19	5	0	0	24	0	0	0	1	1	
Business/commerce	130	15	6	4	155	92	10	8	2	112	-43
Other	29	64	8	1	102	39	18	5	0	62	-40
Agriculture/farmers	6	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	1	
Armed forces	2	2	0	0	4	7	3	0	0	10	
Civil service/local authority	5	3	1	0	9	4	2	0	0	6	
Clergy	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
NHS	2	7	0	0	9	3	6	1	0	10	
Other	0	4	2	1	7	4	4	0	0	8	
Other white collar	6	8	2	0	16	1	1	0	0	2	
Retired	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	2	
Social worker	0	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
Voluntary sector	5	32	2	0	39	5	4	2	0	11	
Writer/literary/artist	1	2	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	4	
Manual	2	4	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	-7
Total	317	262	35	12	626	365	199	48	11	623	

Source: Philip Cowley & Dennis Kavanagh (eds) The British General Election of 2019; The British General Election of 2017

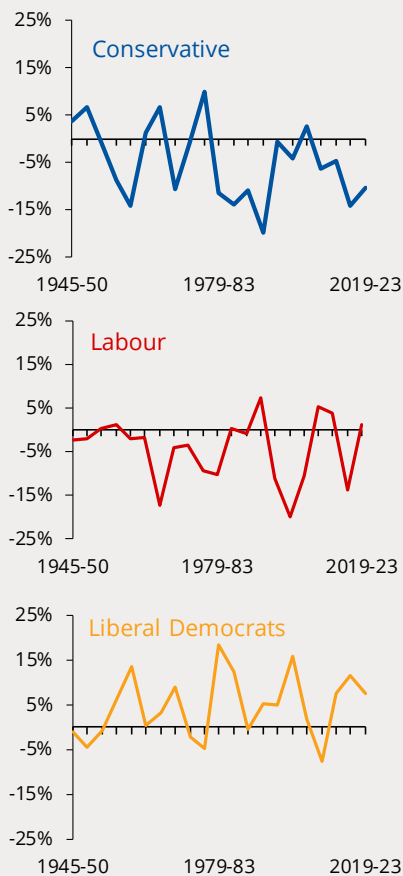
3

House of Commons by-elections

3.1

Great Britain

Average change in share of vote since previous election



Party politics in Northern Ireland differs substantially from that in Great Britain. House of Commons by-elections for these parts of the UK are therefore presented separately in this section.

By-elections have been less frequent in recent Parliaments than in the immediate post-war years. There has been only one Parliament since 1979 when there were more than twenty by-elections (1987-92) and between 2001 and 2005 there were just six. By contrast, during the 1959-64 Parliament there were 61 by-elections. Average turnout at by-elections has fallen in recent years.

Generally, parties in government perform poorly at by-elections while opposition parties have the chance to make gains. For example, in the 2010-15 Parliament the Conservative Party lost three of the four by-elections in seats it previously held. Historically, the Liberal Democrats (and their predecessor parties) have performed well; they gained seats in every Parliament since 1959, with the exception of the eight-month Parliament of 1974 and the 2010 Parliament (when they were in government). The 1997-2001 Parliament was the only one since 1951-1955 where a governing party did not lose a single seat at a by-election.

Most recently in the 2019 Parliament both the Conservative and the Labour Parties received a lower share of the vote at some by-elections than they did at the 2019 General Election.

Table 12: Summary of parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain

By Parliament, 1945-2023

	Number of by-elections	Net Seat Gains and Losses						Average change in share of vote since previous					Average turnout
		CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	No change	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	
1945-50	50	+4	-1	...	...	-3	45	3.7%	-2.3%	-1.1%	...	-1.0%	67.3%
1950-51	14	...	...	...	...	...	14	+6.8%	-2.0%	-4.6%	...	-0.2%	68.8%
1951-55	44	+1	-1	...	...	...	43	-0.6%	+0.3%	-0.6%	+0.6%	+0.3%	58.6%
1955-59	49	-2	+4	...	...	-2	34	-8.7%	+1.3%	+6.2%	+0.3%	+0.9%	63.5%
1959-64	61	-5	+4	+1	...	...	54	-14.1%	-2.1%	+13.7%	+1.2%	+1.5%	62.9%
1964-66	13	...	-1	+1	...	...	11	+1.3%	-1.8%	+0.5%	+0.3%	+0.4%	58.2%
1966-70	37	+11	-15	+1	+2	+1	22	+6.8%	-17.3%	+3.3%	+5.5%	+1.7%	62.1%
1970-74	30	-5	...	+5	+1	-1	20	-10.7%	-4.2%	+9.0%	+4.0%	+1.9%	56.5%
1974	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%
1974-79	30	+6	-6	+1	...	-1	23	+9.9%	-9.3%	-4.9%	-0.3%	+4.6%	57.5%
1979-83	17	-3	+1	+4	...	-2	11	-11.4%	-10.2%	+18.6%	+1.6%	+1.4%	56.7%
1983-87	16	-4	...	+4	...	...	11	-14.0%	+0.4%	+12.3%	+0.1%	+1.2%	63.5%
1987-92	23	-7	+3	+3	+1	...	15	-11.0%	-0.8%	-0.6%	+5.7%	+6.6%	57.4%
1992-97	17	-8	+3	+4	+1	...	9	-19.9%	+7.4%	+5.2%	+2.4%	+4.9%	52.7%
1997-01	15	-2	+1	+2	...	-1	14	-0.6%	-11.1%	+5.0%	+3.1%	+3.6%	42.4%
2001-05	6	...	-2	+2	...	...	4	-4.2%	-19.8%	+15.8%	+1.1%	+7.0%	39.3%
2005-10	14	...	-1	+1	...	...	9	+2.6%	-10.4%	+2.0%	+4.3%	+5.3%	48.8%
2010-15	19	-3	...	...	...	+3	13	-6.4%	+5.4%	-7.6%	+1.1%	+17.9%	39.6%
2015-17	10	-1	...	+1	...	...	8	-4.7%	+3.9%	+7.7%	+5.7%	-6.6%	44.1%
2017-19	4	-1	...	+1	...	...	3	-14.1%	-13.9%	+11.5%	+0.7%	+16.7%	44.5%
2019-23	16	-5	+1	+4	...	...	9	-10.3%	1.2%	7.5%	0.1%	3.3%	39.4%

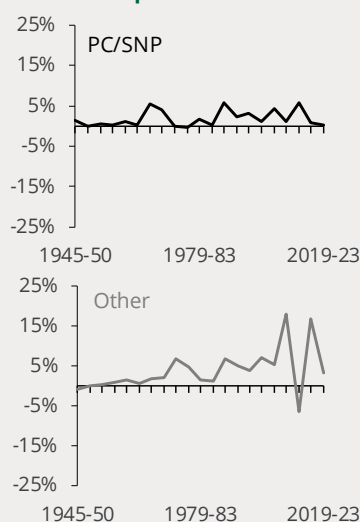
Sources: F.W.S. Craig, *Chronology of British Parliamentary By-elections 1833-1987*; Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; House of Commons Library, RP10/50 [By-election results 2005-10](#); SN05833 [By-elections 2010-15](#); CBP 7417 [By-election results since the 2015 General Election](#); CBP-8280 [By-elections in the 2017 Parliament](#); CBP09225 [By-elections in the 2019 Parliament](#)

The largest swing at a by-election since 1945 was in Southwark, Bermondsey in February 1982. Liberal candidate Simon Hughes won the seat on a 44.2% point swing from Labour. Hughes retained the seat until the 2015 General Election. Respect candidate George Galloway won Bradford West from Labour on a 36.5% point swing in March 2012.

In the early 1990s, Liberal Democrats secured a number of by-election wins in what were previously safe Conservative seats. For example, in Christchurch in July 1993 a Conservative majority of 23,000 at the previous general election became a Liberal Democrat majority of over 16,000. Other gains included Eastbourne (October 1990), Ribble Valley (March 1991), Newbury (May 1993) and Eastleigh (June 1994).

Notable retentions of seats at by-elections include Hull North (January 1966), when a swing to Labour influenced Prime Minister Harold Wilson to call a general election. Labour holds in by-elections in Darlington (March 1983) and Glenrothes (November 2008) were significant in relieving pressure on the party leadership at the time.⁸ None of the other parties stood against the parties holding the Batley and Spen (2016 by-election, Labour hold) and

⁸ David Butler and Gareth Butler (2011), *British Political Facts*, p288

Average change in share of vote since previous election


Southend West (2022 by-election, Conservative hold) seats where by-elections were called following the murder of the sitting MP.

By-elections in the 2019 Parliament have recorded some relatively large swings: the Liberal Democrats gained the North Shropshire, Tiverton and Honiton, and Somerton and Frome seats from the Conservatives on 34.2%, 29.9% and 29.0%-point swings respectively. See CBP09225 [By-elections in the 2019 Parliament](#) for more information.

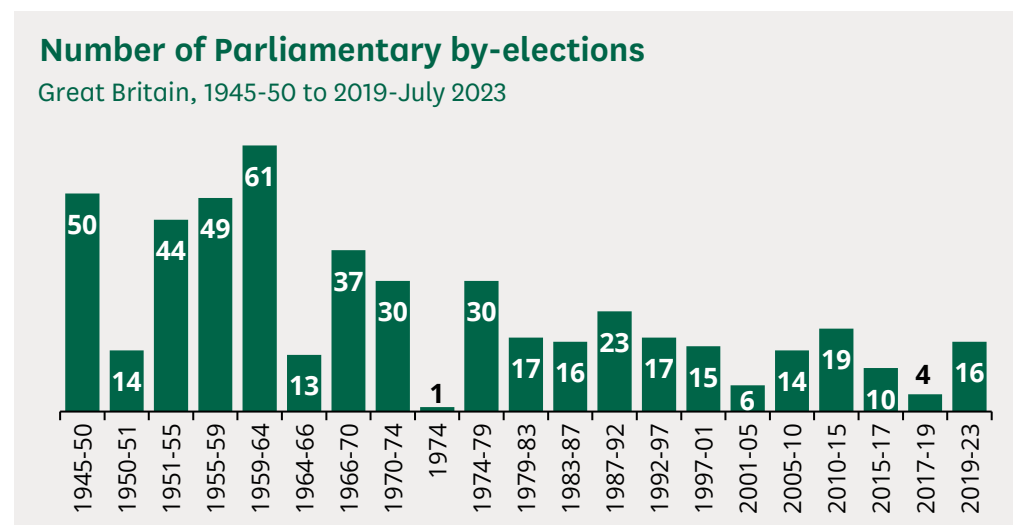
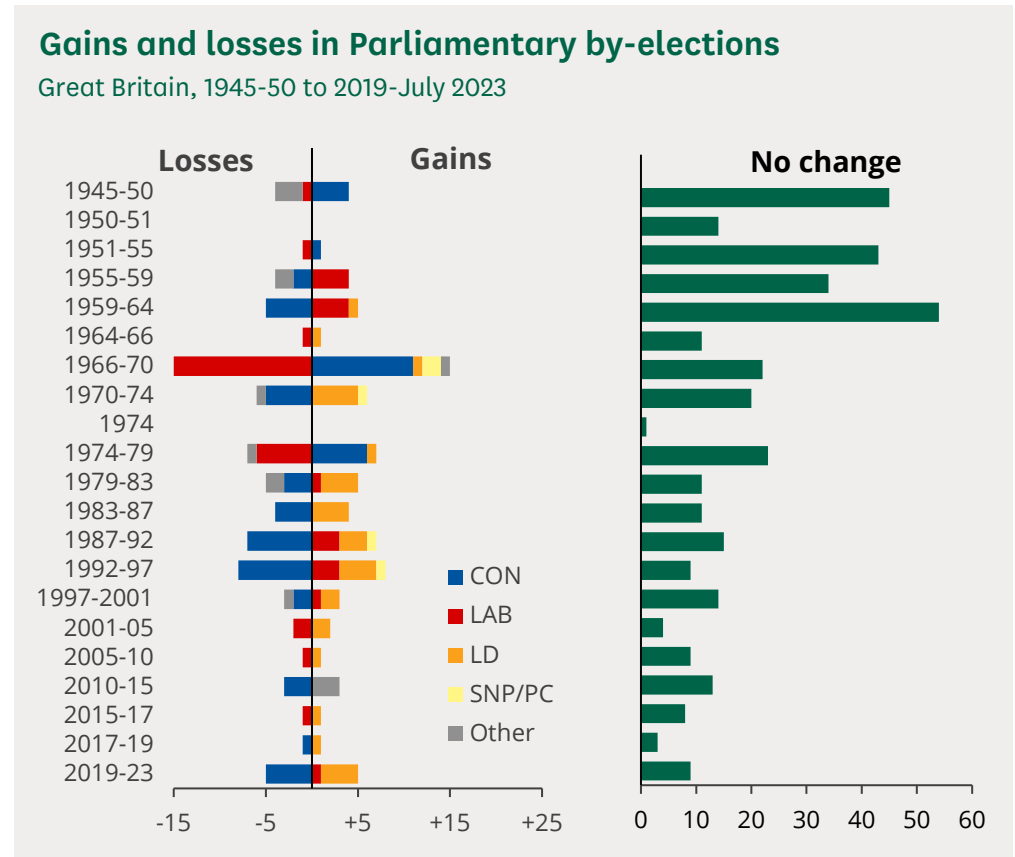


Table 13: Parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain since 1945

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout	
GENERAL ELECTION 1945									
01/10/1945	Smethwick	LAB hold	-2.9%	+2.9%	...	...	...	65.4%
02/10/1945	Ashton-under-Lyme	LAB hold	-8.6%	-2.3%	+10.9%	...	...	70.5%
03/10/1945	Edinburgh E	LAB hold	+1.1%	+5.2%	...	-6.3%	...	51.0%	
30/10/1945	Monmouth	CON hold	+0.8%	-0.8%	...	...	...	66.7%
31/10/1945	City of London ^{1,2}	CON gain	-3.8%	...	+14.0%	...	-10.2%	51.6%	
14/11/1945	Bromley	CON hold	+4.6%	+5.0%	-9.6%	...	...	56.5%
15/11/1945	Bournemouth	CON hold	-8.7%	+12.0%	-3.3%	...	...	56.5%
20/11/1945	Kensington South	CON hold	+11.9%	+7.0%	+18.9%	...	...	36.8%
13/12/1945	Tottenham North	LAB hold	+8.2%	-8.2%	...	...	...	39.5%
31/01/1946	Preston ¹	LAB gain	+2.6%	...	-6.1%	...	-3.8%	64.9%	
07/02/1946	Ayrshire South	LAB hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	69.0%
12/02/1946	Glasgow, Cathcart	CON hold	-6.3%	-4.1%	...	+10.4%	...	55.6%	
21/01/1946	Heywood and Radcliffe	LAB hold	+0.5%	-0.5%	...	...	...	75.6%
22/02/1946	Hemsworth	LAB hold	By-election uncontested						
13/03/1946	Combined English Universities ³	CON gain from Ind	Not Comparable						42.1%
04/06/1946	Ogmore	LAB hold	-18.0%	-5.8%	...	+23.8%	...	33.1%	
22/07/1946	Bexley	LAB hold	+17.7%	-4.4%	-13.3%	...	...	61.2%
23/07/1946	Pontypool	LAB hold	+4.1%	-4.1%	...	...	...	64.8%
25/07/1946	Battersea North	LAB hold	+3.5%	-5.0%	...	...	+1.5%	55.4%
29/08/1946	Glasgow, Bridgeton	ILP hold	-12.0%	+28.0%	...	...	-16.0%	53.3%
19/11/1946	Bermondsey, Rotherhithe	LAB hold	-11.2%	-14.1%	+25.3%	...	...	50.9%
20/11/1946	Paddington North	LAB hold	+6.1%	-5.6%	...	...	-0.5%	53.9%
22/11/1946	Combined Scottish Universities ³	CON gain from Ind	Not Comparable						50.7%
26/11/1946	Aberdeen South	CON hold	+8.0%	+2.9%	-10.9%	...	...	65.6%
05/12/1946	Aberdare	LAB hold	-4.0%	-16.0%	...	+20.0%	...	65.7%	
05/12/1946	Kilmarnock	LAB hold	-8.1%	+0.3%	...	+7.8%	...	68.4%	
11/02/1947	Normanton	LAB hold	+2.1%	-4.5%	...	...	+2.4%	54.6%
07/05/1947	Jarrow	LAB hold	+3.5%	-6.7%	...	...	+3.2%	73.4%
11/09/1947	Liverpool, Edge Hill	LAB hold	+7.5%	-12.8%	+4.4%	...	+0.9%	62.7%	
25/09/1947	Islington West	LAB hold	+0.4%	-16.6%	+16.0%	...	+0.2%	51.4%	
26/11/1947	Gravesend	LAB hold	+12.9%	-0.7%	-12.2%	...	...	77.3%
27/11/1947	Howdenshire	CON hold	+8.0%	-3.7%	-4.3%	...	...	67.0%
27/11/1947	Edinburgh East	LAB hold	-3.0%	-5.8%	+10.1%	-1.3%	...	63.0%	
04/12/1947	Epsom	CON hold	+11.0%	-6.3%	-4.7%	...	...	70.5%
28/01/1948	Glasgow, Camlachie	CON gain from ILP	+1.4%	+42.1%	+1.2%	...	-44.7%	56.8%	
18/02/1948	Paisley	LAB hold	+10.5%	+1.2%	-10.0%	...	-1.7%	76.0%	
04/03/1948	Wigan	LAB hold	+3.9%	-9.2%	...	...	+1.9%	81.4%
11/03/1948	Croydon North	CON hold	+12.9%	-3.5%	-9.4%	...	...	74.8%
24/03/1948	Brigg	LAB hold	+4.3%	-4.3%	...	...	...	77.1%
29/04/1948	Southwark Central	LAB hold	+6.5%	-6.5%	...	...	...	48.7%
30/09/1948	Glasgow, Gorbals	LAB hold	+8.6%	-25.5%	...	...	+16.9%	50.0%
07/10/1948	Stirling and Falkirk	LAB hold	-1.1%	-7.1%	...	+8.2%	...	72.9%	

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
GENERAL ELECTION 1945								
13/11/1948	Edmonton	LAB hold	+17.6%	-14.8%	...	...	-2.8%	62.7%
25/11/1948	Glasgow, Hillhead	CON hold	+9.9%	-2.0%	-7.9%	...	...	56.7%
17/02/1949	Batley and Morley	LAB hold	+12.3%	+1.2%	-13.5%	...	...	81.3%
24/02/1949	Hammersmith South	LAB hold	+5.2%	-5.2%	...	...	...	60.6%
10/03/1949	St.Pancras North	LAB hold	+4.8%	-6.3%	...	...	+1.5%	65.1%
16/03/1949	Sowerby	LAB hold	+16.0%	+2.3%	-18.3%	...	...	80.7%
21/07/1949	Leeds West	LAB hold	+17.2%	-3.9%	-13.3%	...	...	65.1%
08/12/1949	Bradford South	LAB hold	+9.3%	-1.2%	-14.4%	...	+6.3%	75.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1950								
05/04/1950	Sheffield, Neepsend	LAB hold	-0.4%	-1.9%	...	...	+2.3%	62.9%
25/04/1950	Dunbartonshire West	LAB hold	+1.8%	+1.1%	...	...	-2.9%	83.4%
04/05/1950	Brighouse and Spenborough	LAB hold	+1.7%	-1.7%	...	...	...	85.4%
28/09/1950	Leicester NE	LAB hold	+8.8%	+1.4%	-9.5%	...	-0.7%	63.0%
25/10/1950	Glasgow, Scotstoun	CON hold	+4.3%	+1.3%	-4.9%	...	-0.7%	73.7%
02/11/1950	Oxford	CON hold	+10.6%	+1.8%	-11.6%	...	-0.8%	69.3%
16/11/1950	Birmingham, Handsworth	CON hold	+10.2%	-1.1%	-10.3%	...	+1.2%	63.2%
30/11/1950	Bristol SE	LAB hold	+8.4%	-5.9%	-1.4%	...	-1.1%	61.1%
30/11/1950	Abertillery	LAB hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	71.1%
15/02/1951	Bristol West	CON hold	+22.5%	-11.4%	-11.1%	...	...	53.6%
08/04/1951	Ormskirk	CON hold	+5.2%	-7.2%	...	...	+2.0%	64.7%
21/04/1951	Harrow West	CON hold	+13.4%	-1.5%	-11.9%	...	...	68.0%
14/06/1951	Woolwich East	LAB hold	+6.3%	-0.8%	-3.5%	...	-2.0%	66.8%
21/06/1951	Westhoughton	LAB hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	76.5%
GENERAL ELECTION 1951								
06/02/1952	Bournemouth East and Christchurch	CON hold	-1.5%	-1.7%	-1.5%	...	+4.7%	63.8%
06/02/1952	Southport	CON hold	+1.8%	+3.7%	-5.5%	...	...	61.0%
07/02/1952	Leeds SE	LAB hold	-2.7%	+2.7%	...	...	...	55.7%
17/07/1952	Dundee East	LAB hold	-10.6%	+2.5%	...	+7.4%	+0.7%	55.7%
23/10/1952	Cleveland	LAB hold	+0.7%	-0.7%	...	...	...	71.4%
04/11/1952	Wycombe	CON hold	+0.3%	-0.3%	...	...	...	83.9%
27/11/1952	Birmingham, Small Heath	LAB hold	+2.1%	+3.6%	-5.7%	...	...	46.6%
27/11/1952	Farnworth	LAB hold	-0.7%	+0.7%	...	...	...	71.0%
12/02/1953	Canterbury	CON hold	+6.0%	+1.9%	-7.9%	...	...	49.2%
12/03/1953	Isle of Thanet	CON hold	-0.3%	+0.3%	...	...	...	58.7%
31/03/1953	Barnsley	LAB hold	+9.8%	+3.2%	-13.0%	...	...	57.9%
31/03/1953	Stoke-on-Trent North	LAB hold	-4.1%	+4.1%	...	...	...	50.5%
01/04/1953	Hayes and Harlington	LAB hold	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	45.0%
13/05/1953	Sunderland South	CON gain from LAB	-1.1%	-4.2%	+5.3%	...	...	72.7%
30/06/1953	Abingdon	CON hold	-2.3%	-4.8%	+7.1%	...	...	75.9%
02/07/1953	Birmingham, Edgbaston	CON hold	+3.3%	-3.3%	...	...	...	50.2%
17/09/1953	Broxtowe	LAB hold	-1.4%	+1.4%	...	...	...	63.5%
12/11/1953	Crosby	CON hold	-2.8%	+1.5%	...	...	+4.3%	62.5%
12/11/1953	Ormskirk	CON hold	-2.0%	+2.0%	...	...	...	54.1%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
19/11/1953	Holborn and St.Pancras S	LAB hold	-0.2%	+1.9%	-1.7%	...	...	56.2%
03/12/1953	Paddington North	LAB hold	+1.0%	-1.9%	...	...	+0.9%	60.3%
03/02/1954	Ilford North	CON hold	+4.3%	-5.7%	+1.4%	...	...	45.4%
11/02/1954	Kingston upon Hull, Haltemprice	CON hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	45.7%
11/02/1954	Harwich	CON hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	58.8%
18/02/1954	Bournemouth West	CON hold	+4.2%	-4.2%	...	...	...	45.1%
09/03/1954	Arundel and Shoreham	CON hold	+1.1%	-1.1%	...	...	...	54.2%
11/03/1954	Harrogate	CON hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	55.3%
08/04/1954	Edinburgh East	LAB hold	-3.5%	+3.5%	...	...	...	61.8%
14/04/1954	Motherwell	LAB hold	-3.4%	-0.9%	...	...	+4.3%	70.5%
30/09/1954	Croydon East	CON hold	-2.2%	-5.8%	+8.0%	...	...	57.5%
21/10/1954	Shoreditch and Finsbury	LAB hold	-5.6%	+5.6%	...	...	...	40.7%
21/10/1954	Wakefield	LAB hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	68.6%
28/10/1954	Aldershot	CON hold	-0.2%	+0.2%	...	...	...	58.7%
28/10/1954	Aberdare	LAB hold	-0.9%	-9.0%	...	+9.9%	...	69.7%
04/11/1954	Sutton And Cheam	CON hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
04/11/1954	Morpeth	LAB hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	73.0%
18/11/1954	Liverpool, West Derby	CON hold	+1.6%	-1.6%	...	...	...	58.9%
21/12/1954	Inverness	CON hold	-23.1%	+36.0%	-12.9%	...	...	49.2%
13/01/1955	Norfolk South	CON hold	-3.0%	+3.0%	...	...	...	66.6%
20/01/1955	Orpington	CON hold	+3.1%	-3.1%	...	...	...	55.4%
25/01/1955	Twickenham	CON hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	47.3%
27/01/1955	Edinburgh North	CON hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	46.4%
03/02/1955	Stockport South	CON hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	64.6%
17/03/1955	Wrexham	LAB hold	-4.0%	-3.7%	...	+7.7%	...	62.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1955								
07/12/1955	Gateshead West	LAB hold	-1.2%	+1.2%	...	...	...	42.3%
08/12/1955	Greenock	LAB hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	75.3%
15/12/1955	Torquay	CON hold	-9.4%	-0.2%	+9.6%	...	...	62.6%
02/02/1956	Blaydon	LAB hold	-3.4%	+3.4%	...	...	...	56.5%
09/02/1956	Leeds NE	CON hold	+1.8%	-1.8%	...	...	...	39.9%
14/02/1956	Hereford	CON hold	-7.5%	+11.6%	-4.1%	...	...	61.5%
14/02/1956	Gainsborough	CON hold	-15.0%	-6.6%	+21.6%	...	...	61.9%
14/02/1956	Taunton	CON hold	-1.9%	+9.7%	-8.4%	...	...	75.0%
01/03/1956	Walthamstow West	LAB hold	-14.1%	-1.0%	+14.7%	...	...	52.0%
07/06/1956	Tonbridge	CON hold	-8.4%	+8.4%	...	...	...	60.6%
06/07/1956	Newport(Mon.)	LAB hold	-6.4%	+2.6%	+3.8%	...	...	72.1%
27/09/1956	Cheter-le-Street	LAB hold	-4.5%	+4.5%	...	...	...	64.9%
15/11/1956	City of Chester	CON hold	-5.0%	+4.6%	+0.4%	...	...	71.5%
19/12/1956	Melton	CON hold	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	56.5%
14/02/1957	Lewisham North	LAB gain from CON	-7.5%	+3.5%	...	...	+4.0%	70.8%
28/02/1957	Wednesbury	LAB hold	-11.6%	+1.7%	...	...	+9.9%	60.0%
28/02/1957	Carmathen	LAB gain from Lib	...	+4.6%	-8.3%	+3.7%	...	87.5%
07/03/1957	Bristol West	CON hold	-5.1%	+5.1%	...	...	...	61.1%
07/03/1957	Warwick and Lemington	CON hold	-12.2%	+12.2%	...	...	...	77.9%
21/03/1957	Beckenham	CON hold	-6.1%	+6.1%	...	...	...	64.7%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
21/03/1957	Newcastle upon Tyne	CON hold	-3.6%	+3.6%	...	...	...	64.1%
29/05/1957	Edinburgh South	CON hold	-21.9%	-1.6%	+23.5%	...	...	65.8%
30/05/1957	East Ham North	LAB hold	-11.5%	-2.8%	...	...	+14.3%	57.3%
30/05/1957	Hornsey	CON hold	-6.7%	+9.3%	...	...	-2.6%	63.0%
27/06/1957	Dorset North	CON hold	-7.0%	+2.8%	+3.7%	...	+0.5%	75.8%
12/09/1957	Gloucester	LAB hold	-20.5%	+0.4%	+20.1%	...	...	71.0%
24/10/1957	Ipswich	LAB hold	-14.4%	-7.1%	+21.5%	...	...	75.6%
28/11/1957	Leicester SE	CON hold	-3.2%	+3.2%	...	...	...	56.4%
05/12/1957	Liverpool, Garston	CON gain from Ind CON	-14.3%	-0.9%	+15.2%	...	...	49.7%
12/02/1958	Rochdale	LAB gain from CON	-31.7%	-3.8%	+35.5%	...	...	80.2%
13/03/1958	Glasgow, Kelvingrove	LAB gain from CON	-13.8%	+3.4%	...	...	+10.4%	60.5%
27/03/1958	Torrington	Lib gain from CON	-27.7%	-10.3%	+38.0%	...	...	80.6%
15/05/1958	Islington North	LAB hold	-10.4%	+7.4%	...	...	+3.0%	35.6%
12/06/1958	Ealing South	CON gain from Ind CON	-9.2%	+1.6%	+7.6%	...	...	64.5%
12/06/1958	St.Helens	LAB hold	-0.4%	+0.4%	...	...	...	54.6%
12/06/1958	Wigan	LAB hold	-5.7%	+6.6%	...	...	-0.9%	70.3%
12/06/1958	Weston-super-Mare	CON hold	-13.4%	-11.1%	+24.5%	...	...	72.2%
12/06/1958	Argyll	CON hold	-20.8%	-6.7%	+27.5%	...	...	67.1%
06/11/1958	Morecambe and Lonsdale	CON hold	-5.9%	+5.9%	...	...	...	63.8%
06/11/1958	Chichester	CON hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	51.7%
10/11/1958	Pontypool	LAB hold	-5.6%	-4.4%	...	+10.0%	...	61.7%
20/11/1958	Aberdeenshire East	CON hold	-19.9%	-4.4%	+24.3%	...	...	65.9%
27/11/1958	Shoreditch and Finsbury	LAB hold	-2.5%	+2.5%	...	...	...	24.9%
29/01/1959	Southend West	CON hold	-8.6%	-0.6%	+9.2%	...	...	42.9%
19/03/1959	Harrow East	CON hold	-1.6%	+0.6%	...	...	+1.0%	68.9%
25/03/1959	Norfolk SW	LAB hold	+0.7%	-3.3%	...	...	+2.6%	75.2%
09/04/1958	Galloway	CON hold	-16.5%	-9.2%	+25.7%	...	...	72.7%
11/06/1959	Penistone	LAB hold	-1.8%	+1.8%	...	...	...	65.0%
18/06/1959	Whitehaven	LAB hold	-0.6%	+0.6%	...	...	...	79.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1959								
17/03/1960	Brighouse and Spenborough	CON gain from LAB	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	82.4%
17/03/1960	Harrow West	CON hold	-15.2%	-10.9%	+21.4%	...	+4.7%	61.6%
19/05/1960	Edinburgh North	CON hold	-9.8%	-5.7%	+15.5%	...	...	53.8%
16/11/1960	Bolton East	CON hold	-15.0%	-11.0%	+24.8%	...	+1.2%	68.2%
16/11/1960	Bedfordshire Mid	CON hold	-1.4%	-6.2%	+7.0%	...	+0.6%	71.1%
16/11/1960	Tiverton	CON hold	-9.9%	-7.6%	+17.5%	...	...	68.4%
16/11/1960	Petersfield	CON hold	-6.5%	-4.7%	+11.2%	...	...	53.6%
16/11/1960	Ludlow	CON hold	-13.9%	-13.4%	+27.3%	...	...	63.6%
16/11/1960	Carshalton	CON hold	-2.3%	-9.8%	+12.1%	...	...	54.2%
17/11/1960	Ebbw Vale	LAB hold	-6.3%	-12.2%	+11.5%	+7.0%	...	76.1%
24/11/1960	Blyth	LAB hold	-3.8%	-5.7%	+9.5%	...	...	54.1%
16/03/1961	Worcester	CON hold	-18.0%	-12.1%	+30.1%	...	...	64.2%
16/03/1961	Cambridgeshire	CON hold	-12.0%	-12.0%	+24.0%	...	...	62.4%
16/03/1961	High Peak	CON hold	-8.6%	-1.9%	+10.5%	72.5%
16/03/1961	Colchester	CON hold	-4.4%	-2.8%	+7.2%	64.9%

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Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
23/03/1961	Birmingham, Small Heath	LAB hold	-13.8%	+1.8%	+12.0%	42.6%
20/04/1961	Warrington	LAB hold	-12.1%	-0.4%	+12.5%	...	...	56.7%
20/04/1961	Paisley	LAB hold	-29.5%	-11.9%	+41.4%	...	...	68.1%
04/05/1961	Bristol SE	LAB hold	-13.3%	+13.3%	...	...	...	56.7%
07/11/1961	Manchester, Moss Side	CON hold	-21.1%	-11.9%	+27.8%	...	+5.2%	46.7%
08/11/1961	Oswestry	CON hold	-15.1%	+0.0%	+12.3%	...	+2.8%	60.8%
08/11/1961	Fife East	CON hold	-22.4%	-3.7%	+26.1%	...	...	67.3%
16/11/1961	Glasgow, Bridgeton	LAB hold	-15.9%	-5.9%	...	+18.7%	+3.1%	41.9%
08/03/1962	Lincoln	LAB hold	-14.7%	-4.6%	+18.2%	...	+1.1%	75.0%
13/03/1962	Blackpool North	CON hold	-19.5%	+4.8%	+14.7%	...	...	55.2%
14/03/1962	Middlesbrough	LAB hold	-23.7%	-1.0%	+22.9%	...	+1.8%	52.2%
14/03/1962	Orpington	Lib gain from CON	-21.9%	-9.8%	+31.7%	...	...	80.3%
22/03/1962	Pontefract	LAB hold	-4.2%	+0.9%	...	...	+3.3%	63.3%
05/04/1962	Stockton-on-Tees	LAB hold	-18.5%	-8.4%	+26.9%	...	...	81.5%
17/04/1962	Derby North	LAB hold	-24.7%	-3.4%	+25.4%	...	+2.7%	60.5%
15/05/1962	Montgomeryshire	Lib hold	-9.4%	-6.0%	+9.2%	+6.2%	...	85.1%
06/06/1962	Middlesbrough West	LAB gain from CON	-21.2%	+4.3%	+16.1%	...	+0.8%	72.2%
06/06/1962	Debyshire West	CON hold	-25.2%	-11.4%	+32.5%	...	+4.1%	79.4%
14/06/1962	West Lothian	LAB hold	-28.3%	-9.4%	+10.8%	+23.3%	+3.6%	71.1%
12/07/1962	Leicester NE	LAB hold	-23.9%	-10.4%	+34.3%	...	...	60.8%
22/11/1962	Dorset South	LAB gain from CON	-18.0%	-1.2%	+6.2%	...	+13.0%	70.2%
22/11/1962	Norfolk Central	CON hold	-12.6%	+2.2%	+7.6%	...	+2.8%	60.2%
22/11/1962	Northamptonshire South	CON hold	-15.8%	-4.4%	+19.3%	...	+0.9%	69.0%
22/11/1962	Chippenham	CON hold	-15.2%	-1.9%	+15.6%	...	+1.5%	68.0%
22/11/1962	Glasgow, Woodside	LAB gain from CON	-19.1%	-7.0%	+14.0%	+11.1%	+1.0%	54.7%
21/03/1963	Colne Valley	LAB hold	-14.5%	+0.1%	+13.7%	...	+0.7%	78.9%
28/03/1963	Rotherham	LAB hold	-8.8%	+6.5%	...	...	+2.3%	56.3%
28/03/1963	Swansea East	LAB hold	-14.7%	-6.3%	+15.8%	-5.3%	+10.5%	55.9%
20/06/1963	Leeds South	LAB hold	-10.9%	+4.4%	+4.3%	...	+2.2%	60.5%
04/07/1963	Deptford	LAB hold	-18.9%	-3.6%	+22.5%	...	...	44.1%
04/07/1963	West Bromwich	LAB hold	-19.0%	+1.4%	+17.6%	...	...	55.2%
15/08/1963	Stratford	CON hold	-25.0%	+2.6%	+21.0%	...	+1.4%	69.4%
20/08/1963	Bristol SE	LAB hold	-43.8%	+23.5%	...	...	+20.3%	42.2%
07/11/1963	Luton	LAB gain from CON	-15.6%	+3.1%	+11.4%	...	+1.1%	74.0%
07/11/1963	Kinross-shire and Perthshire West	CON hold	-10.8%	-1.6%	+19.5%	-7.7%	+0.6%	76.1%
21/11/1963	Dundee West	LAB hold	-8.9%	+1.0%	...	+7.4%	+0.5%	71.6%
05/12/1963	St.Marylebone	CON hold	-9.6%	+8.2%	+1.4%	...	...	44.2%
05/12/1963	Manchester, Openshaw	LAB hold	-10.6%	+5.7%	...	...	+4.9%	46.1%
05/12/1963	Sudbury and Woodbridge	CON hold	-3.4%	+4.0%	-0.6%	...	...	70.5%
12/12/1963	Dunfriesshire	CON hold	-17.5%	-3.1%	+10.9%	+9.7%	...	71.6%
14/05/1964	Winchester	CON hold	-15.1%	+1.9%	+13.2%	...	...	68.7%
14/05/1964	Bury St.Edmunds	CON hold	-9.7%	+2.2%	+7.5%	...	...	74.6%
14/05/1964	Devizes	CON hold	-4.6%	+1.0%	+10.3%	...	-6.7%	75.8%
14/05/1964	Rutherglen	LAB gain from CON	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	82.0%
04/06/1964	Faversham	LAB hold	+5.6%	+4.8%	...	...	+0.8%	74.8%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
11/06/1964	Liverpool, Scotland	LAB hold	-12.5%	+12.5%	...	...	...	42.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1964								
21/01/1965	Leyton	CON gain from LAB	+9.3%	-7.9%	-2.2%	...	+0.8%	57.7%
21/01/1965	Nuneaton	LAB hold	+5.8%	-3.8%	-2.0%	...	...	60.8%
04/02/1965	Altrincham and Sale	CON hold	+3.2%	+1.0%	+5.8%	...	+1.6%	62.0%
04/02/1965	East Grinstead	CON hold	+1.8%	-6.3%	+4.5%	...	...	64.5%
04/02/1965	Salisbury	CON hold	-0.1%	+3.0%	-4.4%	...	+1.5%	69.1%
23/03/1965	Saffron Walden	CON hold	-0.8%	+2.1%	-1.3%	...	...	76.1%
24/03/1965	Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire and Peeblesshire	Lib gain from CON	-4.2%	-4.5%	+10.3%	-2.5%	+0.9%	82.2%
01/04/1965	Abertillery	LAB hold	+0.2%	-6.9%	...	+6.7%	...	63.2%
06/05/1965	Birmingham, Hall Green	CON hold	+2.2%	-3.0%	+0.8%	...	...	52.4%
22/07/1965	Hove	CON hold	-6.2%	-11.0%	+16.9%	...	+0.3%	58.5%
04/11/1965	Cities of London and Westminster	CON hold	+1.2%	+2.3%	-4.8%	...	...	41.8%
11/11/1965	Erith and Crayford	LAB hold	+4.9%	+2.3%	-7.2%	...	...	72.0%
27/01/1966	Kingston upon Hull North	LAB hold	+0.0%	+8.9%	-9.6%	...	+0.7%	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1966								
14/07/1966	Carmarthen	PC gain from LAB	-4.5%	-13.1%	-5.3%	+22.9%	...	74.9%
09/03/1967	Nuneaton	LAB hold	+1.1%	-11.8%	+3.1%	...	+7.6%	66.1%
09/03/1967	Rhondda West	LAB hold	-3.5%	-27.1%	...	+31.2%	-0.6%	82.2%
09/03/1967	Glasgow, Pollok	CON gain from LAB	-10.7%	-21.2%	+1.9%	+28.2%	+1.8%	75.7%
16/03/1967	Honiton	CON hold	+2.5%	-6.3%	+3.8%	...	...	72.6%
27/04/1967	Brierley Hill	CON hold	+2.6%	-12.6%	+7.8%	...	+2.2%	68.0%
21/09/1967	Cambridge	CON gain from LAB	+8.2%	-8.9%	+1.6%	...	-0.9%	65.7%
21/09/1967	Walthamstow West	CON gain from LAB	+12.2%	-24.4%	+8.8%	...	+3.4%	54.0%
02/11/1967	Leicester SW	CON gain from LAB	+10.3%	-22.8%	+12.5%	...	...	57.5%
02/11/1967	Manchester, Gorton	LAB hold	+4.6%	-14.2%	+5.9%	...	+3.7%	72.4%
02/11/1967	Hamilton	SNP gain from LAB	-16.3%	-29.7%	...	+46.0%	...	73.7%
23/11/1967	Derbyshire West	CON hold	+7.0%	-18.8%	+6.6%	...	+5.2%	64.5%
14/03/1968	Kensington South	CON hold	+10.3%	-11.2%	-2.5%	...	+3.4%	40.0%
28/03/1968	Acton	CON gain from LAB	+6.3%	-23.8%	+11.4%	...	+6.1%	59.7%
28/03/1968	Dudley	CON gain from LAB	+17.2%	-25.1%	+7.9%	...	...	63.5%
28/03/1968	Meriden	CON gain from LAB	+18.4%	-18.4%	...	...	...	66.0%
28/03/1968	Warwick and Leamington	CON hold	+16.7%	-19.6%	+2.9%	...	...	58.5%
13/06/1968	Oldham West	CON gain from LAB	+7.7%	-27.6%	+6.7%	...	+13.2%	54.7%
13/06/1968	Sheffield Brightside	LAB hold	+13.5%	-20.8%	...	...	+7.3%	49.8%
27/06/1968	Nelson and Colne	CON gain from LAB	+11.9%	-10.9%	+9.0%	...	-10.0%	74.2%
18/07/1968	Caerphilly	LAB hold	-4.2%	-28.7%	+3.6%	+29.3%	...	75.9%
31/10/1968	Bassetlaw	LAB hold	+9.5%	-11.9%	...	...	+2.4%	68.0%
07/11/1968	New Forest	CON hold	+15.1%	-12.9%	-2.2%	...	...	55.9%
27/03/1969	Brighton, Pavilion	CON hold	+12.5%	-23.3%	+10.8%	...	...	45.1%
27/03/1969	Walthamstow East	CON gain from LAB	+20.8%	-11.0%	-9.8%	...	...	51.2%
27/03/1969	Weston-super-Mare	CON hold	+13.6%	-14.2%	+0.6%	...	...	60.8%
22/05/1969	Chichester	CON hold	+17.0%	-12.9%	-4.1%	...	...	53.4%
26/06/1969	Birmingham, Ladywood	Lib gain from LAB	-0.6%	-33.4%	+30.6%	...	+3.4%	51.9%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
30/10/1969	Islington North	LAB hold	+8.2%	-10.2%	+0.3%	...	+1.7%	32.8%
30/10/1969	Paddington North	LAB hold	+16.0%	-6.7%	-9.3%	...	...	46.3%
30/10/1969	Newcastle-under-Lyme	LAB hold	+5.7%	-15.7%	+6.4%	...	+3.6%	72.3%
30/10/1969	Swindon	CON gain from LAB	+5.1%	-20.8%	+15.3%	...	+0.4%	69.8%
30/10/1969	Glasgow, Gorbals	LAB hold	-4.2%	-19.7%	...	+25.0%	-1.1%	58.5%
04/12/1969	Louth	CON hold	+11.6%	-17.0%	+1.0%	...	+4.4%	44.7%
04/12/1969	Wellingborough	CON gain from LAB	+6.8%	-12.6%	...	...	+5.8%	69.6%
12/03/1970	Bridgwater	CON hold	+11.1%	-6.2%	-4.9%	...	...	70.3%
19/03/1970	Ayrshire South	LAB hold	-7.2%	-13.2%	...	+20.4%	...	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1970								
22/10/1970	St.Marylebone	CON hold	+1.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%	...	+3.4%	35.3%
19/11/1970	Enfield West	CON hold	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.5%	...	+1.3%	49.9%
01/04/1971	Liverpool, Scotland	LAB hold	-6.8%	-3.5%	...	...	+10.3%	37.7%
01/04/1971	Arundel and Shoreham	CON hold	+3.3%	-2.0%	-1.6%	...	+0.3%	53.1%
27/05/1971	Southampton, Itchen	LAB hold	+31.6%	-11.8%	+5.4%	...	-25.2%	50.1%
27/05/1971	Bromsgrove	LAB gain from CON	-10.1%	+10.1%	...	...	...	67.0%
27/05/1971	Goole	LAB hold	-8.7%	+8.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
17/06/1971	Hayes and Harlington	LAB hold	-15.9%	+17.0%	...	...	-1.1%	42.3%
08/07/1971	Greenwich	LAB hold	-8.3%	+9.4%	-6.4%	...	+5.3%	39.2%
16/09/1971	Stirling and Falkirk	LAB hold	-15.9%	-4.2%	...	+20.1%	...	60.0%
23/09/1971	Widnes	LAB hold	-11.4%	+11.4%	...	...	...	45.4%
30/09/1971	Macclesfield	CON hold	-7.4%	+9.4%	-3.9%	...	+1.9%	75.8%
13/04/1972	Merthyr Tydfil	LAB gain from Ind LAB	-2.4%	+19.8%	+2.4%	+27.4%	-47.2%	79.5%
04/05/1972	Southwark	LAB gain from Ind LAB	-10.1%	+12.0%	...	...	-1.9%	32.1%
04/05/1972	Kingston upon Thames	CON hold	-4.3%	-0.7%	-0.4%	...	+5.4%	53.6%
26/10/1972	Rochdale	Lib gain from LAB	-10.3%	-10.5%	+11.9%	...	+8.9%	69.1%
07/12/1972	Sutton and Cheam	Lib gain from CON	-26.2%	-18.6%	+39.0%	...	+5.8%	56.3%
07/12/1972	Uxbridge	CON hold	-9.4%	-5.1%	+1.3%	...	+13.2%	54.3%
01/03/1973	Lincoln	Dem LAB gain from LAB	-21.5%	-27.7%	...	...	+49.2%	72.6%
01/03/1973	Chester-le-Street	LAB hold	-20.0%	-18.6%	+38.6%	...	...	72.3%
01/03/1973	Dundee East	LAB hold	-17.2%	-15.6%	+8.3%	+21.3%	+3.2%	70.6%
24/05/1973	West Bromwich	LAB hold	-19.4%	-2.0%	...	...	+21.4%	43.6%
24/05/1973	Westhoughton	LAB hold	-2.3%	+1.6%	...	...	+0.7%	63.4%
27/06/1973	Manchester, Exchange	LAB hold	-20.7%	-13.2%	+36.5%	...	-2.6%	43.7%
26/07/1973	Isle of Ely	Lib gain from CON	-24.9%	-13.4%	+38.3%	...	...	65.8%
26/07/1973	Ripon	Lib gain from CON	-20.2%	-12.3%	+30.4%	...	+2.1%	64.3%
08/11/1973	Hove	CON hold	-20.9%	-19.7%	+37.3%	...	+3.3%	62.4%
08/11/1973	Berwick-upon-Tweed	Lib gain from CON	-11.0%	-7.6%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	75.0%
08/11/1973	Edinburgh North	CON hold	-14.1%	-13.1%	+8.3%	+18.9%	...	54.4%
08/11/1973	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from LAB	-16.5%	-21.8%	+8.2%	+31.6%	-1.5%	51.7%
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (FEB)								
23/05/1974	Newham South	LAB hold	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other	Turnout
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (OCT)								
26/06/1975	Greenwich, Woolwich West	CON gain from LAB	+10.2%	-5.0%	-9.0%	...	+3.8%	62.3%
04/03/1976	Coventry NW	LAB hold	+5.8%	-4.2%	-4.4%	...	+2.8%	72.9%
11/03/1976	Sutton, Carshalton	CON hold	+6.3%	-10.4%	-1.7%	...	+5.8%	60.5%
11/03/1976	Wirral	CON hold	+16.0%	-11.3%	-6.2%	...	+1.5%	55.5%
24/06/1976	Rotherham	LAB hold	+12.6%	-13.9%	-5.5%	...	+6.8%	46.8%
15/07/1976	Thurrock	LAB hold	+11.0%	-10.3%	-7.8%	...	+7.1%	54.1%
04/11/1976	Newcastle upon Tyne	LAB hold	+3.2%	-24.2%	+17.3%	...	+3.7%	41.0%
04/11/1976	Walsall North	CON gain from ENP	+17.3%	-27.9%	-10.2%	...	+20.8%	51.5%
04/11/1976	Workington	CON gain from LAB	+15.9%	-10.4%	-5.5%	...	...	74.2%
02/12/1976	Cambridge	CON hold	+9.8%	-10.0%	-2.8%	...	+3.0%	49.2%
24/02/1977	City of London and Westminster	CON hold	+7.4%	-11.2%	-5.1%	...	+8.9%	39.6%
31/03/1977	Birmingham, Stetchford	CON gain from LAB	+15.6%	-19.6%	-6.6%	...	+10.6%	58.8%
28/04/1977	Ashfield	CON gain from LAB	+20.8%	-20.9%	-4.7%	...	+4.8%	59.7%
28/04/1977	Grimsby	LAB hold	+13.8%	-0.2%	-13.9%	...	+0.3%	70.2%
07/07/1977	Saffron Walden	CON hold	+12.0%	-11.4%	-5.1%	...	+4.5%	64.8%
18/08/1977	Birmingham, Ladywood	LAB hold	+6.3%	-11.4%	-8.5%	...	+13.6%	42.6%
24/11/1977	Bournemouth East	CON hold	+11.7%	-5.7%	-11.8%	...	+5.8%	42.6%
02/03/1978	Redbridge, Ilford North	CON gain from LAB	+9.4%	-4.5%	-11.6%	...	+6.7%	69.1%
13/04/1978	Glasgow, Garscadden	LAB hold	+5.6%	-5.5%	-5.0%	+1.7%	+3.2%	69.1%
20/04/1978	Lambeth Central	LAB hold	+8.2%	-10.7%	-7.2%	...	+9.7%	44.5%
27/04/1978	Epsom and Ewell	CON hold	+9.5%	-2.8%	-13.8%	...	+7.1%	54.9%
27/04/1978	Wycombe	CON hold	+13.7%	-2.3%	-12.0%	...	+0.6%	59.0%
31/05/1978	Hamilton	LAB hold	+3.5%	+3.5%	-1.4%	-5.6%	...	72.1%
13/07/1978	Manchester, Moss Side	LAB hold	+6.3%	-0.7%	-8.4%	...	+2.8%	51.6%
13/07/1978	Penistone	LAB hold	+8.9%	-8.7%	-0.2%	...	...	59.8%
26/10/1978	Pontefract and Castleford	LAB hold	+11.1%	-4.6%	-5.4%	...	-1.1%	48.9%
26/10/1978	Berwick and East Lothian	LAB hold	+2.6%	+4.1%	-2.3%	-4.4%	...	71.2%
01/03/1979	Clitheroe	CON hold	+17.0%	-2.8%	-14.2%	...	...	62.8%
01/03/1979	Knutsford	CON hold	+16.1%	-7.0%	-10.6%	...	+1.5%	57.2%
29/03/1979	Liverpool, Edge Hill	Lib gain from LAB	-11.4%	-28.1%	+36.8%	...	+2.7%	57.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1979								
27/09/1979	Manchester Central	LAB hold	-10.1%	-0.1%	+8.9%	...	+1.3%	33.6%
13/12/1979	Hertfordshire SW	CON hold	-8.8%	+0.0%	+7.4%	...	+1.4%	48.3%
13/03/1980	Southend East	CON hold	-19.3%	+6.5%	+12.0%	...	+0.8%	62.5%
26/06/1980	Glasgow Central	LAB hold	-7.6%	-11.7%	...	+15.2%	+4.1%	42.8%
16/07/1981	Warrington	LAB hold	-21.7%	-13.2%	+33.3%	...	+1.6%	67.0%
22/10/1981	Croydon NW	Lib gain from CON	-18.9%	-14.1%	+29.5%	...	+3.5%	62.8%
26/11/1981	Crosby	SDP gain from CON	-17.2%	-15.9%	+33.8%	...	-0.7%	69.3%
25/03/1982	Glasgow, Hillhead	SDP gain from CON	-14.5%	-8.5%	+19.0%	+1.2%	+2.8%	76.4%
27/05/1982	Beaconsfield	CON hold	+0.1%	-9.7%	+9.7%	...	-0.1%	53.9%
03/06/1982	Merton, Mitcham and Morden	CON gain from LAB	-0.5%	-20.8%	+20.5%	...	+0.8%	48.5%
24/06/1982	Coatbridge and Airdrie	LAB hold	-1.3%	-5.8%	+8.2%	-1.1%	...	56.3%
16/09/1982	Gower	LAB hold	-8.4%	-9.7%	+16.0%	+1.5%	+0.6%	65.4%
28/10/1982	Southwark, Peckham	LAB hold	-15.7%	-9.5%	+25.2%	...	+0.0%	38.0%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/ SNP	Other	Turnout
28/10/1982	Birmingham, Northfield	LAB gain from CON	-9.8%	-8.8%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	55.0%
02/12/1982	Glasgow, Queens's Park	LAB hold	-12.0%	-8.4%	+9.4%	+10.3%	+0.7%	47.0%
24/02/1983	Southwark, Bermondsey	Lib gain from Ind LAB	-19.4%	-37.5%	+50.9%	...	+6.0%	57.7%
24/03/1983	Darlington	LAB hold	-8.5%	-6.0%	+14.3%	...	+0.2%	80.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1983								
28/07/1983	Penrith and The Border	CON hold	-12.8%	-5.9%	+16.7%	...	+2.0%	55.7%
01/03/1984	Chesterfield	LAB hold	-17.2%	-1.6%	+15.2%	...	+3.6%	76.9%
03/05/1984	Stafford	CON hold	-10.8%	+3.7%	+7.1%	...	+0.0%	65.6%
03/05/1984	Surrey SW	CON hold	-10.4%	-1.5%	+11.3%	...	+0.6%	61.7%
03/05/1984	Cynon Valley	LAB hold	-6.8%	+2.8%	-0.7%	+1.8%	+2.9%	65.7%
14/06/1984	Portsmouth South	SDP gain from CON	-15.7%	+3.9%	+12.2%	...	-0.4%	54.5%
13/12/1984	Enfield, Southgate	CON hold	-8.5%	-5.9%	+12.2%	...	+2.2%	50.6%
04/07/1985	Brecon and Radnor	Lib gain from CON	-20.5%	+9.4%	+11.4%	-0.6%	+0.3%	79.4%
05/12/1985	Tyne Bridge	LAB hold	-14.1%	+1.3%	+11.4%	...	+1.4%	38.1%
10/04/1986	Fulham	LAB gain from CON	-11.3%	+10.4%	+0.5%	...	+0.4%	70.8%
08/05/1986	Derbyshire West	CON hold	-16.4%	+2.7%	+12.4%	...	+1.3%	71.9%
08/05/1986	Ryedale	Lib gain from CON	-17.9%	-1.9%	+19.8%	...	...	67.3%
17/07/1986	Newcastle-under-Lyme	LAB hold	-17.4%	-1.2%	+17.2%	...	+1.4%	62.2%
13/11/1986	Knowsley North	LAB hold	-13.8%	-8.2%	+19.8%	...	+2.2%	57.3%
26/02/1987	Greenwich	SDP gain from LAB	-23.6%	-4.5%	+27.9%	...	+0.2%	68.2%
12/03/1987	Truro	Lib hold	-6.5%	+2.5%	+3.1%	...	+0.9%	70.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1987								
14/07/1988	Kensington	CON hold	-5.9%	+4.9%	-6.4%	...	+7.4%	51.6%
10/11/1988	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from LAB	-4.6%	-27.9%	-8.2%	+38.4%	+2.3%	60.2%
15/12/1988	Epping Forest	CON hold	-21.4%	+0.3%	+6.6%	...	+14.5%	49.1%
23/02/1989	Richmond (Yorks)	CON hold	-24.0%	-6.9%	-5.0%	...	+35.9%	64.4%
23/02/1989	Pontypridd	LAB hold	-6.0%	-3.0%	-15.0%	+20.0%	+3.9%	62.2%
04/05/1989	Vale of Glamorgan	LAB gain from CON	-10.5%	+14.2%	-12.5%	+1.7%	+7.1%	70.7%
15/06/1989	Glasgow Central	LAB hold	-5.4%	-9.9%	-9.0%	+20.2%	+4.1%	52.8%
15/06/1989	Vauxhall	LAB hold	-10.2%	+2.6%	-0.7%	...	+8.3%	44.4%
22/03/1990	Mid Staffordshire	LAB gain from CON	-18.3%	+24.4%	-12.0%	...	+6.0%	77.5%
24/05/1990	Bootle	LAB hold	-11.0%	+8.5%	-4.0%	...	+6.5%	50.6%
27/09/1990	Knowsley South	LAB hold	-6.4%	+4.3%	-5.4%	...	+7.5%	33.4%
18/10/1990	Eastbourne	LD gain from CON	-19.0%	-3.8%	+21.1%	...	+1.7%	60.7%
08/11/1990	Bootle	LAB hold	-10.9%	+11.5%	-5.1%	...	+4.5%	39.7%
08/11/1990	Bradford North	LAB hold	-22.7%	+8.9%	+7.6%	...	+6.2%	53.4%
29/11/1990	Paisley North	LAB hold	-1.0%	-11.5%	-7.5%	+16.5%	+3.5%	53.7%
29/11/1990	Paisley South	LAB hold	-1.3%	-10.1%	-5.3%	+13.5%	+3.2%	55.0%
07/03/1991	Ribble Valley	LD gain from CON	-22.4%	-8.3%	+27.1%	...	+3.6%	71.2%
04/04/1991	Neath	LAB hold	-7.5%	-11.6%	-8.3%	+17.0%	+10.4%	63.7%
16/05/1991	Monmouth	LAB gain from CON	-13.5%	+11.6%	+0.8%	-0.2%	+1.3%	75.8%
04/07/1991	Liverpool Walton	LAB hold	-11.5%	-11.3%	+14.8%	...	+8.0%	56.7%
07/11/1991	Hemsworth	LAB hold.	-6.7%	-0.7%	+4.3%	...	+3.1%	42.6%
07/11/1991	Kincardine and Deeside	LD gain from CON	-10.1%	-8.2%	+12.7%	+4.7%	+0.8%	64.6%
07/11/1991	Langbaugh	LAB gain from CON	-2.6%	+4.5%	-3.8%	...	+1.9%	65.3%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/ SNP	Other	Turnout
GENERAL ELECTION 1992								
06/05/1993	Newbury	LD gain from CON	-29.0%	-4.0%	+27.8%	...	+5.2%	71.3%
29/07/1993	Christchurch	LD gain from CON	-32.2%	-9.4%	+38.6%	...	+3.0%	74.2%
05/05/1994	Rotherham	LAB hold	-13.9%	-8.3%	+17.4%	...	+4.8%	43.7%
09/06/1994	Barking	LAB hold	-23.5%	+20.5%	-2.5%	...	+5.5%	38.3%
09/06/1994	Eastleigh	LD gain from CON	-26.5%	+6.8%	+16.3%	...	+3.4%	58.7%
09/06/1994	Newham North East	LAB hold	-16.0%	+16.6%	-7.0%	...	+6.3%	34.8%
09/06/1994	Bradford South	LAB hold	-20.6%	+7.7%	+10.2%	...	+2.7%	44.2%
09/06/1994	Dagenham	LAB hold	-26.4%	+19.7%	-3.1%	...	+9.7%	37.0%
30/06/1994	Monklands East	LAB hold	-13.7%	-11.5%	-2.0%	+26.9%	+0.4%	70.0%
15/12/1994	Dudley West	LAB gain from CON	-30.2%	+28.1%	-2.8%	...	+5.0%	47.0%
16/02/1995	Islwyn	LAB hold	-10.9%	-5.2%	+4.9%	+8.8%	+2.3%	45.1%
25/05/1995	Perth and Kinross	SNP gain from CON	-18.7%	+10.5%	+0.4%	+4.4%	+3.4%	62.1%
27/07/1995	Littleborough & Saddleworth	LD gain from CON	-20.7%	+13.9%	+2.7%	...	+4.1%	64.4%
01/02/1996	Hemsworth	LAB hold	-9.8%	+1.1%	-3.7%	...	+12.4%	39.5%
11/04/1996	South East Staffordshire	LAB gain from CON	-22.2%	+22.0%	-4.9%	...	+5.1%	59.6%
12/12/1996	Barnsley East	LAB hold	-6.9%	-0.7%	-0.3%	...	+7.9%	33.6%
27/02/1997	Wirral South	LAB gain from CON	-16.5%	+18.0%	-3.0%	...	+1.5%	73.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1997								
31/07/1997	Uxbridge	CON hold	+7.6%	-2.5%	-5.3%	...	+0.2%	55.5%
06/11/1997	Paisley South	LAB hold	-1.7%	-13.4%	+1.6%	+9.1%	+4.4%	43.1%
20/11/1997	Beckenham	CON hold	-1.2%	+4.0%	+0.2%	...	-3.0%	43.6%
20/11/1997	Winchester ⁴	LD hold	-13.6%	-8.8%	+26.0%	...	-3.6%	68.7%
10/06/1999	Leeds Central	LAB hold	-1.4%	-21.4%	+19.6%	...	+3.2%	19.6%
22/07/1999	Eddisbury	CON hold	+2.3%	+0.0%	+0.6%	...	-2.9%	51.4%
23/09/1999	Hamilton South	LAB hold	-1.4%	-28.7%	-1.9%	+16.4%	+15.6%	41.3%
23/09/1999	Wigan	LAB hold	+1.1%	-9.0%	+3.3%	...	+4.6%	25.0%
25/11/1999	Kensington and Chelsea	CON hold	+2.8%	-5.9%	-5.9%	...	+9.0%	29.7%
03/02/2000	Ceredigion	PC hold	+1.6%	-9.9%	+6.5%	+1.1%	+0.7%	45.6%
04/05/2000	Romsey	LD gain from CON	-4.0%	-14.8%	+21.1%	...	-2.3%	55.5%
22/06/2000	Tottenham	LAB hold	+0.3%	-15.8%	+8.3%	...	+7.2%	25.4%
23/11/2000	Glasgow, Anniesland	LAB hold	-0.6%	-9.7%	+0.8%	+3.7%	+5.8%	38.4%
23/11/2000	Preston	LAB hold	+3.1%	-15.1%	+1.5%	...	+10.5%	29.6%
23/11/2000	West Bromwich West ⁵	LAB win	Not Comparable					27.6%
21/12/2000	Falkirk West	LAB hold	-3.8%	-15.8%	-2.0%	+16.5%	+5.1%	36.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 2001								
22/11/2001	Ipswich	LAB hold	-2.1%	-8.0%	+7.2%	...	+2.9%	40.2%
14/02/2002	Ogmore	LAB hold	-3.7%	-10.1%	-4.0%	+6.8%	+11.0%	35.2%
18/09/2003	Brent East	LD gain from LAB	-2.1%	-29.4%	+28.6%	...	+2.9%	36.2%
15/07/2004	Birmingham Hodge Hill	LAB hold	-2.6%	-27.4%	+26.1%	...	+3.9%	37.9%
15/07/2004	Leicester South	LD gain from LAB	-3.3%	-25.2%	+17.7%	...	+10.8%	40.6%
30/09/2004	Hartlepool	LAB hold	-11.1%	-18.5%	+19.2%	...	+10.4%	45.8%
GENERAL ELECTION 2005								
14/07/2005	Cheadle	LD hold	+2.0%	-4.2%	+3.3%	...	-1.1%	55.2%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/ SNP	Other	Turnout
29/09/2005	Livingston	LAB hold	-3.4%	-9.3%	-0.6%	+11.1%	+2.2%	38.6%
09/02/2006	Dunfermline & W Fife	LD gain from LAB	-2.5%	-16.8%	+15.7%	+2.1%	+1.6%	48.7%
29/06/2006	Blaenau Gwent	Ind hold	+1.4%	+4.7%	+1.2%	+4.1%	-11.4%	51.7%
29/06/2006	Bromley & Chislehurst	CON hold	-11.1%	-15.6%	+17.5%	...	+9.2%	40.5%
19/07/2007	Ealing, Southall	LAB hold	+0.9%	-7.3%	+3.2%	...	+3.2%	42.9%
19/07/2007	Sedgefield	LAB hold	+0.2%	-14.1%	+8.0%	...	+5.9%	41.5%
22/05/2008	Crewe & Nantwich	CON gain from LAB	+16.9%	-18.3%	-4.0%	...	+5.4%	57.7%
26/06/2008	Henley	CON hold	+3.5%	-11.7%	+1.8%	...	+6.4%	50.3%
10/07/2008	Haltemprice & Howden ⁶	CON hold	+24.1%	...	...	...	+25.4%	34.1%
24/07/2008	Glasgow East	SNP gain from LAB	-0.6%	-19.0%	-8.4%	+26.1%	+1.9%	42.2%
06/11/2008	Glenrothes	LAB hold	-3.3%	+3.2%	-10.0%	+13.1%	-3.0%	52.3%
23/07/2009	Norwich North	CON gain from LAB	+6.3%	-26.7%	-2.2%	...	+22.6%	45.8%
12/11/2009	Glasgow North East ⁷	LAB win	Not Comparable					33.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 2010								
13/01/2011	Oldham East and Saddleworth	LAB hold	-13.6%	+10.3%	+0.3%	...	+3.0%	48.0%
03/02/2011	Barnsley Central	LAB hold	-9.0%	+13.5%	-13.1%	...	+8.6%	37.0%
05/05/2011	Leicester South	LAB hold	-6.2%	+12.3%	-4.4%	...	-1.7%	43.9%
30/06/2011	Inverclyde	LAB hold	-2.1%	-2.2%	-11.1%	+15.5%	-0.1%	45.4%
16/12/2011	Feltham and Heston	LAB hold	-6.3%	+10.8%	-7.9%	...	+3.5%	28.7%
29/03/2012	Bradford West	Respect gain from LAB	-22.8%	-20.4%	-7.1%	...	+50.2%	50.8%
15/11/2012	Cardiff South and Penarth	LAB hold	-8.4%	+8.4%	-11.4%	+5.4%	+6.1%	...
15/11/2012	Corby	LAB gain from CON	-15.7%	+9.6%	-9.5%	...	+15.4%	44.8%
15/11/2012	Manchester Central	LAB hold	-7.3%	+16.4%	-17.2%	...	+8.0%	18.2%
24/11/2012	Croydon North	LAB hold	-7.3%	+8.7%	-10.5%	...	+9.1%	47.9%
29/11/2012	Middlesbrough	LAB hold	-12.5%	+14.6%	-10.0%	...	+7.9%	25.9%
29/11/2012	Rotherham	LAB hold	-11.3%	+1.8%	-13.9%	...	+23.4%	33.8%
28/02/2013	Eastleigh	LD hold	-18.5%	-1.8%	-20.4%	...	+20.3%	52.7%
02/05/2013	South Shields	LAB hold	-10.0%	-1.5%	-12.8%	...	+24.3%	57.7%
13/02/2014	Wythenshawe & Sale East	LAB hold	-11.0%	+11.2%	-17.4%	...	+16.9%	28.2%
05/06/2014	Newark	CON hold	-8.9%	-4.6%	-17.4%	...	+30.9%	52.7%
09/10/2014	Clacton	UKIP gain from CON	-28.4%	-13.8%	-11.6%	...	+53.8%	51.1%
09/10/2014	Heywood and Middleton	LAB hold	-14.9%	+0.8%	-17.6%	...	+31.7%	36.0%
20/11/2014	Rochester and Strood	UKIP gain from CON	-14.4%	-11.7%	-15.4%	...	+41.5%	50.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 2015								
03/12/2015	Oldham West and Royton	Lab hold	-9.6%	+7.3%	+0.0%	...	+2.3%	40.1%
	Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough	Lab hold	-5.4%	+5.8%	+1.6%	...	-2.0%	33.0%
05/05/2016	Ogmore	Lab hold	-3.3%	-0.8%	+0.0%	+5.7%	-1.6%	42.4%
16/06/2016	Tooting	Lab hold	-5.8%	+8.7%	-1.4%	...	-1.5%	42.8%
20/10/2016	Bateley and Spen	Lab hold	...	+42.6%	...	...	-42.6%	25.6%
20/10/2016	Witney	Con hold	-12.3%	-1.4%	+23.8%	...	-3.7%	77.0%
01/12/2016	Richmond Park ⁸	LD gain from CON	-13.1%	-8.7%	+30.4%	...	-8.7%	53.4%
08/12/2016	Sleaford and North Hykeham	Con hold	-2.7%	-7.0%	+5.3%	...	+4.4%	37.0%
23/02/2017	Copeland	Con gain from LAB	+8.5%	-4.9%	+3.8%	...	-7.3%	51.3%
23/02/2017	Stoke-on-Trent Central	Lab hold	+1.8%	-2.2%	+5.7%	...	-5.2%	38.1%

Date	Constituency	Result	CON	LAB	LD	PC/ SNP	Other	Turnout
GENERAL ELECTION 2017								
14/06/2018	Lewisham East	Lab hold	-8.6%	-17.7%	+20.2%	...	+6.2%	33.2%
04/04/2019	Newport West	Lab hold	-12.7%	-8.0%	+2.4%	+2.6%	+15.9%	37.0%
06/06/2019	Peterborough	Lab hold	-25.5%	-17.2%	+8.9%	...	+33.7%	48.3%
01/08/2019	Brecon and Radnor	LD gain from CON	-9.6%	-12.5%	+14.3%	...	+10.9%	59.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 2019								
06/05/2021	Hartlepool	Con gain from LAB	23.0%	-9.0%	-3.0%	...	0.0%	42.3%
13/05/2021	Airdrie and Shotts	SNP hold	-4.7%	6.4%	-2.6%	1.3%	-6.3%	34.3%
17/06/2021	Chesham and Amersham	LD gain from CON	-19.9%	-11.2%	30.4%	...	-3.2%	52.1%
01/07/2021	Batley and Spen	Lab hold	-1.6%	-7.4%	-1.3%	...	9.9%	47.5%
02/12/2021	Old Bexley and Sidcup	Con hold	-13.1%	7.4%	-5.3%	...	+11.0%	33.5%
16/12/2021	North Shropshire	LD gain from CON	-31.1%	-12.4%	37.2%	...	+6.2%	46.2%
03/02/2022	Southend West	Con hold	26.9%	...	...	...	+12.7%	22.4%
03/03/2022	Birmingham, Erdington	Lab hold	-3.8%	5.2%	-2.7%	...	+1.3%	26.9%
23/06/2022	Wakefield	Lab gain from CON	-17.3%	8.1%	-2.1%	...	+11.2%	39.5%
23/06/2022	Tiverton and Honiton	LD gain from CON	-21.7%	-15.9%	38.1%	...	-0.5%	52.2%
01/12/2022	City of Chester	Lab hold	-16.1%	11.2%	1.5%	...	3.5%	41.1%
15/12/2022	Stretford and Urmston	Lab hold	-11.7%	9.3%	-2.4%	...	4.7%	25.7%
09/02/2023	West Lancashire	Lab hold	-10.9%	10.2%	-0.8%	...	0.7%	31.3%
20/07/2023	Uxbridge and South Ruislip	Con hold	-7.4%	6.0%	1.7%	...	6.1%	46.1%
20/07/2023	Selby and Ainsty	Lab gain from CON	-26.0%	21.4%	-5.3%	...	9.8%	44.7%
20/07/2023	Somerton and Frome	LD gain from CON	-29.6%	-10.3%	28.4%	...	11.4%	44.1%

Notes:

1. Constituency returned two MPs at 1945 General Election. When calculating the change in vote share, the total vote received by a party's candidate in the previous general election is used.
2. Votes for the National candidate in the general election are counted as Conservative votes.
3. From 1918 to 1945, two Members were returned for a Combined English Universities constituency and three Members for a Combined Scottish Universities constituency, using the Single Transferable Vote system. By-elections were conducted by First Past the Post. Therefore by-election results are not comparable with the general election results.
4. Election re-run. Original general election result annulled by election court.
5. By-election called due to resignation of Speaker Betty Boothroyd.
6. Labour and the Liberal Democrats did not contest the by-election.
7. By-election called due to resignation of Speaker Michael Martin.
8. By-election called due to resignation of Zac Goldsmith from Conservative party who stood as an independent in the by-election. The Conservatives did not field a candidate. The change in CON vote share is based off CON vote share in 2015 GE and Zac Goldsmith's independent vote share.

Sources:

F.W.S. Craig, Chronology of British Parliamentary By-elections 1833-1987; Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; House of Commons Library, RP10/50 [By-election results 2005-10](#); SN05833 [By-elections 2010-15](#); CBP 7417 [By-election results since the 2015 General Election](#); CBP-8280 [By-elections in the 2017 Parliament](#); CBP09225 [By-elections in the 2019 Parliament](#)

3.2 Northern Ireland

There were by-elections in Northern Ireland in seven of the last nineteen Parliaments.

Among Parliaments since 1950, the highest number of by-elections took place in the Parliament of 1983-1987, when there were 15. However, only one seat changed hands during this Parliament, which was Newry and Armagh. Previously held by the UK Unionist Party, the seat was won by the SDLP.

The 1981 by-election in Fermanagh and South Tyrone had the highest turnout of any by-election in the UK since 1945. 87.5% of the electorate gave a valid vote. This was the second of two by-elections which took place in the same year in the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency. In both cases by-elections were triggered by the incumbent Member of Parliament's death.

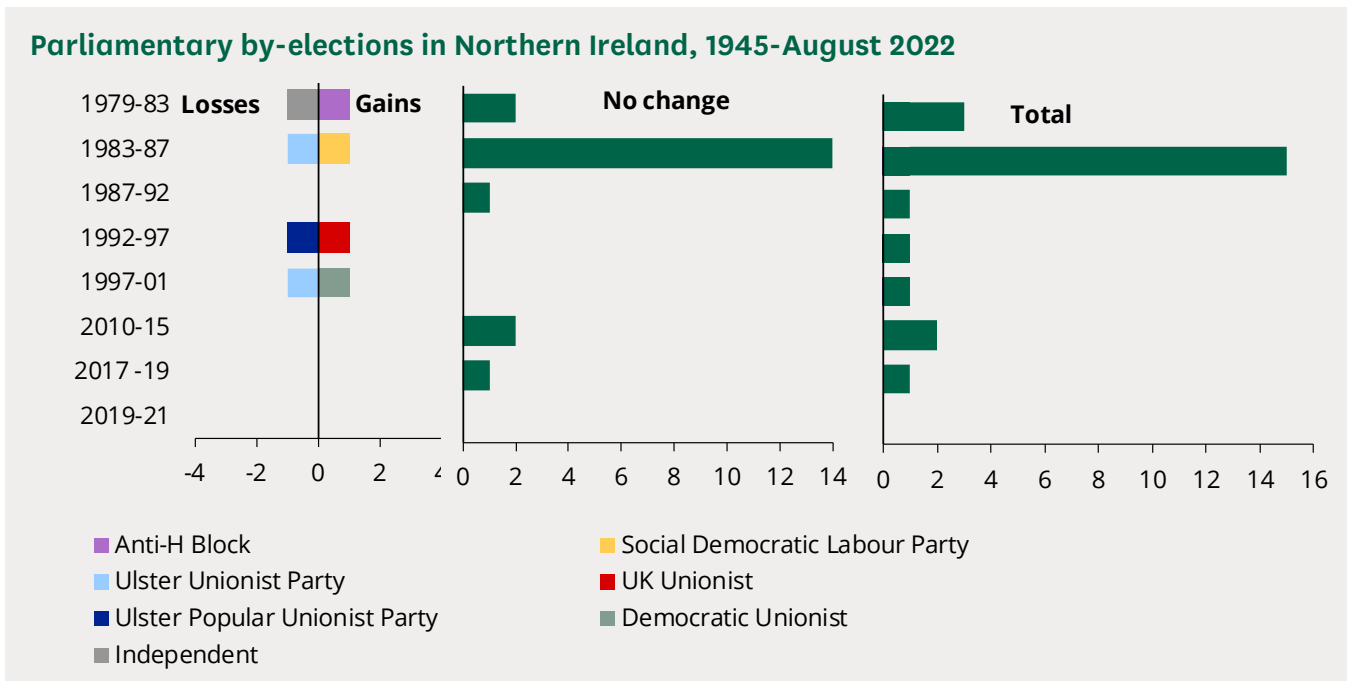


Table 14a: Parliamentary by-elections in Northern Ireland, 1922-1974¹

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in vote share since previous election:					Turnout
			CON	NAT ²	LAB	LD	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1922								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1923								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1924								
29/01/1929	Londonderry*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1929								
07/03/1931	Fermanagh and Tyrone*	Nat hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1931								
27/06/1934	Fermanagh and Tyrone*		...	8.5%	...	...	38.6%	39.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1935								
10/05/1939	Down*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
08/02/1940	East Belfast	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
09/02/1943	West Belfast	NI Lab gain from Con	-29.2%	...	...	...	29.2%	54.8%
11/02/1943	Antrim*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					45.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1945								
06/06/1946	Down*	Con gain from Ind Con	10.9%	...	...	...	-10.9%	66.6%
05/03/1948	Armagh	Con hold	Previous general election was uncontest					
GENERAL ELECTION 1950								
19/05/1951	Londonderry	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1951								
27/10/1952	North Antrim	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
15/04/1953	North Down	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
20/11/1954	Armagh	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1955								
11/08/1955	Mid-Ulster ³	SF hold	-0.5%	...	...	...	0.5%	89.7%
08/05/1956	Mid-Ulster ⁴	Ind Con gain from SF	...	10.9%	...	...	38.9%	88.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1959								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1964								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1966								
17/04/1969	Mid-Ulster	Unity gain from Con	-5.6%	...	...	...	5.6%	91.5%
GENERAL ELECTION 1970								
None								

Table 14b: Parliamentary by-elections in Northern Ireland, 1974-2021⁵

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in vote share since previous election:					Turnout
			DUP	UUP	SF	SDLP	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (FEB)								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (OCT)								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1979								
09/04/1981	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Anti-H Block gain from Ind Rep	...	+41.0%	...	...	+51.2%	82.4%
20/08/1981	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Anti-H Block hold	...	-3.2%	...	...	+3.2%	87.5%
04/03/1982	Belfast South	UUP hold	+22.6%	-22.4%	...	+0.9%	+29.3%	65.7%
GENERAL ELECTION 1983⁶								
23/01/1986	East Antrim	UUP hold	...	+47.5%	...	...	-4.8%	58.9%
23/01/1986	North Antrim	DUP hold	+43.2%	...	...	...	...	53.5%
23/01/1986	South Antrim	UUP hold	...	+48.5%	...	...	...	52.2%
23/01/1986	Belfast East	DUP hold	+35.6%	...	...	...	-6.1%	63.6%
23/01/1986	Belfast North	UUP hold	...	+35.3%	...	...	+13.7%	54.7%
23/01/1986	Belfast South	UUP hold	...	+21.4%	...	...	+2.4%	56.6%
23/01/1986	North Down	UPU hold	...	...	...	...	+21.9%	60.5%
23/01/1986	South Down	UUP hold	...	+8.1%	-2.2%	+5.6%	-0.6%	73.8%
23/01/1986	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	UUP hold	...	+2.1%	-7.6%	+5.0%	+0.5%	80.4%
23/01/1986	Lagan Valley	UUP hold	...	+31.5%	...	...	+7.3%	81.4%
23/01/1986	East Londonderry	UUP hold	...	+56.0%	...	...	...	47.0%
23/01/1986	Mid Ulster	DUP hold	+16.1%	...	-2.6%	+3.0%	-0.1%	77.0%
23/01/1986	Newry and Armagh	SDLP gain from UUP	...	+0.2%	-7.7%	+8.7%	-1.2%	76.6%
23/01/1986	Strangford	UUP hold	...	+45.4%	...	...	...	55.1%
23/01/1986	Upper Bann	UUP hold	...	+23.9%	...	...	+13.8%	57.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1987								
17/05/1990	Upper Bann	UUP hold	...	-3.5%	-1.7%	-1.6%	-4.8%	53.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1992								
15/06/1995	North Down	UKU gain from UPU	...	...	...	...	-19.3%	38.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 1997								
21/09/2000	South Antrim	DUP gain from UUP	...	-22.2%	+3.0%	-4.7%	-5.0%	43.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 2001								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 2005								
None								

Date	Constituency	Result	DUP	UUP	SF	SDLP	Other	Turnout
GENERAL ELECTION 2010								
09/06/2011	Belfast West	SF hold	-1.5%	-1.4%	-0.4%	-2.9%	+6.3%	37.4%
07/03/2013	Mid Ulster	SF hold	...	...	-5.1%	+3.1%	+1.9%	55.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 2015								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 2017								
03/05/2018	West Tyrone	SF hold	-3.0%	+3.1%	-4.1%	+4.9%	+1.9%	54.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 2019								
None								

Notes for tables 14a and 14b:

1. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in Table 14b (1974-2012). Ulster Unionists are listed as Conservatives up to 1972 when they stopped taking the Conservative whip.

2. Irish Nationalist/Anti-Partitionist

* Constituency returned two MPs at previous general election. Change in vote share between general election and by-election is calculating using the total vote received by a party's candidate in the previous general election. However some electors will only voted for one candidate in the general election and of those who cast two votes, some will have voted for candidates from different parties. Additionally some parties will only have stood one candidate in a multimember seat.

3. Sinn Féin (SF) candidate T.J. Mitchell was elected as MP for Mid-Ulster at the 1955 General Election, but was in prison at the time of election and hence was disqualified from being an MP. No petition was lodged but a by-election writ was subsequently issued; in the 31 August 1955 by-election Mitchell again stood for Sinn Féin and topped the poll (therefore the by-election is here recorded as a Sinn Féin hold). However on this occasion a petition was lodged and since Mitchell was disqualified, the Conservative candidate was elected instead.

4. Prior to the by-election the seat was held by a Conservative (see footnote 1). Changes in vote share are as compared to the 1955 General Election.

5. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in this table but not in Table 14a. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972 and so in Table 14a are listed under Conservatives.

6. Multiple by-elections were held in January 1986 after fifteen unionist Members resigned their seats in protest at the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Party descriptions: DUP - Democratic Unionist Party; SDLP - Social Democratic and Labour Party; UUP - Ulster Unionist Party; UPU - Ulster Popular Unionist Party; SF - Sinn Féin; UKU - United Kingdom Unionist

Sources for tables 14a and 14b:

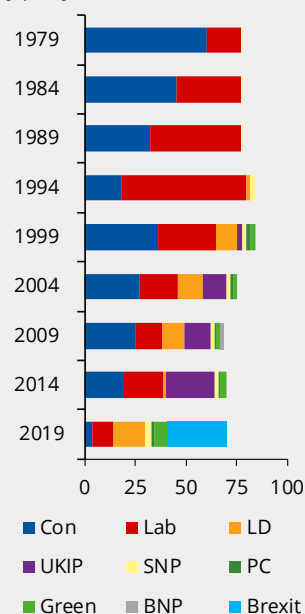
F.W.S. Craig, British Parliamentary Election Results 1918-1949; F.W.S. Craig, British Parliamentary Election Results 1950-1973; F.W.S. Craig, British Parliamentary Election Results 1974-1983; Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Parliamentary Election Results 1983-1997; House of Commons Library RP01/36, By-election results 1997-2000; RP05/34, By-election results 2001-05, RP10/50, By-election results 2005-10; SN05833, By-elections since 2010 General Election, By-elections since 2015 General Election; CBP- 8280 By-elections since the 2017 General Election; CBP-9225 By-elections since the 2019 General Election

4

European Parliament elections (UK)

UK MEPs after elections

By party



The UK participated in European Parliament elections between 1979 and 2019, during its membership of the European Union (1973-2020). Elections to the European Parliament are held every five years. Prior to the first direct elections in June 1979, members of the European Parliament were delegates from national parliaments. Detailed analysis of the 2019 European Parliament elections is available in House of Commons Library Briefing Paper [CBP-8600](#).

Between 1999-2020, MEPs in England, Scotland and Wales were elected using a regional list system of proportional representation; up to the 1994 election the electoral system was First Past the Post. European Parliament elections in Northern Ireland were conducted using the Single Transferable Vote system of proportional representation.

Table 15a: UK MEPs elected at European Parliament elections

By party, 1979-2019

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
Great Britain									
BNP	..	..	..	..	0	0	2	0	0
Brexit Party	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Conservative	60	45	32	18	36	27	25	19	4
Green	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	3	7
Labour	17	32	45	62	29	19	13	20	10
Liberal Democrat	0	0	0	2	10	12	11	1	16
Plaid Cymru	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1
Scottish National	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3
UKIP	..	..	..	0	3	12	13	24	0
Total	78	78	78	84	84	75	69	70	70
Northern Ireland									
Alliance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DUP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SDLP	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Sinn Fein	..	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
UUP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total UK	81	81	81	87	87	78	72	73	73

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP-8600 [European Parliament Elections 2019: results and analysis](#)

In 1979, the Conservatives received just over half the vote and won three-quarters of seats in Great Britain at the European Parliament elections. By 1994 the picture had been reversed and three-quarters of MEPs elected were Labour. After a change in electoral system in 1999, there was an increase in the number of MEPs from other parties. Ten Liberal Democrats were elected, compared with two in 1994, and the UK Independence Party (UKIP), the Green

Party and Plaid Cymru got their first MEPs. At the 2019 election the Brexit Party received 32% of the vote and won 29 seats.

Although Labour polled more votes in 2004 than in 1999, a higher turnout meant the party's vote share fell from 36% to 23%. An increase in the UKIP vote meant the number of UKIP MEPs rose from three to twelve and the party had the third highest number of votes, behind the Conservatives and Labour. UKIP gained another seat in 2009 and received more votes than Labour. The 2009 elections also saw the first MEPs elected for the British National Party (BNP). In 2014 UKIP was the party with the most MEPs and won a share of 27% of the vote in Great Britain. In 2019, the Brexit Party, founded by former UKIP leader Nigel Farage, won the most seats (29) and the largest proportion of the vote (32%).

Turnout at European Parliament elections in Great Britain was typically lower than at general elections; it was exceptionally low in 1999 when fewer than one in four voters turned out. In all European Parliament elections the turnout in Northern Ireland was higher than in the rest of the UK.

Table 15b. European Parliament election results: votes by party, 1979-2019

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019
Great Britain									
<i>Votes received</i>									
Conservative	6,508,493	5,426,821	5,331,098	4,268,539	3,578,203	4,397,087	4,198,664	3,788,405	1,511,485
Labour	4,253,207	4,865,261	6,153,661	6,753,881	2,803,820	3,718,683	2,381,760	4,020,646	2,347,255
Liberal Democrat ¹	1,691,531	2,591,635	944,861	2,557,887	1,266,549	2,452,327	2,080,613	1,087,632	3,367,284
UKIP				150,251	696,055	2,660,768	2,498,226	4,352,051	549,348
Scottish National	247,836	230,594	406,686	487,237	268,528	231,505	321,007	389,503	594,553
Plaid Cymru	83,399	103,031	115,062	162,478	185,235	159,888	126,702	111,864	163,928
Green ²	17,953	70,853	2,292,718	494,561	625,378	1,028,283	1,303,745	1,244,975	2,010,909
BNP					102,644	808,201	943,598	179,694	
Brexit									5,248,533
Other	71,433	24,678	117,181	417,888	475,841	1,001,861	1,282,887	654,054	833,959
Total	12,873,852	13,312,873	15,361,267	15,292,722	10,002,253	16,458,603	15,137,202	15,828,824	16,627,254
<i>% vote share received</i>									
Conservative	51%	41%	35%	28%	36%	27%	28%	24%	9%
Labour	33%	37%	40%	44%	28%	23%	16%	25%	14%
Liberal Democrat ¹	13%	19%	6%	17%	13%	15%	14%	7%	20%
UKIP				1%	7%	16%	17%	27%	3%
Scottish National		2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	4%
Plaid Cymru		1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Green ²		1%	15%	3%	6%	6%	9%	8%	12%
BNP					1%	5%	6%	1%	0%
Brexit									32%
Other	1%	0%	1%	3%	5%	6%	8%	4%	5%
Turnout	32.1%	32.1%	36.5%	36.2%	23.1%	38.2%	34.3%	35.0%	37.0%
Northern Ireland									
<i>Votes received (first preference votes)</i>									
DUP	170,688	230,251	160,110	163,246	192,762	175,761	88,346	131,163	124,991
SDLP	140,622	151,399	136,335	161,992	190,731	87,559	78,489	81,594	78,589
UUP	125,169	147,169	118,785	133,459	119,507	91,164	82,893	83,438	53,052
Sinn Fein		91,476	48,914	55,215	117,643	144,541	126,184	159,813	126,951
Alliance	39,026	34,046	27,905	23,157	14,391		26,699	44,432	105,928
Other	96,734	30,976	42,762	22,798	43,775	50,252	81,961	125,685	82,936
Total	572,239	685,317	534,811	559,867	678,809	549,277	484,572	626,125	572,447
<i>% vote share received (first preference votes)</i>									
DUP	30%	34%	30%	29%	28%	32%	18%	21%	22%
SDLP	25%	22%	25%	29%	28%	16%	16%	13%	14%
UUP	22%	21%	22%	24%	18%	17%	17%	13%	9%
Sinn Fein	0%	13%	9%	10%	17%	26%	26%	26%	22%
Alliance	7%	5%	5%	4%	2%	0%	6%	7%	19%
Other	17%	5%	8%	4%	6%	9%	17%	20%	14%
Turnout	55.6%	64.4%	48.3%	48.7%	57.0%	51.2%	42.4%	51.0%	44.8%
UK-wide turnout	32.7%	32.9%	36.8%	36.5%	24.0%	38.5%	34.5%	35.4%	36.9%

Notes:

1. Liberal Party in 1979 and SDP/Liberal Alliance in 1984. SDP votes in the 1989 election are counted under 'Other'.
2. Ecology Party in 1979 and 1984.

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; House of Commons Library Briefing Paper RP09/54 [European Parliament Elections 2009](#), RP14-32 [European Parliament Elections 2014](#), and CBP-8600 [European Parliament Elections 2019: results and analysis](#)

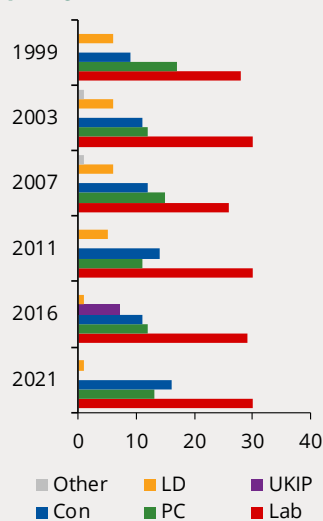
5

Elections to devolved legislatures and London elections

5.1

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament

Senedd Members by party



Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament was established as the National Assembly for Wales in 1999. The institution's name was changed in 2020. Elections were initially held every four years but moved to a five-year interval in 2011. 40 constituency Assembly Members (AMs) and 20 regional AMs are elected using the Additional Member System.

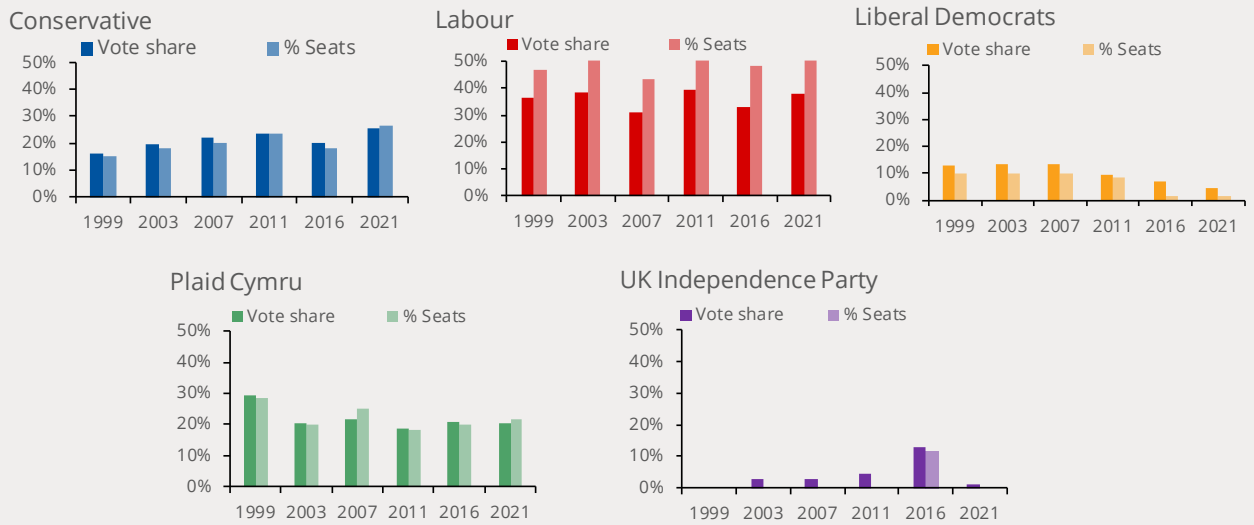
The most recent Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament elections took place on 6 May 2021. The largest party was Labour, winning 30 seats. The Conservatives made the largest gains and replaced Plaid Cymru as the second largest party. UKIP failed to hold onto most of their 2016 gains. Detailed analysis of the most recent elections is available in [Library Briefing Paper 9282 Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament elections 2021](#).

Labour has always been the largest party in terms of votes received and seats won, although it has never won a clear majority of seats. Following the 1999 elections, Labour initially formed a minority administration but entered a coalition with the Liberal Democrats in 2000. Labour governed on its own between 2003 and 2007, and in coalition with Plaid Cymru from 2007 to 2011. In 2011 Labour formed a majority government with 30 seats. Following the 2016 election Labour fell one seat short of a working majority, subsequently forming a government with a Liberal Democrat and an Independent AM.

Prior to 2016, the Conservatives were the only party to have consistently increased the share of the vote in Assembly elections from 1999 to 2011. Their share of the total vote increased at every election by an average of 2.5% points, before dropping by 3.8% points. In 2016 UKIP gained 13.3% of votes and seven regional seats.

Plaid Cymru's most successful election was in 1999, when it took almost 30% of the vote and won 17 seats. In 2016, it polled 20.7% and became the second largest party, with 12 seats.

Share of votes and seats by party, 1999-2021



The next elections are expected to be in May 2026. Subject to legislation, these will see [more Senedd Members elected using a new voting system](#).

Table 16: Senedd Cymru/Assembly for Wales elections, 1999-2021

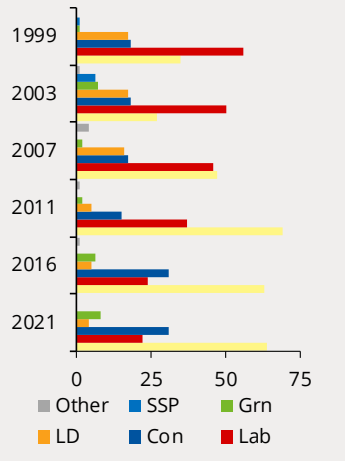
	Number of votes and seats						% vote share					
	1999	2003	2007	2011	2016	2021	1999	2003	2007	2011	2016	2021
Constituency votes												
LAB	384,671	340,515	314,925	401,677	353,865	443,047	37.6%	40.0%	32.2%	42.3%	34.7%	39.9%
PC	290,565	180,185	219,121	182,907	209,374	225,376	28.4%	21.2%	22.4%	19.3%	20.5%	20.3%
CON	162,133	169,832	218,730	237,389	215,597	289,802	15.8%	20.0%	22.4%	25.0%	21.1%	26.1%
UKIP		19,795	18,047		127,038	8,586		2.3%	1.8%		12.5%	0.8%
LD	137,657	120,250	144,410	100,259	78,165	54,202	13.5%	14.1%	14.8%	10.6%	7.7%	4.9%
Others	47,992	20,266	62,859	27,021	35,341	90,717	4.7%	2.4%	6.4%	2.8%	3.5%	8.2%
Total	1,023,018	850,843	978,092	949,253	1,019,380	1,111,730	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency seats												
LAB	27	30	24	28	27	27	67.5%	75.0%	60.0%	70.0%	67.5%	67.5%
PC	9	5	7	5	6	5	22.5%	12.5%	17.5%	12.5%	15.0%	12.5%
CON	1	1	5	6	6	8	2.5%	2.5%	12.5%	15.0%	15.0%	20.0%
UKIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LD	3	3	3	1	1	0	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Others	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	2.5%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	40	40	40	40	40	40	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Regional votes												
LAB	361,657	310,658	288,955	349,935	319,196	401,770	35.4%	36.6%	29.6%	36.9%	31.5%	36.2%
PC	312,048	167,653	204,757	169,799	211,548	230,161	30.5%	19.7%	21.0%	17.9%	20.8%	20.7%
CON	168,206	162,725	209,154	213,773	190,846	278,560	16.5%	19.2%	21.5%	22.5%	18.8%	25.1%
UKIP		29,427	38,349	43,256	132,138	17,341		3.5%	3.9%	4.6%	13.0%	1.6%
LD	128,008	108,013	114,500	76,349	65,504	48,217	12.5%	12.7%	11.7%	8.0%	6.5%	4.3%
Others	51,938	71,076	119,071	95,776	95,511	134,748	5.1%	8.4%	12.2%	10.1%	9.4%	12.1%
Total	1,021,857	849,552	974,786	948,888	1,014,743	1,110,797	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Regional seats												
LAB	1	0	2	2	2	3	5.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	15.0%
PC	8	7	8	6	6	8	40.0%	35.0%	40.0%	30.0%	30.0%	40.0%
CON	8	10	7	8	5	8	40.0%	50.0%	35.0%	40.0%	25.0%	40.0%
UKIP	0	0	0	0	7	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.0%	0.0%
LD	3	3	3	4	0	1	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	20.0%	0.0%	5.0%
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	20	20	20	20	20	20	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total seats												
LAB	28	30	26	30	29	30	46.7%	50.0%	43.3%	50.0%	48.3%	50.0%
PC	17	12	15	11	12	13	28.3%	20.0%	25.0%	18.3%	20.0%	21.7%
CON	9	11	12	14	11	16	15.0%	18.3%	20.0%	23.3%	18.3%	26.7%
UKIP	0	0	0	0	7	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.7%	0.0%
LD	6	6	6	5	1	1	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	8.3%	1.7%	1.7%
Others	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.0%	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	60	60	60	60	60	60	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency turnout												
	46.4%	38.2%	43.5%	41.5%	45.5%	46.5%						
Regional turnout												
	46.3%	38.1%	43.4%	41.4%	45.3%	46.5%						

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; Electoral Commission, *Report on the National Assembly for Wales general election 5 May 2016*; House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP 7594, *National Assembly for Wales Elections: 2016*; House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP 9282, *Welsh Parliament/ Senedd Cymru elections 2021*

5.2

Scottish Parliament

Members of the Scottish Parliament elected by party



The current Scottish Parliament was established in 1999. Elections for the 73 constituency Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and 56 regional MSPs are held every five years using the Additional Member System. Prior to 2016, elections to the Scottish Parliament were held every four years. Scottish Parliamentary constituencies now have different boundaries to Westminster seats.

The most recent Scottish Parliament elections took place in May 2021. The SNP won the most seats (64 of 129) with 44.2% of the vote but failed to win an overall majority. The total number of SNP MSPs elected was one more than in 2016. The average turnout was 63.3% for the constituency ballot and 63.5% for the regional ballot. More detailed analysis is available in Library Briefing Paper 9230 [Scottish Parliament elections 2021](#).

Labour won the most seats in the 1999 and 2003 elections, and on both occasions went into coalition with the Liberal Democrats. The Scottish National Party (SNP) replaced Labour as the largest party in 2007, winning 47 seats compared with Labour's 46, and formed a minority government.

Measured by the number of seats gained, 2011 was the best SNP performance to date, when they won an outright majority (69 out of 129 seats). In 2016, the SNP gained the highest share of the vote with 44.1% of the total vote, 46.5% of the constituency vote and 41.7% of the regional vote. It also won the highest number of seats (63), down six compared with the 2011 election.

The next Scottish Parliament elections are expected to be in May 2026.

Share of vote and seats by party, 1999-2021

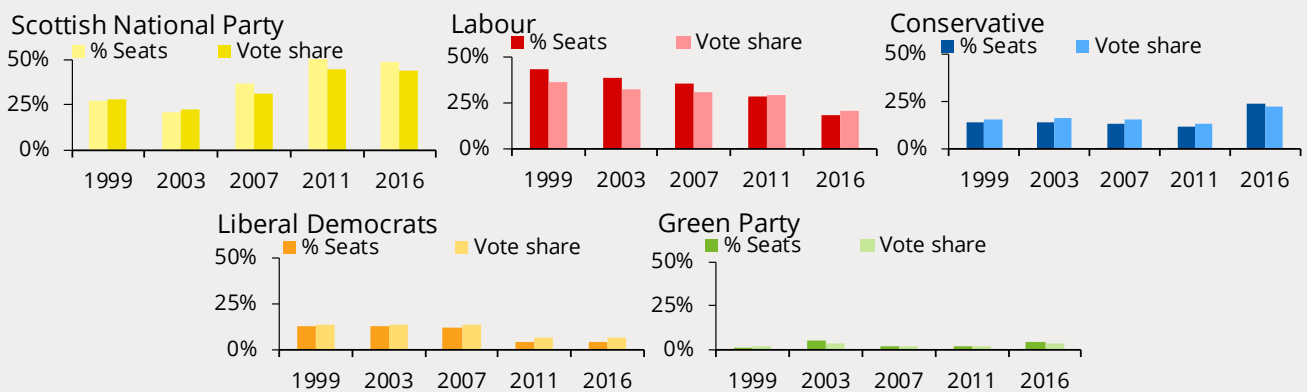


Table 17: Scottish Parliament elections, 1999-2021

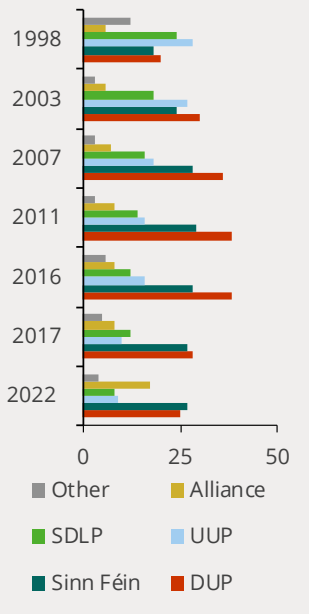
	Number of votes and seats						% vote share					
	1999	2003	2007	2011	2016	2021	1999	2003	2007	2011	2016	2021
Constituency votes												
SNP	672,768	455,742	664,227	902,915	1,059,898	1,291,384	28.7%	23.8%	32.9%	45.4%	46.5%	48.0%
CON	364,425	318,279	334,742	276,652	501,844	592,526	15.6%	16.6%	16.6%	13.9%	22.0%	22.0%
LAB	908,346	663,585	648,374	630,461	514,261	584,392	38.8%	34.6%	32.1%	31.7%	22.6%	21.7%
LD	333,179	294,347	326,232	157,714	178,238	187,806	14.2%	15.4%	16.2%	7.9%	7.8%	7.0%
GRN			2,971		13,172	32,903			0.1%		0.6%	1.2%
Others	63,770	184,641	43,402	21,534	11,741	1,192	2.7%	9.6%	2.2%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%
Total	2,342,488	1,916,594	2,016,977	1,989,276	2,279,154	2,690,203	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency seats												
SNP	7	9	21	53	59	62	9.6%	12.3%	28.8%	72.6%	80.8%	84.9%
CON	0	3	4	3	7	5	0.0%	4.1%	5.5%	4.1%	9.6%	6.8%
LAB	53	46	37	15	3	2	72.6%	63.0%	50.7%	20.5%	4.1%	2.7%
LD	12	13	11	2	4	4	16.4%	17.8%	15.1%	2.7%	5.5%	5.5%
GRN												
Others	1	2	0	0	0	0	1.4%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	73	73	73	73	73	73	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Regional votes												
SNP	638,644	399,659	633,401	876,421	953,587	1,094,404	27.3%	20.9%	31.0%	44.0%	41.7%	42.5%
CON	359,109	296,929	284,005	245,967	524,220	637,131	15.4%	15.5%	13.9%	12.4%	22.9%	24.7%
LAB	786,818	561,375	595,415	523,469	435,919	485,819	33.6%	29.3%	29.2%	26.3%	19.1%	18.9%
LD	290,760	225,774	230,671	103,472	119,284	137,151	12.4%	11.8%	11.3%	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%
GRN	84,023	132,138	82,584	86,939	150,426	220,324	3.6%	6.9%	4.0%	4.4%	6.6%	8.6%
Others	179,560	299,976	215,973	154,568	102,315	451	7.7%	15.7%	10.6%	7.8%	4.5%	0.0%
Total	2,338,914	1,915,851	2,042,049	1,990,836	2,285,751	2,575,280	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Regional Seats												
SNP	28	18	26	16	4	2	50.0%	32.1%	46.4%	28.6%	7.1%	3.6%
CON	18	15	13	12	24	26	32.1%	26.8%	23.2%	21.4%	42.9%	46.4%
LAB	3	4	9	22	21	20	5.4%	7.1%	16.1%	39.3%	37.5%	35.7%
LD	5	4	5	3	1	0	8.9%	7.1%	8.9%	5.4%	1.8%	0.0%
GRN	1	7	2	2	6	8	1.8%	12.5%	3.6%	3.6%	10.7%	14.3%
Others	1	8	1	1	0	0	1.8%	14.3%	1.8%	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	56	56	56	56	56	56	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total seats												
SNP	35	27	47	69	63	64	27.1%	20.9%	36.4%	53.5%	48.8%	49.6%
CON	18	18	17	15	31	31	14.0%	14.0%	13.2%	11.6%	24.0%	24.0%
LAB	56	50	46	37	24	22	43.4%	38.8%	35.7%	28.7%	18.6%	17.1%
LD	17	17	16	5	5	4	13.2%	13.2%	12.4%	3.9%	3.9%	3.1%
GRN	1	7	2	2	6	8	0.8%	5.4%	1.6%	1.6%	4.7%	6.2%
Others	2	10	1	1		0	1.6%	7.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	129	129	129	129	129	129	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency Turnout												
	58.8%	49.4%	51.7%	50.4%	55.6%	63.3%						
Regional Turnout												
	58.7%	49.4%	52.4%	50.4%	55.7%	63.5%						

Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; Electoral Commission, Report on the Scottish Parliament election on 5 May 2011; House of Commons Library Research Paper RP07/46, Scottish Parliament Elections: 3 May 2007; House of Commons Library Research Paper RP11/41, Scottish Parliament Elections: 2011; House of Commons Library Research Paper CBP9230, Scottish Parliament Elections: 2021; Electoral Commission (electorates)

5.3

Northern Ireland Assembly

Members of Northern Ireland Assembly elected by party



The Northern Ireland Assembly elections on 5 May 2022 took place five years after the last election, as per the Assembly’s normal election cycle. This was despite the resignation of the First Minister, Paul Givan, and the ensuing collapse of the Executive in February 2022. The elections were conducted under the Single Transferable Vote system and 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) were elected, 5 for each of the 18 constituencies. Detailed analysis is available in Library Briefing Paper [Northern Ireland Assembly elections 2022](#).

With the election of 27 Sinn Féin MLAs, a nationalist party became the largest party in the Assembly for the first time. Sinn Féin received 29.0% of first preference votes, an increase of 1.1 percentage points. The DUP had been the largest party before the election and lost three seats and 6.7 percentage points in vote share. The Alliance Party came third with 17 seats, nine more than following the previous election, increasing their first preference vote share by 4.5 percentage points. The turnout was 62.8% (based on valid votes).

The previous elections, in March 2017, had been held only 301 days after the elections before. As of August 2023, no Executive has been formed and new elections are expected.

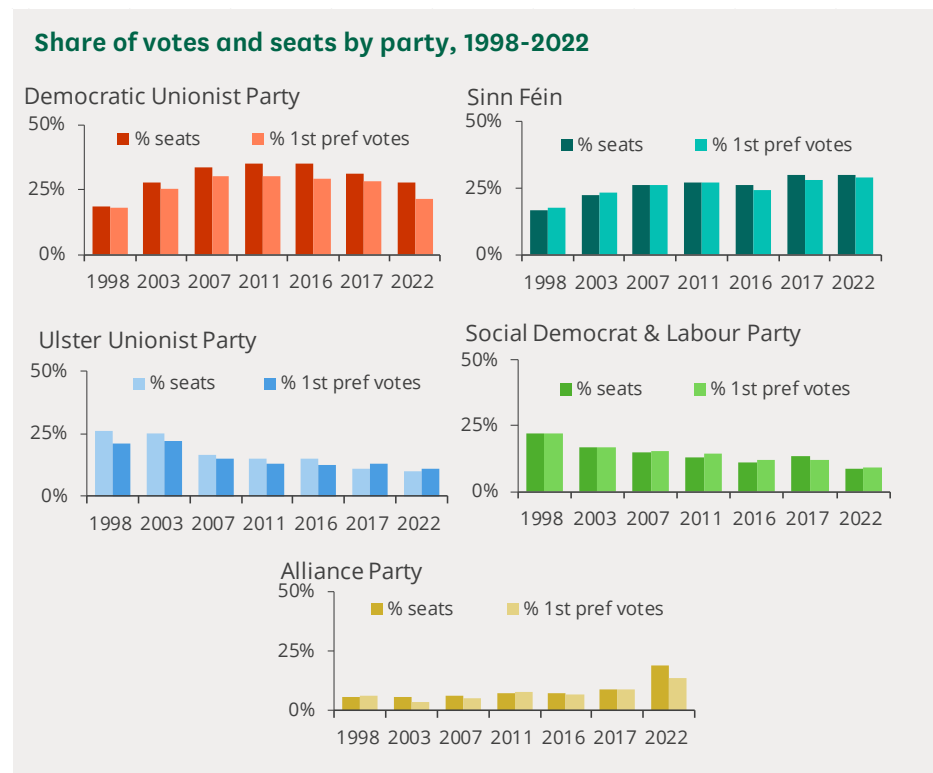


Table 18: Northern Ireland Assembly elections, 1998-2022

	1st Pref Votes and seats won							% of votes and seats won						
	1998	2003	2007	2011	2016	2017	2022	1998	2003	2007	2011	2016	2017	2022
Votes														
DUP	146,917	177,944	207,721	198,436	202,567	225,413	184,002	18.1%	25.3%	30.1%	30.0%	29.2%	28.1%	21%
Sinn Féin	142,858	162,758	180,573	178,222	166,785	224,245	250,385	17.6%	23.2%	26.2%	26.9%	24.0%	27.9%	29%
UUP	172,225	156,931	103,145	87,531	87,302	103,314	96,390	21.3%	22.3%	14.9%	13.2%	12.6%	12.9%	11%
SDLP	177,963	117,547	105,164	94,286	83,364	95,958	78,237	22.0%	16.7%	15.2%	14.2%	12.0%	11.9%	9%
Alliance	52,636	25,372	36,139	50,875	48,447	72,717	116,681	6.5%	3.6%	5.2%	7.7%	7.0%	9.1%	14%
UK Unionists	36,541	5,700	10,452	...	...	...	...	4.5%	0.8%	1.5%	...	...	...	...
PUP	20,634	8,032	3,822	1,493	5,955	5,590	2,665	2.5%	1.1%	0.6%	0.2%	0.9%	0.7%	0%
People before Profit Alliance	...	...	774	5,438	13,761	14,100	9,798	...	...	0.1%	0.8%	2.0%	1.8%	...
TUV	...	...	...	16,480	23,776	20,523	65,788	...	...	...	2.5%	3.4%	2.6%	8%
UKIP	...	...	...	4,152	10,109	1,579	...	...	...	...	0.6%	1.5%	0.2%	...
Green Party	510	2,688	11,985	6,031	18,718	18,527	16,433	0.1%	0.4%	1.7%	0.9%	2.7%	2.3%	2%
Others	59,961	45,277	30,538	18,790	33,526	21,349	42,321	7.4%	6.4%	4.4%	2.8%	4.8%	2.7%	5%
Total	810,245	702,249	690,313	661,734	694,310	803,315	862,700	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Seats won														
DUP	20	30	36	38	38	28	25	18.5%	27.8%	33.3%	35.2%	35.2%	31.1%	28%
Sinn Féin	18	24	28	29	28	27	27	16.7%	22.2%	25.9%	26.9%	25.9%	30.0%	30%
UUP	28	27	18	16	16	10	9	25.9%	25.0%	16.7%	14.8%	14.8%	11.1%	10%
SDLP	24	18	16	14	12	12	8	22.2%	16.7%	14.8%	13.0%	11.1%	13.3%	9%
Alliance	6	6	7	8	8	8	17	5.6%	5.6%	6.5%	7.4%	7.4%	8.9%	19%
UK Unionists	5	1	0	...	...	...	...	4.6%	0.9%	0.0%	...	...	...	...
PUP	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0%
People before Profit Alliance	...	...	0	0	2	1	1	...	...	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	1.1%	...
TUV	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	1%
UKIP	...	...	...	0	0	0	...	...	...	...	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	...
Green Party	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.9%	2.2%	0%
Others	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	4.6%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	2%
Total	108	108	108	108	108	90	90	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1
Turnout														
	68.7%	64.0%	62.3%	54.7%	54.2%	64.0%	62.8%							

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, www.eoni.org.uk

Elections were held to the Northern Ireland House of Commons (Stormont) from its creation in 1921 to 1969 after which it was abolished in 1972. About two-thirds of seats were held by Unionists. A significant number of Members were elected unopposed.

Table 19: Members elected at general elections to the Northern Ireland House of Commons (Stormont)

	Unionist Party	Other Unionist ¹	NI Labour	Ind ²	Nationalist/Republican ³	Others	Total	Unopposed returns
1921	40	0	0	0	12	0	52	
1925	32	4	3	0	12	1	52	12
1929	37	3	1	0	11	0	52	22
1933	36	3	2	0	11	0	52	33
1938	39	3	1	1	8	0	52	21
1945	33	2	2	3	10	2	52	20
1949	37	2	0	2	9	2	52	20
1953	38	1	0	3	9	1	52	25
1958	37	0	4	2	8	1	52	27
1962	34	0	4	3	9	2	52	24
1965	36	0	2	2	9	3	52	23
1969 ⁴	36	3	2	3	6	2	52	7

Notes:

1. Including Independent Unionists, Progressive Unionists, Protestant Unionists and Independent O'Neill Unionists
2. Including Independent Labour, Commonwealth Labour, Federation of Labour, Irish Labour, Republican Labour and Socialist Republican
3. Including Nationalists, Republicans, Sinn Féin, Fianna Fáil, Anti-Partitionists
4. Of the 36 Unionists elected in 1969, 24 were pro-O'Neill and 12 were anti-O'Neill

Source: Sydney Elliot, Northern Ireland Parliamentary Election Results 1921-1972

5.4 London Assembly

Elections for the London Assembly are held every four years, using the Additional Member System. There are 14 Constituency Members and 11 London-wide Members. In the five elections held since the establishment of the Assembly in 2000, only Conservative and Labour Members have been elected on the constituency ballot, with other parties picking up seats from the London-wide list. The most recent Assembly elections were held in May 2021 (postponed from May 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic); more detailed analysis is available in Library Briefing Paper 9231 [London Elections](#).

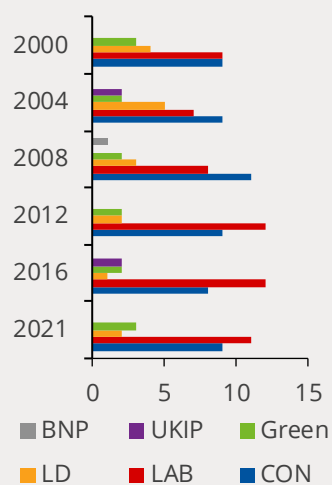
Labour gained the largest share of seats in the 2012, 2016 and 2021 Assembly elections, most recently securing eleven seats. In 2021 Labour won two seats on the London-wide list, one fewer than in 2016, and retained their constituency seats. The Conservatives' best result was in 2008, when they had eleven Assembly Members and received 37% of the vote in the constituency election. In 2021 the Conservative Party won nine Assembly seats, one more than in 2016. The party retained its five constituency seats and gained a London-wide seat. The highest turnout was 45.6% recorded in 2016, the most recent turnout was 42.0%.

Table 20a: Assembly seats won by party

By election (2000-2021)

	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2021
Total seats						
LAB	9	7	8	12	12	11
CON	9	9	11	9	8	9
Green	3	2	2	2	2	3
UKIP		2			2	0
LD	4	5	3	2	1	2
BNP			1			
Total	25	25	25	25	25	25
of which constituency seats						
LAB	6	5	6	8	9	9
CON	8	9	8	6	5	5
Green						
UKIP						
LD						
BNP						
Total	14	14	14	14	14	14
of which London-wide seats						
LAB	3	2	2	4	3	2
CON	1		3	3	3	4
Green	3	2	2	2	2	3
UKIP		2			2	
LD	4	5	3	2	1	2
BNP			1			
Total	11	11	11	11	11	11

London Assembly seats won by party



Source: Library Briefing Paper 9231 [London Elections](#)

Table 20b: Votes cast in London Assembly Elections, 2000-2021

	Number						% Share					
	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	2021	2000	2004	2008	2012	2015	2021
Constituency ballot votes												
LAB	501,296	444,808	673,855	933,438	1,138,576	1,083,215	31.6%	24.7%	28.0%	42.3%	42.3%	41.7%
CON	526,707	562,048	900,569	722,280	812,415	833,021	33.2%	31.2%	37.4%	32.7%	32.7%	32.0%
GRN	162,457	138,243	194,059	188,623	236,809	336,840	10.2%	7.7%	8.1%	8.5%	8.5%	13.0%
LD	299,998	332,237	330,018	193,842	195,820	266,595	18.9%	18.4%	13.7%	8.8%	8.8%	10.3%
UKIP	2,115	181,147	71,984	95,849	199,448	...	0.1%	10.0%	3.0%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%
Others	93,497	144,688	235,804	73,645	31,844	79,979	5.9%	8.0%	9.8%	3.3%	3.3%	3.1%
Total	1,586,070	1,803,171	2,406,289	2,207,677	2,614,912	2,599,650	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
London-wide ballot votes												
LAB	502,874	468,247	665,443	911,204	1,054,801	986,609	30.3%	25.0%	27.6%	41.1%	41.1%	38.1%
CON	481,053	533,696	835,535	708,528	764,230	795,081	29.0%	28.5%	34.6%	32.0%	32.0%	30.7%
GRN	183,910	160,445	203,465	189,215	207,959	305,452	11.1%	8.6%	8.4%	8.5%	8.5%	11.8%
LD	245,555	316,218	275,272	150,447	165,580	189,522	14.8%	16.9%	11.4%	6.8%	6.8%	7.3%
UKIP	34,054	156,780	46,617	100,040	171,069	27,114	2.1%	8.4%	1.9%	4.5%	4.5%	1.0%
BNP	47,670	90,365	130,714	47,024	15,833	...	2.9%	4.8%	5.4%	2.1%	2.1%	0.0%
Others	164,514	147,415	255,561	108,550	236,204	285,490	9.9%	7.9%	10.6%	4.9%	4.9%	11.0%
Total	1,659,630	1,873,166	2,412,607	2,215,008	2,615,676	2,589,268	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency ballot seats												
LAB	6	5	6	8	9	9	42.9%	35.7%	42.9%	57.1%	64.3%	64.3%
CON	8	9	8	6	5	5	57.1%	64.3%	57.1%	42.9%	35.7%	35.7%
GRN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
UKIP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	14	14	14	14	14	14	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
London-wide ballot seats												
LAB	3	2	2	4	3	2	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	36.4%	27.3%	18.2%
CON	1	0	3	3	3	4	9.1%	0.0%	27.3%	27.3%	27.3%	36.4%
GRN	3	2	2	2	2	3	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%	27.3%
LD	4	5	3	2	2	2	36.4%	45.5%	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%
UKIP	0	2	0	0	1	0	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
BNP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	11	11	11	11	11	11	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Constituency Ballot turnout												
	31.2%	34.7%	44.3%	37.4%	45.6%	42.0%						
London-wide ballot turnout												
	32.6%	36.0%	44.4%	37.5%	45.6%	41.8%						

Source: Greater London Authority, [London Elects](#)

5.5 Mayor of London

Elections for the Mayor of London have been held every four years since 2000, using the Supplementary Vote system. The next election will be held in 2024 using the First Past the Post system.

Ken Livingstone won the first mayoral election as an independent and was re-elected in 2004 standing for Labour. He was replaced by Conservative Boris Johnson in 2008. Johnson won a second term in May 2012. In 2016 Labour's Sadiq Khan was elected Mayor of London. He won a second term in 2021, when the election took place a year later than scheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic. More detailed analysis of the most recent election is in Library Briefing Paper 9231 [London Elections](#), section 4.

Table 21: London Mayoral Elections, 2000-2021

Name	Party	1st preference		2nd preference ¹		Total ²	
		Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
4 May 2000							
Ken Livingstone	Independent	667,877	39.0	144,206	11.0	776,427	57.9
Steve Norris	Conservative	464,434	27.1	162,767	12.4	564,137	42.1
Frank Dobson	Labour	223,884	13.1	200,509	15.2	...	...
Susan Kramer	Liberal Democrat	203,452	11.9	397,148	30.2	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	42,060	2.5	53,657	4.1	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	38,121	2.2	191,226	14.5	...	...
Michael Newland	British National Party	33,569	2.0	42,803	3.3	...	...
Damian Hockney	UK Independence Party	16,324	1.0	42,987	3.3	...	...
Geoffrey Ben-Nathan	Pro-Motorist Small Shop	9,956	0.6	22,214	1.7	...	...
Ashwin Kumar Tanna	Independent	9,015	0.5	41,237	3.1	...	...
Geoffrey Clements	Natural Law Party	5,470	0.3	17,738	1.3	...	...
Total		1,714,162		1,316,492		1,340,564	
Turnout		33.7%					
10 June 2004							
Ken Livingstone	Labour	685,548	36.8	186,371	12.9	828,390	55.4
Steve Norris	Conservative	542,423	29.1	185,148	12.8	667,180	44.6
Simon Hughes	Liberal Democrat	284,647	15.3	450,732	31.1	...	...
Frank Maloney	UK Independence Party	115,666	6.2	187,559	13.0	...	...
Lindsey German	Respect	61,731	3.3	54,075	3.7	...	...
Julian Leppert	British National Party	58,407	3.1	65,926	4.6	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	57,332	3.1	205,614	14.2	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	41,698	2.2	53,300	3.7	...	...
Lorna Reid	Indep. Working Class Assoc	9,542	0.5	39,333	2.7	...	...
Tammy Nagalingam	Independent	6,692	0.4	19,868	1.4	...	...
Total		1,863,686		1,447,926		1,495,570	
Turnout		35.9%					

Name	Party	1st preference		2nd preference ¹		Total ²	
		Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
1 May 2008							
Boris Johnson	Conservative	1,044,067	43.2	210,312	11.3	1,169,046	53.2
Ken Livingstone	Labour	894,317	37.0	214,279	11.5	1,029,406	46.8
Brian Paddick	Liberal Democrat	236,752	9.8	641,412	34.6	...	...
Siân Berry	Green	77,396	3.2	329,665	17.8	...	...
Richard Barnbrook	British National Party	69,753	2.9	124,093	6.7	...	...
Alan Craig	Christian Peoples Alliance	39,266	1.6	77,373	4.2	...	...
Gerard Batten	UK Independence Party	22,435	0.9	112,765	6.1	...	...
Lindsey German	Left List	16,803	0.7	34,276	1.8	...	...
Matt O'Connor	English Democrats	10,700	0.4	73,538	4.0	...	...
Winston McKenzie	Independent	5,396	0.2	38,602	2.1	...	...
Total		2,416,885		1,856,315		2,198,452	
Turnout		44.5%					
3 May 2012							
Boris Johnson	Conservative	971,931	44.0	187,997	12.1	1,054,811	51.5
Ken Livingstone	Labour	889,918	40.3	199,538	12.9	992,273	48.5
Jenny Jones	Green	98,913	4.5	360,381	23.3	...	...
Brian Paddick	Liberal Democrat	91,774	4.2	360,104	23.2	...	...
Siobhan Benita	Independent	83,914	3.8	210,761	13.6	...	...
Lawrence James Webb	UK Independence Party	43,274	2.0	159,618	10.3	...	...
Carlos Cortiglia	British National Party	28,751	1.3	71,139	4.6	...	...
Total		2,208,475		1,549,538		2,047,084	
Turnout		37.4%					
5 May 2016							
Sadiq Khan	Labour	1,148,716	44.2	161,427	65.5	1,310,143	56.8
Zac Goldsmith	Conservative	909,755	35.0	84,859	34.5	994,614	43.2
Siân Berry	Green	150,673	5.8	...	...	...	...
Caroline Pidgeon	Liberal Democrat	120,005	4.6	...	...	...	...
Peter Whittle	UK Independence Party	94,373	3.6	...	...	...	...
George Galloway	Respect	37,007	1.4	...	...	...	...
David Furness	BNP	13,325	0.5	...	...	...	...
Others	Others	123,107	4.7	...	...	...	...
Total		2,596,961		246,286		2,304,757	
Turnout		46.0%					
6 May 2021							
Sadiq Khan	Labour	1,013,721	40.0	192,313	69.5	1,206,034	55.2
Shaun Bailey	Conservative	893,051	35.3	84,550	30.5	977,601	44.5
Siân Berry	Green	197,976	7.8	...	...	...	...
Luisa Porritt	Liberal Democrat	111,716	4.4	...	...	...	...
Niko Omilana	Independent	49,628	2.0	...	...	...	...
Laurence Paul Fox	The Reclaim Party	47,634	1.9	...	...	...	...
Others	Others	217,631	8.6	...	...	...	...
Total		2,531,357		2,203,377		2,183,635	
Turnout		40.9%					

Notes: 1. Excluding votes where the second preference was the same as the first preference. 2. If no candidate receives more than half of first preference votes, the two candidates who received the most first preference votes then receive second preferences from the other candidates.

Sources: 2000-2016 Greater London Authority (data.london.gov.uk); 2016-2021 [London Elects](#), Library Briefing Papers 9231 & 7598

5.6

Women's representation in devolved legislatures and the European Parliament

Women have always won at least 30% of seats in elections to the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru and London Assembly. In 2003, an equal number of male and female Members were elected to the National Assembly for Wales. The number of female Members in the Northern Ireland Assembly has increased since the first elections in 1998 with a current peak of 36% female elected representatives.

Table 23: Women elected at elections to devolved legislatures and London Assembly

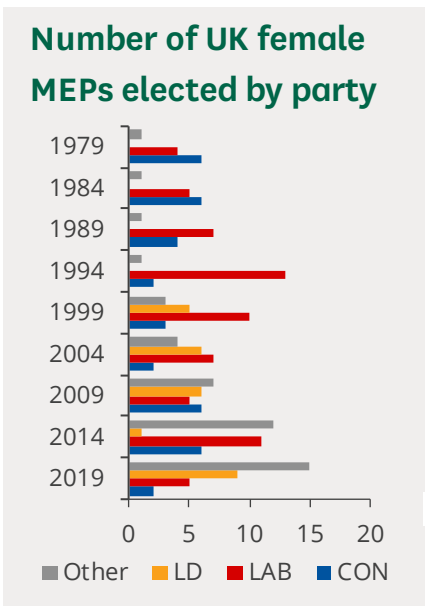
	Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland			London Assembly		
	F	Total	%	F	Total	%	F	Total	%	F	Total	%
1998							14	108	13%			
1999	24	60	40%	48	129	37%						
2000										10	25	40%
2001												
2002												
2003	30	60	50%	51	129	40%	18	108	17%			
2004										9	25	36%
2005												
2006												
2007	28	60	47%	43	129	33%	18	108	17%			
2008										8	25	32%
2009												
2010												
2011	24	60	40%	45	129	35%	20	108	19%			
2012										8	25	32%
2013												
2014												
2015												
2016	25	60	42%	45	129	35%	30	108	28%	10	25	40%
2017							27	90	30%			
2018												
2019												
2020												
2021	25	60	42%	58	129	35%				13	25	52%
2022							32	90	36%			

Sources: Library Briefing Paper 1250 [Women in Politics and Public Life](#); Greater London Authority; Library Briefing Papers 7598 [London elections 2016](#); 9282 [Welsh Parliament elections 2021](#); 9230 [Scottish Parliament elections 2021](#); 9549 [Northern Ireland Assembly elections 2022](#)

In 2019, 42% of MEPs elected for the UK were women. Following the first elections in 1979 only 14% UK MEPs were women. Detailed analysis is available in Library Briefing Paper 1250 [Women in Politics and Public Life](#).

Table 22: Women UK MEPs
% of party's MEPs

	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total
1979	10%	24%	..	25%	14%
1984	13%	16%	..	25%	15%
1989	13%	16%	..	25%	15%
1994	11%	21%	0%	20%	18%
1999	8%	34%	50%	25%	24%
2004	7%	37%	50%	20%	24%
2009	24%	38%	55%	30%	33%
2014	32%	55%	100%	40%	43%
2019	50%	50%	56%	34%	42%



Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; Library Briefing Papers 09/53 [European Parliament Elections 2009](#), 8600 [European Parliament elections 2019: results and analysis](#)

6 Local Elections

6.1 Council Elections

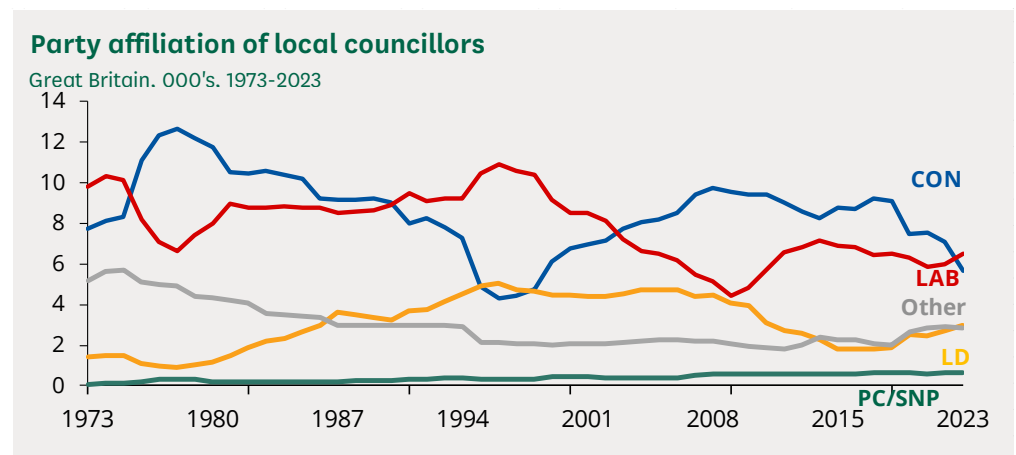
Detailed analysis of the most recent local elections is available in Library Briefing Paper 9798 [Local Elections 2023: results and analysis](#) and the [Local Elections Handbook and dataset 2022](#).

Electoral system

Councillors are generally elected for four-year terms using the First Past the Post (FPTP) electoral system in England and Wales and (since 2007) Single Transferable Vote (STV) in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Some authorities, including London boroughs and county councils, hold elections every four years and elect all their councillors at the same time. Other councils elect a third of councillors every year (except in years when there are county council elections). A small number of councils hold elections every two years and elect half of the councillors at a time.

Party affiliation of Councillors

After the 1973 reorganisation of local government, Conservative councillor numbers in Great Britain peaked at more than 12,600 in 1978, when half of all councillors were Conservative. The number fell during the Party's time in government from 1979, but climbed again when the Party entered opposition in 1997.



The increase in the number of Conservative councillors prior to 1979 corresponded to a sharp fall in Labour councillors. Labour made gains between 1979 and 1981 having left government, but their councillor numbers then remained fairly constant up to the mid-1990s. Labour held 10,900 council seats in 1996 prior to winning the 1997 General Election, but the number of Labour councillors fell steadily while the party was in government to a low of 4,400 in 2009.

Between 2009 and 2014 Labour's number of councillors had grown to 7,129. After the 2022 local elections, Labour had 6,016 councillors. The Conservatives have been the party with the most councillors since 2004. Their number of councillors has fluctuated in recent years from 9,553 in 2009 to 8,261 in 2014, before reaching 7,081 in 2022.

The number of seats held by the Liberal/SDP Alliance (and then the Liberal Democrats) climbed through the 1980s and the early 1990s to peak at 5,100 in 1996. Their share then declined, reaching 1,803 in 2017 - their lowest ever number since the Liberal Democrat Party was created in 1988, before increasing again: in 2022, their number rose to 2,696 - their highest number of councillors since 2012.

Table 24: Party affiliation of councillors 1973-2023

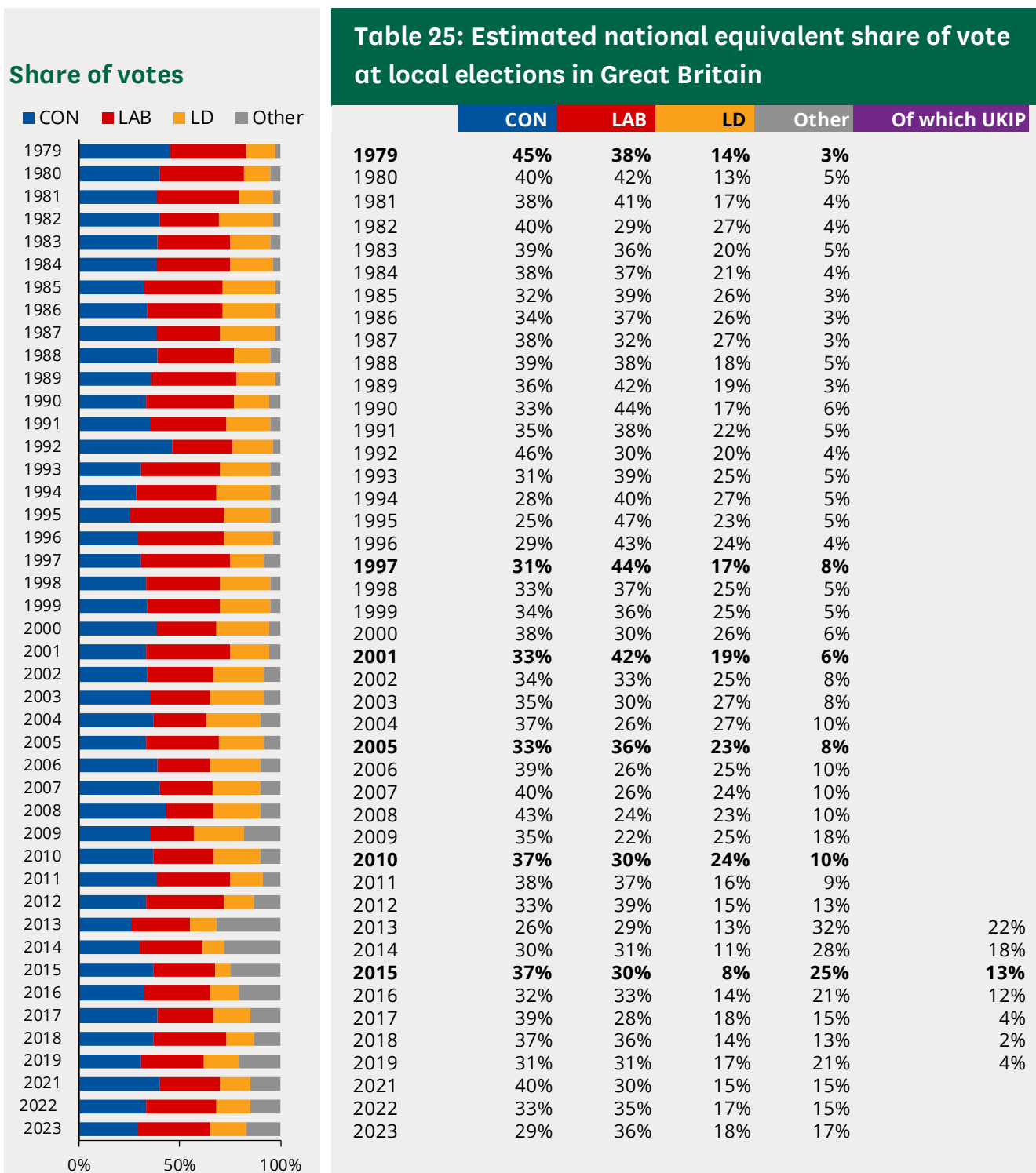
	Number					Total	% total									
	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Other		CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others					
1973	7,709	9,781	1,427	65	5,183	24,165	31.9%		40.5%		5.9%		0.3%		21.4%	
1974	8,102	10,325	1,474	145	5,664	25,710	31.5%		40.2%		5.7%		0.6%		22.0%	
1975	8,301	10,117	1,462	145	5,685	25,710	32.3%		39.4%		5.7%		0.6%		22.1%	
1976	11,077	8,213	1,113	223	5,132	25,758	43.0%		31.9%		4.3%		0.9%		19.9%	
1977	12,370	7,115	950	349	4,965	25,749	48.0%		27.6%		3.7%		1.4%		19.3%	
1978	12,645	6,644	923	349	4,920	25,481	49.6%		26.1%		3.6%		1.4%		19.3%	
1979	12,222	7,410	1,059	301	4,388	25,380	48.2%		29.2%		4.2%		1.2%		17.3%	
1980	11,738	8,011	1,149	186	4,325	25,409	46.2%		31.5%		4.5%		0.7%		17.0%	
1981	10,545	8,999	1,455	172	4,208	25,379	41.6%		35.5%		5.7%		0.7%		16.6%	
1982	10,447	8,774	1,850	177	4,099	25,347	41.2%		34.6%		7.3%		0.7%		16.2%	
1983	10,557	8,782	2,171	175	3,570	25,255	41.8%		34.8%		8.6%		0.7%		14.1%	
1984	10,393	8,870	2,331	179	3,515	25,288	41.1%		35.1%		9.2%		0.7%		13.9%	
1985	10,191	8,746	2,633	177	3,432	25,179	40.5%		34.7%		10.5%		0.7%		13.6%	
1986	9,216	8,759	2,971	191	3,364	24,501	37.6%		35.7%		12.1%		0.8%		13.7%	
1987	9,141	8,525	3,640	203	2,974	24,483	37.3%		34.8%		14.9%		0.8%		12.1%	
1988	9,150	8,601	3,518	254	2,968	24,491	37.4%		35.1%		14.4%		1.0%		12.1%	
1989	9,242	8,636	3,343	258	2,958	24,437	37.8%		35.3%		13.7%		1.1%		12.1%	
1990	9,020	8,920	3,265	264	2,968	24,437	36.9%		36.5%		13.4%		1.1%		12.1%	
1991	7,985	9,504	3,672	292	2,997	24,450	32.7%		38.9%		15.0%		1.2%		12.3%	
1992	8,288	9,102	3,728	334	2,977	24,429	33.9%		37.3%		15.3%		1.4%		12.2%	
1993	7,802	9,213	4,123	358	2,948	24,444	31.9%		37.7%		16.9%		1.5%		12.1%	
1994	7,286	9,257	4,551	392	2,941	24,427	29.8%		37.9%		18.6%		1.6%		12.0%	
1995	4,883	10,461	4,942	294	2,157	22,737	21.5%		46.0%		21.7%		1.3%		9.5%	
1996	4,276	10,929	5,078	298	2,157	22,738	18.8%		48.1%		22.3%		1.3%		9.5%	
1997	4,449	10,608	4,754	301	2,076	22,188	20.1%		47.8%		21.4%		1.4%		9.4%	
1998	4,772	10,411	4,629	304	2,083	22,199	21.5%		46.9%		20.9%		1.4%		9.4%	
1999	6,144	9,134	4,485	444	1,973	22,180	27.7%		41.2%		20.2%		2.0%		8.9%	
2000	6,785	8,529	4,457	447	2,071	22,289	30.4%		38.3%		20.0%		2.0%		9.3%	
2001	6,941	8,487	4,382	418	2,091	22,319	31.1%		38.0%		19.6%		1.9%		9.4%	
2002	7,178	8,117	4,379	415	2,094	22,183	32.4%		36.6%		19.7%		1.9%		9.4%	
2003	7,768	7,207	4,551	388	2,125	22,039	35.2%		32.7%		20.6%		1.8%		9.6%	
2004	8,038	6,669	4,714	355	2,213	21,989	36.6%		30.3%		21.4%		1.6%		10.1%	
2005	8,193	6,518	4,743	357	2,233	22,044	37.2%		29.6%		21.5%		1.6%		10.1%	
2006	8,495	6,176	4,723	364	2,273	22,031	38.6%		28.0%		21.4%		1.7%		10.3%	
2007	9,431	5,483	4,420	537	2,173	22,044	42.8%		24.9%		20.1%		2.4%		9.9%	
2008	9,721	5,122	4,467	569	2,225	22,104	44.0%		23.2%		20.2%		2.6%		10.1%	
2009	9,553	4,436	4,083	570	2,060	20,702	46.1%		21.4%		19.7%		2.8%		10.0%	
2010	9,406	4,831	3,944	568	1,962	20,711	45.4%		23.3%		19.0%		2.7%		9.5%	
2011	9,445	5,707	3,104	568	1,855	20,679	45.7%		27.6%		15.0%		2.7%		9.0%	
2012	9,004	6,559	2,711	584	1,787	20,645	43.6%		31.8%		13.1%		2.8%		8.7%	
2013	8,589	6,842	2,576	590	1,991	20,588	41.7%		33.2%		12.5%		2.9%		9.7%	
2014	8,261	7,129	2,235	591	2,362	20,578	40.1%		34.6%		10.9%		2.9%		11.5%	
2015	8,766	6,873	1,810	592	2,241	20,282	43.2%		33.9%		8.9%		2.9%		11.0%	
2016	8,709	6,851	1,822	596	2,251	20,229	43.1%		33.9%		9.0%		2.9%		11.1%	
2017	9,233	6,439	1,803	634	2,100	20,209	45.7%		31.9%		8.9%		3.1%		10.4%	
2018	9,102	6,485	1,873	631	2,019	20,110	45.3%		32.2%		9.3%		3.1%		10.0%	
2019	7,507	6,332	2,531	622	2,655	19,647	38.0%		32.0%		13.0%		3.2%		14.0%	
2021	7,562	5,849	2,487	605	2,838	19,341	39.1%		30.2%		12.9%		3.1%		14.7%	
2022	7,081	6,016	2,696	656	2,922	19,371	36.6%		31.1%		13.9%		3.4%		15.1%	
2023	5,685	6,495	2,983	650	2,828	18,641	30.5%		34.8%		16.0%		3.5%		15.2%	

Note: Liberal Democrat councillor figures include predecessor parties

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British electoral facts 1832-2006; Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, Local elections handbook, various; House of Commons Library, CBP-7596 Local Elections 2016; CBP-7975 Local Elections 2017; CBP-8306 Local Elections 2018; CBP-8566 Local Elections 2019; CBP-9228 Local Elections 2021; CBP-9545 Local Elections 2022

Estimated national vote share

Although the areas holding elections change from year to year, it is possible to calculate a national equivalent share of the vote which estimates the vote share which each party would have received had elections been held across all authorities in Great Britain.

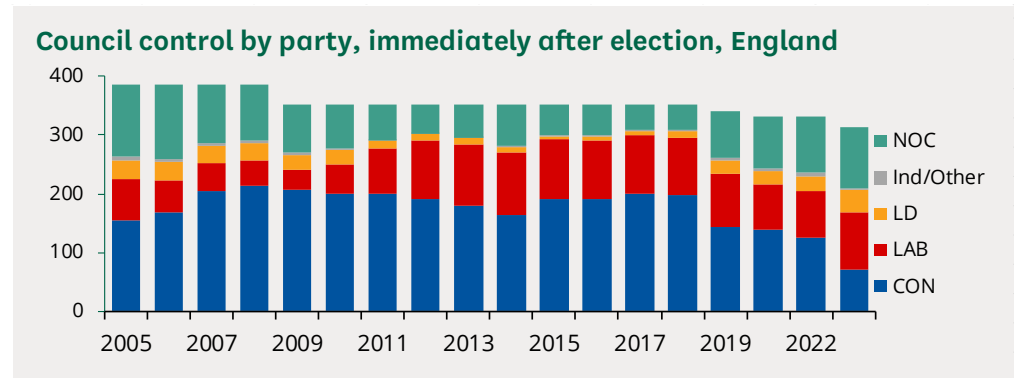


Notes: Local elections in 1979, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2010 and 2015 were held on same day as a general election, and in these years general election vote shares are shown in bold.

Source: Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher, Local elections handbooks, various editions

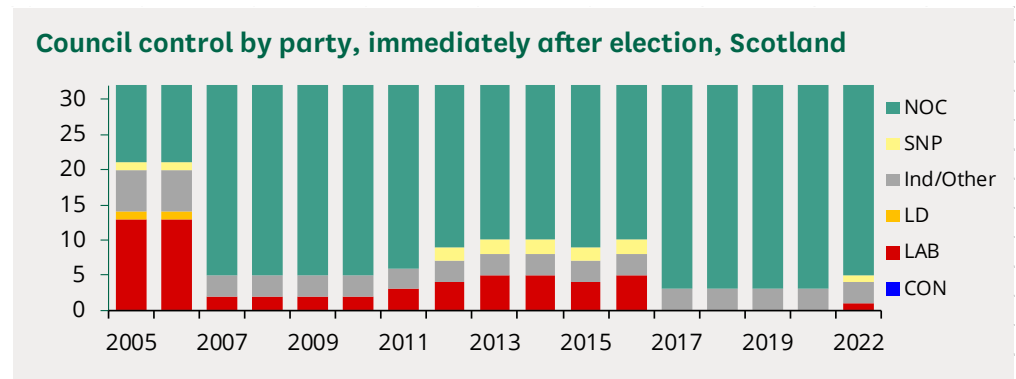
Council control immediately following elections

The following charts summarise council composition and control for all local authorities in Great Britain, immediately following local elections by year (held on the first Thursday of May). No local elections were held in Scotland and Wales in 2022. This also includes those councils where elections were not held in a given year. Data on council composition is available from Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher’s Local Election Handbooks from 2005 onwards.

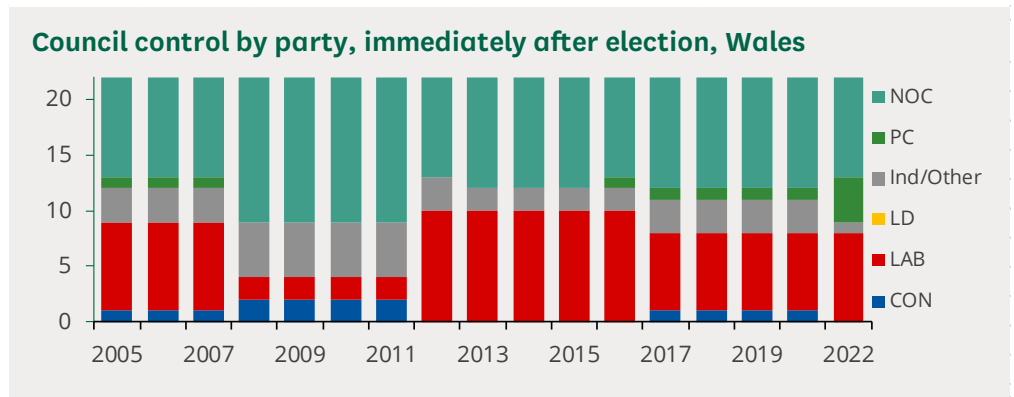


Note: NOC means there is no party with a majority on the council, or No Overall Control

The Conservative Party controls the largest proportion of councils in England in 2022, at 38.1%. Their highest share since 2005 was recorded immediately after the 2009 elections (59.0%). Labour has the second largest share of council majorities (23.6%). Their share increased almost three times from 9.4% in 2009 to 27.9% in 2018.



Scotland has the highest share of councils with No Overall Control (NOC) – 84.4% compared with 40.9% in Wales and 28.7% in England. Between 2005 and 2016 Labour controlled the largest number of councils, but had no council majorities between 2017 and 2021; in 2022 the party controlled one council (3.1%). The SNP controlled two councils between 2012 and 2016 and regained one in 2022. The Conservatives have not had control of any councils in Scotland over the period shown.



Sources for council control charts: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 and 2019 data collated by House of Commons Library; Rallings and Thrasher, "Voters turned their backs on the main two parties", Local Government Chronicle, 7 May 2019, and "Brexit is changing voting patterns", Local Government Chronicle, 14 May 2021; Library Briefing Paper 9545 Local elections 2022

The number of Welsh councils with a Labour majority fluctuated over the last ten years. Immediately after the May 2022 elections, this Party controlled eight out of 22 councils (36.4%). The Conservative Party had overall control in two councils prior to 2012, one between 2017 and 2021, and none following the 2022 elections. Following the 2016 election Plaid Cymru gained control of one council; this increased to four in 2022.

Table 26: Council control by party immediately following elections, Great Britain, 2006-2023

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
All councils in England																	
CON	168	204	213	207	199	199	190	180	164	192	191	200	198	143	139	126	70
LAB	54	48	44	33	50	77	100	103	106	100	100	99	98	91	77	78	99
LD	32	29	29	26	25	14	12	12	10	6	7	8	11	23	22	26	37
Ind/Other	5	5	5	4	4	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	5	5	6	4
NOC	127	100	95	81	73	60	48	55	70	51	52	42	43	79	88	95	103
Total	386	386	386	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	341	331	331	313
% share of all councils in England																	
CON	43.5%	52.8%	55.2%	59.0%	56.7%	56.7%	54.1%	51.3%	46.7%	54.7%	54.4%	57.0%	56.4%	41.9%	42.0%	38.1%	22.4%
LAB	14.0%	12.4%	11.4%	9.4%	14.2%	21.9%	28.5%	29.3%	30.2%	28.5%	28.5%	28.2%	27.9%	26.7%	23.3%	23.6%	31.6%
LD	8.3%	7.5%	7.5%	7.4%	7.1%	4.0%	3.4%	3.4%	2.8%	1.7%	2.0%	2.3%	3.1%	6.7%	6.6%	7.9%	11.8%
Ind/Other	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1.3%
NOC	32.9%	25.9%	24.6%	23.1%	20.8%	17.1%	13.7%	15.7%	19.9%	14.5%	14.8%	12.0%	12.3%	23.2%	26.6%	28.7%	32.9%
All councils in Wales																	
CON	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0
LAB	8	8	2	2	2	2	10	10	10	10	10	7	7	7	7	8	8
LD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ind/Other	3	3	5	5	5	5	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	1	1
PC	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	4	4
NOC	9	9	13	13	13	13	9	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	9	9
Total	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
% share of all councils in Wales																	
CON	4.5%	4.5%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%
LAB	36.4%	36.4%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	31.8%	31.8%	31.8%	31.8%	36.4%	36.4%
LD	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ind/Other	13.6%	13.6%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	22.7%	13.6%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	9.1%	13.6%	13.6%	13.6%	13.6%	4.5%	4.5%
PC	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	18.2%	18.2%
NOC	40.9%	40.9%	59.1%	59.1%	59.1%	59.1%	40.9%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	40.9%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	45.5%	40.9%	40.9%
All councils in Scotland																	
CON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAB	13	2	2	2	2	3	4	5	5	4	5	0	0	0	0	1	1
LD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ind/Other	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
SNP	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
NOC	11	27	27	27	27	26	23	22	22	23	22	29	29	29	29	27	27
Total	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
% share of all councils in Scotland																	
CON	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LAB	40.6%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	9.4%	12.5%	15.6%	15.6%	12.5%	15.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	3.1%
LD	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Ind/Other	18.8%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
SNP	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	3.1%
NOC	34.4%	84.4%	84.4%	84.4%	84.4%	81.3%	71.9%	68.8%	68.8%	71.9%	68.8%	90.6%	90.6%	90.6%	90.6%	84.4%	84.4%

Sources: 1997 - 2017 data from Rallings & Thrasher Local Elections Handbooks; 2018 and 2019 data collated by House of Commons Library; Rallings and Thrasher, "Voters turned their backs on the main two parties", Local Government Chronicle, 7 May 2019, and "Brexit is changing voting patterns", Local Government Chronicle, 14 May 2021; Library Briefing Paper 9545 Local elections 2022

6.2

Elected Local Authority Mayors (outside London)

Elected mayors currently hold office in 16 local authorities. Since new council leadership arrangements were introduced by the Local Government Act 2000, 62 councils have held referendums on elected mayors. Leicester and Liverpool city councils each resolved to adopt a mayoral system without holding a referendum. Eleven cities held referendums on elected mayors on 3 May 2012 under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, but only Bristol and Doncaster voted in favour. Most recently in 2021 Newham and Tower Hamlets both voted in favour of retaining their mayor and Croydon voted to instate an elected mayor. More detailed information about elected local mayors is available in Library Briefing Paper 5000 [Directly-elected mayors](#).

The first councils to adopt elected mayors have now held five mayoral elections. There are ten Labour, two Conservative, one Liberal Democrat and one Aspire mayors. Excluding referendums that coincided with general elections, the highest turnout was 42% in West Devon and more recently the same figure in Tower Hamlets. The lowest turnout was 10% in Ealing.

Detailed results for mayoral elections are provided in a [separate file available for download alongside this briefing](#).

Mayoral referendum votes (%)

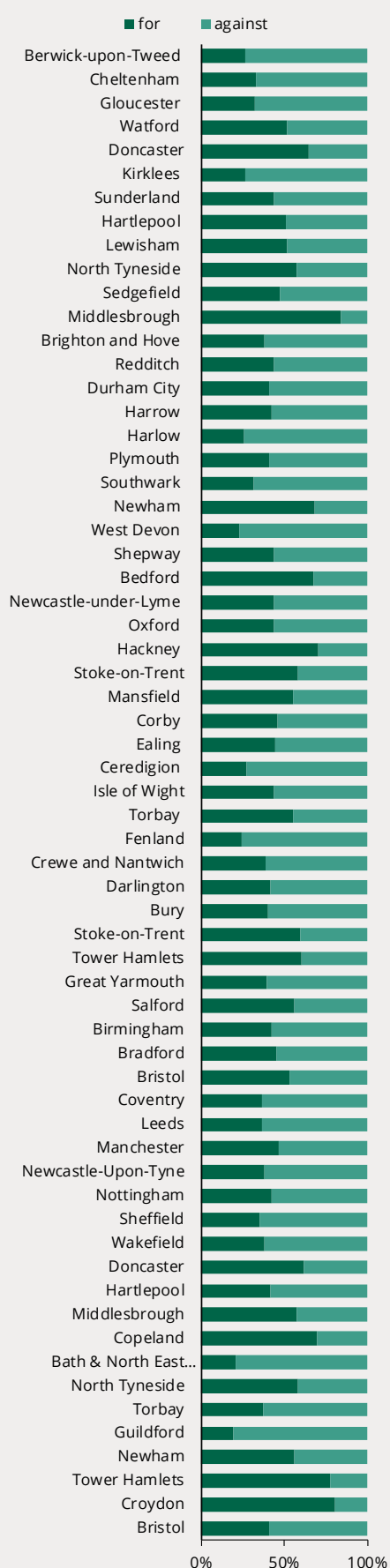


Table 27a: Mayoral referendum results

Council	Result	Date	For	Against	Turnout ¹
Berwick-upon-Tweed	No	7 Jun 2001 *	3,617	10,212	63.8%
Cheltenham	No	28 Jun 2001	8,083	16,602	31.0%
Gloucester	No	28 Jun 2001	7,731	16,317	30.8%
Watford	Yes	12 Jul 2001	7,636	7,140	24.5%
Doncaster ²	Yes	20 Sep 2001	35,453	19,398	25.0%
Kirklees	No	4 Oct 2001	10,169	27,977	13.0%
Sunderland	No	11 Oct 2001	9,593	12,209	10.0%
Hartlepool	Yes	18 Oct 2001	10,667	10,294	31.0%
Lewisham	Yes	18 Oct 2001	16,822	15,914	18.0%
North Tyneside	Yes	18 Oct 2001	30,262	22,296	36.0%
Sedgefield	No	18 Oct 2001	10,628	11,869	33.3%
Middlesbrough	Yes	18 Oct 2001	29,067	5,422	34.0%
Brighton and Hove	No	18 Oct 2001	22,724	37,214	31.6%
Redditch	No	8 Nov 2001	7,250	9,198	28.3%
Durham City	No	20 Nov 2001	8,327	11,974	28.5%
Harrow	No	7 Dec 2001	17,502	23,554	26.0%
Harlow	No	24 Jan 2001	5,296	15,490	36.4%
Plymouth	No	24 Jan 2001	29,559	42,811	39.8%
Southwark	No	31 Jan 2002	6,054	13,217	11.2%
Newham	Yes	31 Jan 2002	27,263	12,687	25.9%
West Devon	No	31 Jan 2002	3,555	12,190	41.8%
Shepway	No	31 Jan 2002	11,357	14,435	36.3%
Bedford	Yes	21 Feb 2002	11,316	5,537	15.5%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	No	2 May 2002	12,912	16,468	31.5%
Oxford	No	2 May 2002	14,692	18,686	33.8%
Hackney	Yes	3 May 2002	24,697	10,547	31.9%
Stoke-on-Trent ³	Yes	3 May 2002	28,601	20,578	27.8%
Mansfield	Yes	3 May 2002	8,973	7,350	21.0%
Corby	No	26 Sep 2002	5,351	6,239	30.9%
Ealing	No	11 Dec 2002	9,454	11,655	9.8%
Ceredigion	No	20 May 2004	5,308	14,013	36.3%
Isle of Wight	No	5 May 2005 *	28,786	37,097	62.4%
Torbay	Yes	14 Jul 2005	18,074	14,682	32.1%
Fenland	No	14 Jul 2005	5,509	17,296	33.6%
Crewe and Nantwich	No	4 May 2006	11,808	18,768	35.3%
Darlington	No	27 Sep 2007	7,981	11,226	24.7%
Bury	No	3 Jul 2008	10,338	15,425	18.3%
Stoke-on-Trent ³ (leader)	No	23 Oct 2008	21,231	14,592	19.2%
Tower Hamlets	Yes	6 May 2010 *	60,758	39,857	62.1%
Great Yarmouth	No	5 May 2011	10,051	15,595	36.0%
Salford	Yes	26 Jan 2012	17,344	13,653	18.1%
Birmingham	No	3 May 2012	88,085	120,611	27.7%
Bradford	No	3 May 2012	53,949	66,283	35.2%
Bristol	Yes	3 May 2012	41,032	35,880	24.1%
Coventry	No	3 May 2012	22,619	39,483	26.2%
Leeds	No	3 May 2012	62,440	107,910	30.3%
Manchester	No	3 May 2012	42,677	48,593	24.7%
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	No	3 May 2012	24,630	40,089	32.0%
Nottingham	No	3 May 2012	20,943	28,320	23.8%
Sheffield	No	3 May 2012	44,571	82,890	32.1%
Wakefield	No	3 May 2012	27,610	45,357	28.3%
Doncaster (retained)	Yes	3 May 2012	42,196	25,879	30.7%
Hartlepool (abolished) ⁴	No	15 Nov 2012	5,177	7,366	18.0%
Middlesbrough (retained)	Yes	26 Sep 2013	8,674	6,455	15.1%
Copeland	Yes	22 May 2014	12,671	5,489	33.9%
Bath & North East Somerset	No	10 Mar 2016	8,054	30,557	29.0%
North Tyneside (retained)	Yes	5 May 2016	32,546	23,703	36.6%
Torbay (retained)	No	5 May 2016	9,511	15,846	25.3%
Guildford	No	13 Oct 2016	4,948	20,639	24.9%
Newham (retain)	Yes	6 May 2021	45,960	36,424	37.7%
Tower Hamlets (retain)	Yes	6 May 2021	63,029	17,951	41.8%
Croydon	Yes	7 Oct 2021	47,165	11,519	21.0%
Bristol (abolished)	No	5 May 2022	38,439	56,113	28.6%

Table 27b: Elected Local Authority Mayors as at August 2023

Authority	Name	Party	Latest election	Next election	Mayoral referendum details				
					Result	Date	For	Against	Turnout ¹
Salford	Paul Dennett	LAB	2021	2024	Yes	26 Jan 2012	17,344	13,653	18.1%
Doncaster	Ros Jones	LAB	2021	2025	Yes	3 May 2012	42,196	25,879	30.7%
North Tyneside	Norma Redfearn	LAB	2021	2025	Yes	18 Oct 2001	30,262	22,296	36.0%
Croydon	Jason Perry	CON	2022	2026	Yes	7 Oct 2021	47,165	11,519	21.0%
Hackney	Philip Glanville	LAB	2022	2026	Yes	3 May 2002	24,697	10,547	31.9%
Lewisham	Damian Egan	LAB	2022	2026	Yes	18 Oct 2001	16,822	15,914	18.0%
Newham	Rokshana Fiaz	LAB	2022	2026	Yes	31 Jan 2002	27,263	12,687	25.9%
Tower Hamlets	Lutfur Rahman	ASP	2018	2026	Yes	6 May 2010 *	60,758	39,857	62.1%
Watford	Peter Taylor	LD	2022	2026	Yes	12 Jul 2001	7,636	7,140	24.5%
Bedford	Tom Wootton	CON	2023	2027	Yes	21 Feb 2002	11,316	5,537	15.5%
Leicester	Peter Alfred Soulsby	LAB	2023	2027	Adopted a mayoral system without holding a referendum				
Mansfield	Andy Abrahams	LAB	2023	2027	Yes	3 May 2002	8,973	7,350	21.0%
Middlesbrough	Chris Cooke	LAB	2023	2027	Yes	26 Sep 2013	8,674	6,455	15.1%
Bristol	Marvin Rees	LAB	2021	Position to be abolished in 2024 following referendum on 5 May 2022					

Notes for tables 27a and 27b:

1. Turnout as reported by local authority
 2. A referendum on whether to end the mayoral system was held in Doncaster in May 2012. The referendum decided in favour of retaining the mayoral system.
 3. A subsequent referendum in Stoke-on-Trent in October 2008 decided in favour of ending the mayoral system
 4. Referendum in Hartlepool in November 2012 had abolished the mayoral system in the area.
- * Referendum held on the same day as General Election

Sources: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006; Local authority websites; House of Commons Library, RP12/27 Local Elections 2012; House of Commons Library, SN05000 Directly-elected Mayors

6.3 Elected “Metro-mayors”

The first elections for six elected mayors of combined authorities (known as “Metro-mayors”) took place in 2017. These elections are held using the Supplementary Vote system. The Conservatives won four of the contests and Labour won two. The third Labour “Metro-mayor” for the Sheffield city region was elected in May 2018, and the fourth Labour ‘metro-mayor’ for North of Tyne in 2019.

The second round of elections for metro-mayors took place in May 2021. The Labour party won seven of the contests, retaining four positions and taking two from the Conservatives. The Conservative party retained two positions. Labour won the newly created position in West Yorkshire. In May 2022, Labour retained control of the South Yorkshire combined authority (known as

Sheffield City Region until 2021). Full results are available in [a separate file published alongside this briefing paper](#).

This is the latest stage in the policy of ‘devolution deals’, launched by the former Chancellor George Osborne in November 2014 with the ‘Greater Manchester Agreement’. Detailed analysis is available in Library Briefing Paper 07029 [Devolution to local government in England](#).

Table 28: Elected Metro Mayors as at August 2023

Authority	Name		Year elected	Next election
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ²	Nik Johnson	LAB	2021	2025
Greater Manchester ²	Andy Burnham	LAB	2021	2024
Liverpool City Region ²	Steve Rotheram	LAB	2021	2024
Tees Valley ²	Ben Houchen	CON	2021	2024
West Midlands ²	Andy Street	CON	2021	2024
West of England ²	Dan Norris	LAB	2021	2025
South Yorkshire	Oliver Coppard	LAB	2022	2026
North of Tyne	James Driscoll	LAB	2019	2024
West Yorkshire	Tracy Brabin	LAB	2021	2024

Notes for tables 27c & 28:

1. Turnout is as reported by local authority and may include spoilt ballots

2. In 2017, the first elections for six elected mayors of combined authorities known as ‘Metro-mayors’ took place.

Party descriptions:

AKIP	Adrian Knapper Independent Party	LPA	Lewisham People's Alliance
A	Aspire	M4S	Mayor 4 Stoke
B1st	Bristol 1st	MIF	Mansfield Independent Forum
BBi	Better Bedford Independent	NF	National Front
BP	The Birthday Party	PATH	People's Alliance of Tower Hamlets
CAP	Community Action Party - Exposing Political Fraud	PBP	People Before Profit
CG	Community Group	SA	Socialist Alliance
CPA	Christian People's Alliance	SP	Socialist Party
CPB	Communist Party of Britain	SGS	Supporting Green Shoots
CWP	Communities Welfare Party	SYNHS	South Yorkshire Save Our NHS
D&V	Democrats and Veterans	THF	Tower Hamlets First
ED	English Democrats	TRP	The Respect Party
FCP	Fat Cat Party	TUSC	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition
LEAP	Local Education Action by Parents	UPS	Unity For Peace and Socialism
LIP	Liverpool Independent Party	V4T	Voice 4 Torbay
LLH	Local Man, Local Issues, Hartlepool First	WEP	Women's Equality Party
		YP	The Yorkshire Party

Sources for tables 27c & 28: House of Commons Library, Local Elections research papers, various years; BBC Political Research; Local authority websites; Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, Local Elections Handbook, various years

7

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections

Electoral process

The first PCC elections were held in 2012 and they have been held every four years since. People who are registered to vote at local government elections are entitled to vote for the PCC in that area. PCC elections are held using the Supplementary Vote system.

Turnout

Turnout, measured as valid votes as a proportion of the electorate, has increased at every election since 2012, when it was 15%: in 2016 it was 26.6% and in 2021 it averaged 33.2% across the 40 voting police force areas. Turnout in 2021 was likely affected by the local council elections taking place simultaneously.

In 2021, the three police areas with the highest turnout were Dyfed- Powys (50.6%), North Wales (45.4%) and South Wales (43.9%). The three police areas with the lowest turnout were Durham (16.9%), Humberside (22.4%) and Dorset (25.1%).

PCC election results in 2012, 2016 & 2021

On 6 May 2021 the third cycle of elections for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took place in England and Wales (excluding the Metropolitan Police, City of London and Greater Manchester where responsibility for the police sits with the elected mayor). Following the elections there were 29 Conservative, eight Labour and one Plaid Cymru PCCs. The 2021 Wiltshire PCC election was delayed until 19 August 2021.

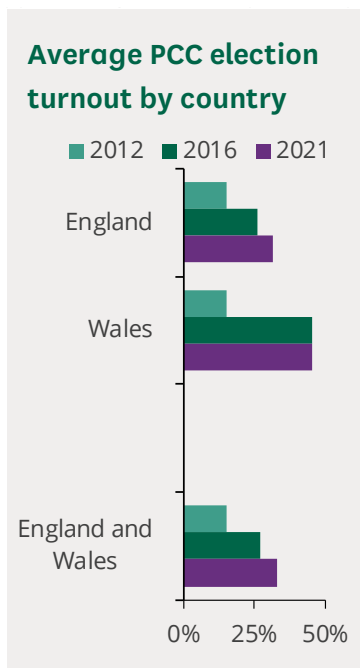


Table 29a: Seats won in PCC elections by party, 2012, 2016 & 2021

2012									
	CON	LAB	PC	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	Total
England and Wales	16	12	0	0	0	0	12	0	40
England	15	11	0	0	0	0	10	0	36
Wales	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
2016									
	CON	LAB	PC	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	Total
England and Wales	20	15	2	0	0	0	3	0	40
England	20	13	0	0	0	0	3	0	36
Wales	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
2021									
	CON	LAB	PC	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	Total
England and Wales	30	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	39
England	30	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Wales	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
2016-2021 change									
	CON	LAB	PC	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	
England and Wales	10	-7	-1	0	0	0	-3	0	
England	10	-8	0	0	0	0	-3	0	
Wales	0	1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	

Note: excludes Greater Manchester

Source: [House of Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP-9244 PCC elections 2021](#)

Table 29b: Share of PCC election first preference votes and turnout by policing area, 2012

Area	Share of first round votes							Turnout
	CON	LAB	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	
Avon & Somerset	24.3%	21.3%		18.5%		35.8%		18.8%
Bedfordshire	31.9%	34.0%		13.6%		9.8%	10.6%	17.7%
Cambridgeshire	26.8%	19.8%	16.4%	8.5%		20.4%	8.1%	14.8%
Cheshire	36.8%	28.4%	7.9%	9.8%		17.1%		14.3%
Cleveland	26.0%	41.6%			13.7%	18.7%		14.7%
Cumbria	29.0%	24.6%		21.9%		24.5%		15.9%
Derbyshire	24.5%	44.3%	16.0%			15.1%		14.4%
Devon & Cornwall	29.0%	12.7%	8.6%	12.6%		37.1%		14.7%
Dorset	32.4%	12.1%		10.4%		45.2%		16.3%
Durham	9.8%	51.6%	11.8%			26.8%		14.4%
Dyfed-Powys	50.9%	49.1%						16.4%
Essex	30.5%	16.6%	9.0%			37.0%	6.9%	12.8%
Greater Manchester	15.6%	51.2%	8.5%	14.8%		9.8%		16.0%
Gloucestershire	36.2%	17.5%		11.0%		35.3%		13.6%
Gwent	11.2%	38.9%				49.9%		14.0%
Hampshire	24.8%	18.3%	10.0%	12.8%		22.5%	11.5%	14.6%
Hertfordshire	45.9%	29.0%	11.0%	14.1%				14.1%
Humberside	22.0%	24.9%	16.1%	8.7%		28.3%		19.1%
Kent	25.2%	11.2%	7.8%			50.5%	5.3%	16.0%
Lancashire	34.8%	39.3%	15.0%	10.9%				15.1%
Leicestershire	48.4%	34.4%				17.2%		15.9%
Lincolnshire	23.7%	12.2%				64.0%		15.3%
Merseyside	12.6%	56.2%	6.9%	7.3%		11.4%	5.7%	12.4%
Norfolk	31.7%	22.1%	9.9%	7.6%		28.7%		14.5%
North Wales	14.8%	29.7%	7.8%			47.8%		14.8%
North Yorkshire	58.2%	41.8%						13.2%
Northamptonshire	30.1%	24.8%	18.7%	7.3%		19.1%		19.2%
Northumbria	25.6%	56.0%	10.6%	7.8%				16.4%
Nottinghamshire	19.8%	43.1%				37.1%		16.4%
South Wales	14.7%	47.0%				38.4%		14.7%
South Yorkshire	14.5%	51.4%	11.5%	7.0%			15.6%	14.5%
Staffordshire	51.8%	48.2%						11.6%
Suffolk	35.0%	35.2%	13.1%			16.7%		15.4%
Surrey	26.1%	13.2%	8.1%	6.5%		46.1%		15.4%
Sussex	31.5%	21.5%	15.5%	10.9%		20.6%		15.3%
Thames Valley	34.7%	25.9%	8.8%	9.4%		21.3%		12.9%
Warwickshire	32.0%	34.7%				33.3%		15.2%
West Mercia	36.6%	25.7%				37.7%		14.2%
West Midlands	18.5%	42.0%	7.4%	6.5%		25.7%		12.0%
West Yorkshire	21.1%	47.9%		8.0%		23.0%		13.3%
Wiltshire	36.2%	20.6%	9.2%	12.9%		21.1%		15.3%

Table 29c: Share of PCC election first preference votes and turnout by policing area, 2016

Area	Share of first round votes								Turnout
	CON	LAB	PC	UKIP	LD	GRN	IND	Other	
Avon & Somerset	19.3%	23.8%		8.8%	7.4%	7.4%	33.2%		26.0%
Bedfordshire	36.7%	35.3%		10.3%	11.6%			6.1%	23.2%
Cambridgeshire	36.2%	31.0%		16.9%	15.9%				29.3%
Cheshire	38.0%	39.8%		12.1%	10.2%				23.3%
Cleveland	22.8%	41.0%		21.3%			14.9%		19.7%
Cumbria	34.4%	24.1%		9.9%	17.0%		14.6%		24.9%
Derbyshire	34.6%	37.5%		17.0%	10.9%				23.3%
Devon & Cornwall	24.4%	23.4%		17.5%	12.4%		22.4%		22.1%
Dorset	29.4%	16.0%		16.7%			37.9%		22.0%
Durham	23.6%	63.8%			12.6%				17.4%
Dyfed-Powys	25.1%	18.6%	28.0%	11.1%	11.1%		6.2%		48.9%
Essex	33.5%	19.7%		24.4%	9.3%			13.0%	25.2%
Gloucestershire	34.0%	24.5%					41.6%		29.4%
Gwent	30.8%	46.4%	22.9%						39.4%
Hampshire	28.7%	16.1%		13.7%	13.9%		19.1%	8.5%	27.8%
Hertfordshire	42.3%	27.4%		14.1%	16.2%				28.1%
Humberside	27.0%	40.8%		18.1%	14.1%				22.1%
Kent	33.1%	19.1%		27.5%	7.3%		9.8%	3.1%	21.0%
Lancashire	32.0%	43.8%		16.5%	7.7%				28.1%
Leicestershire	30.9%	44.7%		11.7%	12.7%				19.8%
Lincolnshire	35.2%	22.7%		25.5%				16.5%	24.8%
Merseyside	17.9%	61.8%			11.5%	8.9%			30.2%
Norfolk	27.8%	24.0%		17.5%	8.3%	5.9%	16.5%		23.2%
North Wales	19.7%	25.7%	31.5%	12.2%			11.0%		41.6%
North Yorkshire	40.1%	26.0%			10.5%		23.4%		21.9%
Northamptonshire	40.5%	35.5%		24.0%					22.0%
Northumbria	18.0%	55.3%		16.0%	10.7%				31.3%
Nottinghamshire	28.1%	47.3%		11.9%			12.7%		21.4%
South Wales	17.9%	40.9%	17.9%		6.2%		17.1%		46.6%
South Yorkshire	10.7%	51.9%		20.4%	10.1%			6.9%	28.4%
Staffordshire	36.3%	31.4%		15.8%		3.7%	12.7%		21.1%
Suffolk	43.7%	24.7%		16.9%	9.0%	5.7%			24.0%
Surrey	35.3%	12.0%		10.3%	12.9%		11.5%	17.9%	27.2%
Sussex	41.8%	22.2%		15.7%	10.8%	9.5%			22.5%
Thames Valley	39.9%	33.5%		12.1%	14.5%				24.6%
Warwickshire	31.2%	25.5%		13.4%	10.6%		19.4%		26.0%
West Mercia	33.4%	21.1%		16.9%	6.7%	7.4%	14.5%		20.7%
West Midlands	25.8%	49.9%		17.0%			7.3%		28.6%
West Yorkshire	22.8%	49.7%		14.3%	9.3%			3.9%	33.3%
Wiltshire	46.2%	23.0%		15.0%	15.8%				24.0%

Table 29d: Share of PCC election first preference votes and turnout by policing area, 2021

Area	Share of first round votes							Turnout
	CON	LAB	PC	LD	GRN	IND	Other	
Avon & Somerset	34.7%	23.7%		13.4%	16.4%	11.8%		30.2%
Bedfordshire	42.4%	35.0%		13.1%		6.8%	2.8%	26.1%
Cambridgeshire	42.9%	31.3%		22.3%			3.5%	36.2%
Cheshire	44.5%	37.3%		14.5%			3.7%	
Cleveland	54.2%	28.9%		4.8%		12.2%		32.8%
Cumbria	53.6%	26.1%		20.3%				27.1%
Derbyshire	49.4%	37.5%		9.2%			3.8%	34.7%
Devon & Cornwall	50.0%	20.2%		17.9%	12.0%			36.1%
Dorset	42.5%	10.9%		11.8%	14.1%	20.6%		25.1%
Durham	23.6%	63.8%		12.6%				16.9%
Dyfed-Powys	34.0%	23.7%	33.6%	8.7%				50.6%
Essex	54.0%	22.9%		13.3%			9.8%	
Gloucestershire	40.6%	16.1%		19.0%		17.6%		39.7%
Gwent	28.8%	41.8%	16.2%	4.2%		7.5%	1.4%	41.0%
Hampshire	49.8%	19.3%		17.8%			13.1%	35.2%
Hertfordshire	48.5%	24.1%		27.4%				36.3%
Humberside	45.6%	39.4%		15.1%				22.4%
Kent	57.8%	25.3%		16.9%				31.0%
Lancashire	44.8%	41.5%		8.8%			4.8%	
Leicestershire	49.3%	33.3%		17.5%				30.2%
Lincolnshire	59.9%	20.0%		5.9%			3.6%	30.2%
Merseyside	22.9%	56.9%		16.5%			3.7%	29.7%
Norfolk	45.1%	22.1%		13.7%	10.2%	8.9%		32.9%
North Wales	31.6%	29.1%	28.4%	4.3%		6.7%		45.4%
North Yorkshire	47.0%	26.1%		12.6%		14.3%		24.9%
Northamptonshire	53.2%	27.5%		15.3%			4.0%	
Northumbria	30.9%	46.6%		10.7%		11.9%		35.9%
Nottinghamshire	47.9%	43.5%		8.7%				33.2%
South Wales	23.7%	41.0%	19.0%	4.6%		8.6%	3.1%	43.9%
South Yorkshire	32.2%	53.9%		13.8%				30.2%
Staffordshire	57.1%	28.1%		4.5%		8.0%	2.3%	28.2%
Suffolk	54.7%	23.0%		8.7%	13.6%			35.8%
Surrey	33.5%	12.1%		20.7%		15.9%	17.8%	37.9%
Sussex	47.3%	18.7%		13.9%	13.4%	6.7%		34.9%
Thames Valley	42.5%	27.8%		17.5%		12.3%		34.9%
Warwickshire	52.1%	27.7%		16.1%			4.1%	36.9%
West Mercia	55.3%	23.9%		15.6%			5.1%	33.0%
West Midlands	39.4%	45.5%		6.3%		4.5%	3.0%	30.2%
Wiltshire	41.1%	16.5%		16.9%	8.0%	15.3%	2.1%	

Notes: shaded in grey means no data available. Turnout figures were collated from each PCC individually where this information was not publicly available. Four PCCs did not respond to requests for data and so have been greyed out. Greater Manchester PCC elections were not held from 2016 and West Yorkshire from 2021. As part of the devolution deals, elected mayors there have taken over PCC functions.

Sources for tables 29b-d: House of Commons Library briefing papers PCC elections 2012, 2016 and 2021

8 Referendums

8.1 European Union (June 2016)

EU referendum, UK 2016



A referendum on European Union membership was held on 23 June 2016, on the question:

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

51.9% of votes were to leave the EU.

A total of 33,577,342 people voted in the referendum, a turnout of 72.2%. The Leave vote won by a 3.8 percentage point margin.

Leave won more than 50% of the vote in all counting regions except for three: London, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The West Midlands saw the highest share of the vote for Leave (59.3%), and Scotland the lowest (38.0%).

Turnout was highest in the South East, and the South West and Gibraltar (both 76.7%), and lowest in Northern Ireland (62.7%).

Table 30: EU referendum results by region

Ranked by highest vote share for Leave, 23 June 2016

Counting region	Remain		Leave		Rejected votes	Total votes cast (incl. rejected)	Turnout (valid votes as % of electorate)	Turnup (total votes cast as % of electorate)	Electorate
	Votes	% of valid votes	Votes	% of valid votes					
West Midlands	1,207,175	40.7%	1,755,687	59.3%	2,507	2,965,370	72.0%	72.0%	4,116,572
East Midlands	1,033,036	41.2%	1,475,479	58.8%	1,981	2,510,497	74.1%	74.2%	3,384,299
North East	562,595	42.0%	778,103	58.0%	689	1,341,388	69.3%	69.3%	1,934,341
Yorkshire and the Humber (Y/H)	1,158,298	42.3%	1,580,937	57.7%	1,937	2,741,173	70.6%	70.7%	3,877,780
East of England	1,448,616	43.5%	1,880,367	56.5%	2,329	3,331,313	75.7%	75.7%	4,398,796
North West	1,699,020	46.3%	1,966,925	53.7%	2,682	3,668,628	69.9%	70.0%	5,241,568
South West and Gibraltar	1,503,019	47.4%	1,669,711	52.6%	2,179	3,174,910	76.7%	76.7%	4,138,134
Wales	772,347	47.5%	854,572	52.5%	1,135	1,628,055	71.7%	71.7%	2,270,272
South East	2,391,718	48.2%	2,567,965	51.8%	3,427	4,963,111	76.7%	76.8%	6,465,404
Northern Ireland	440,707	55.8%	349,442	44.2%	374	790,524	62.7%	62.7%	1,260,955
London	2,263,519	59.9%	1,513,232	40.1%	4,453	3,781,205	69.6%	69.7%	5,424,768
Scotland	1,661,191	62.0%	1,018,322	38.0%	1,666	2,681,180	67.2%	67.2%	3,987,112
United Kingdom	16,141,241	48.1%	17,410,742	51.9%	25,359	33,577,343	72.2%	72.2%	46,500,001

Source: Library Briefing Paper 7639 [Analysis of the EU Referendum results 2016](#)

8.2

European Community (June 1975)

On 5 June 1975 a referendum was held on UK membership of the European Community. Voters were asked, ‘Do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (The Common Market)?’ 67.2% of voters were in favour of remaining part of the European Community, compared to 32.8% who thought the UK should leave. The UK-wide turnout was 64.0%, although in Northern Ireland it was 47.5%.

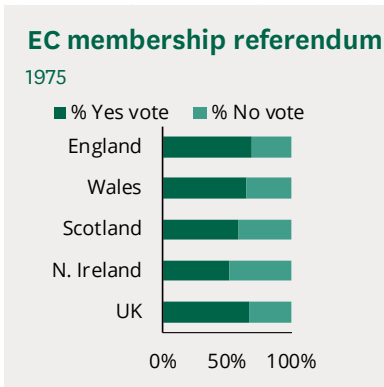


Table 31: Referendum on membership of the European Community
05 June 1975

	Yes		No		Total vote	% turnout ¹
	Votes	% vote	Votes	% vote		
England	14,918,009	68.7%	6,812,052	31.3%	21,730,061	64.5%
Wales	869,135	64.8%	472,071	35.2%	1,341,206	66.5%
Scotland	1,332,186	58.4%	948,039	41.6%	2,280,225	61.6%
Northern Ireland	259,251	52.1%	237,911	47.9%	497,162	47.3%
UK	17,378,581	67.2%	8,470,073	32.8%	25,848,654	63.9%

Note: 1. Civilian turnout only. Special arrangements were made to allow members of the armed forces and their spouses to vote regardless of whether they were included on the electoral register as service voters.

Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, British Electoral Facts 1832-2006

8.3

Scotland (1979, 1997 and 2014)

A referendum on devolution in Scotland was held on 1 March 1979 and again on 11 September 1997. The 1997 referendum asked two questions, one on establishing a Scottish Parliament and one on whether the Parliament should have tax-varying powers.

In the 1979 referendum, 51.6% of votes were cast in favour of devolution. However for devolution to be introduced, at least 40% of electors had to vote ‘Yes’, as stipulated in the Scotland Act 1978. A turnout of 63.6% meant that the proportion of electors voting ‘Yes’ was only 32.8%.

In the 1997 referendum the proportion of voters favouring devolution was much larger. 74.3% of voters supported the establishment of a Scottish parliament and 63.5% were in favour of the Parliament having tax-varying powers. Turnout was 60.2%. There was no threshold for the number of electors voting ‘Yes’ in the 1997 referendum.

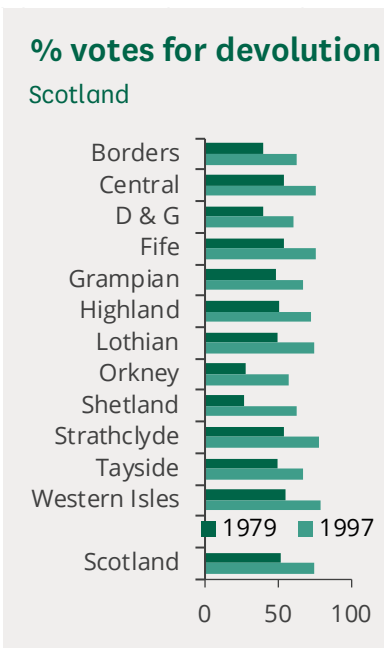


Table 32: Change in voting for/against devolution in Scotland

1 March 1979 and 11 September 1997

1979 counting areas	% Yes vote		% No vote		Change in Yes vote (% points)
	1979	1997	1979	1997	
Borders	40.3	62.8	59.7	37.2	+22.5
Central	54.7	76.3	45.3	23.7	+21.7
Dumfries and Galloway	40.3	60.7	59.7	39.3	+20.4
Fife	53.7	76.1	46.3	23.9	+22.4
Grampian	48.3	67.6	51.7	32.4	+19.3
Highland	51.0	72.6	49.0	27.4	+21.6
Lothian	50.1	74.5	49.9	25.5	+24.4
Orkney	27.9	57.3	72.1	42.7	+29.4
Shetland	27.0	62.4	73.0	37.6	+35.4
Strathclyde	54.0	78.1	46.0	21.9	+24.1
Tayside	49.5	67.6	50.5	32.4	+18.1
Western Isles	55.8	79.4	44.2	20.6	+23.6
Scotland	51.6	74.3	48.4	25.7	+22.7

Note: 1997 results fitted to 1979 counting areas as follows:

Borders: Borders; Central: Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling; Dumfries & Galloway: Dumfries & Galloway; Fife: Fife; Grampian: City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray; Highland: Highland; Lothian: City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian; Orkney: Orkney; Shetland: Shetland Islands; Strathclyde: Argyle & Bute, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire; Tayside: Angus, City of Dundee, Perthshire & Kinross; Western Isles: Western Isles

Source: House of Commons Library RP97/113, *Results of Devolution Referendums (1979 & 1997)*

On 18 September 2014, a referendum on Scottish Independence was held on the question ‘Should Scotland be an independent country?’

This was rejected by a margin of 10.6 percentage points, with 55.3% (2,001,926) voting against the proposition on an overall turnout of 84.6%.

This was the highest turnout at a nationwide referendum or parliamentary election in Scotland since 1918. It also saw 16 and 17-year-olds eligible to vote for the first time. There was a majority for ‘No’ in 28 of Scotland’s 32 local authority areas, including the capital, Edinburgh (61.1% for ‘No’).

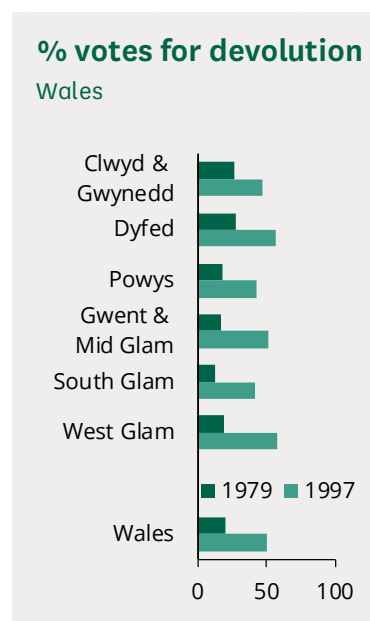
Table 33: Scottish referendum results by counting area, 2014

Local authority	Yes	No	Rejected	Total votes cast (incl. rejected)	Turnout (votes cast as % of electorate)		Electorate	
					Yes %	No %		
Aberdeen City	59,390	84,094	180	143,664	41.4%	58.6%	81.7%	175,751
Aberdeenshire	71,337	108,606	102	180,045	39.6%	60.4%	87.2%	206,490
Angus	35,044	45,192	66	80,302	43.7%	56.3%	85.7%	93,656
Argyll and Bute	26,324	37,143	49	63,516	41.5%	58.5%	88.2%	72,014
Clackmannanshire	16,350	19,036	24	35,410	46.2%	53.8%	88.6%	39,974
Dumfries and Galloway	36,614	70,039	122	106,775	34.3%	65.7%	87.5%	122,052
Dundee City	53,620	39,880	92	93,592	57.3%	42.7%	78.8%	118,764
East Ayrshire	39,762	44,442	58	84,262	47.2%	52.8%	84.5%	99,682
East Dunbartonshire	30,624	48,314	73	79,011	38.8%	61.2%	91.0%	86,844
East Lothian	27,467	44,283	48	71,798	38.3%	61.7%	87.6%	81,947
East Renfrewshire	24,287	41,690	44	66,021	36.8%	63.2%	90.4%	72,993
Edinburgh, City of	123,927	194,638	460	319,025	38.9%	61.1%	84.4%	378,039
Eilean Siar	9,195	10,544	19	19,758	46.6%	53.4%	86.2%	22,908
Falkirk	50,489	58,030	107	108,626	46.5%	53.5%	88.7%	122,460
Fife	114,148	139,788	226	254,162	45.0%	55.0%	84.1%	302,165
Glasgow City	194,779	169,347	538	364,664	53.5%	46.5%	75.0%	486,296
Highland	78,069	87,739	168	165,976	47.1%	52.9%	87.0%	190,787
Inverclyde	27,243	27,329	29	54,601	49.9%	50.1%	87.4%	62,486
Midlothian	26,370	33,972	53	60,395	43.7%	56.3%	86.7%	69,620
Moray	27,232	36,935	38	64,205	42.4%	57.6%	85.4%	75,173
North Ayrshire	47,072	49,016	85	96,173	49.0%	51.0%	84.4%	113,941
North Lanarkshire	115,783	110,922	178	226,883	51.1%	48.9%	84.4%	268,738
Orkney Islands	4,883	10,004	20	14,907	32.8%	67.2%	83.7%	17,806
Perth and Kinross	41,475	62,714	96	104,285	39.8%	60.2%	86.9%	120,052
Renfrewshire	55,466	62,067	79	117,612	47.2%	52.8%	87.3%	134,745
Scottish Borders	27,906	55,553	67	83,526	33.4%	66.6%	87.4%	95,542
Shetland Islands	5,669	9,951	15	15,635	36.3%	63.7%	84.4%	18,516
South Ayrshire	34,402	47,247	67	81,716	42.1%	57.9%	86.1%	94,895
South Lanarkshire	100,990	121,800	137	222,927	45.3%	54.7%	85.3%	261,193
Stirling	25,010	37,153	62	62,225	40.2%	59.8%	90.1%	69,043
West Dunbartonshire	33,720	28,776	36	62,532	54.0%	46.0%	87.9%	71,128
West Lothian	53,342	65,682	91	119,115	44.8%	55.2%	86.2%	138,238
Scotland	1,617,989	2,001,926	3,429	3,623,344	44.7%	55.3%	84.6%	4,283,938

Source: Library Research Paper RP14/50, Scottish Independence Referendum 2014

8.4

Wales (1979, 1997 and 2011)



Referendums on devolution for Wales were held on 1 March 1979 and 18 September 1997. There was little support for devolution in the 1979 referendum, with only 20.3% of voters in favour. The 1997 referendum on the other hand produced a slim majority in favour of a Welsh Assembly; 50.3% of voters voted 'Yes' to an Assembly while 49.7% were opposed. Unlike in Scotland, the 1997 referendum did not ask whether the Assembly should have tax-varying powers. Turnout was 58.6% in 1979 and 50.1% in 1997.

Table 34: Voting for/against devolution in Wales

1 March 1979 and 18 September 1997

1979 counting areas	% Yes vote		% No vote		Change in Yes vote (% points)
	1979	1997	1979	1997	
Clwyd & Gwynedd	27.1	47.4	72.9	52.6	+20.3
Dyfed	28.1	57.2	71.9	42.8	+29.1
Powys	18.5	42.7	81.5	57.3	+24.2
Gwent & Mid Glamorgan	16.7	51.3	83.3	48.7	+34.6
South Glamorgan	13.1	42.0	86.9	58.0	+28.8
West Glamorgan	18.7	57.8	81.3	42.2	+39.1
Wales	20.3	50.3	79.7	49.7	+30.0

Note: 1997 results fitted to 1979 areas as follows:

Clwyd & Gwynedd: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham. 1997 area excludes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA).

Dyfed: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire

Powys: Powys. 1997 area includes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Gwent & Mid Glamorgan: Bridgend, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen. 1997 area excludes communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and excludes community of Pentyrch (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA).

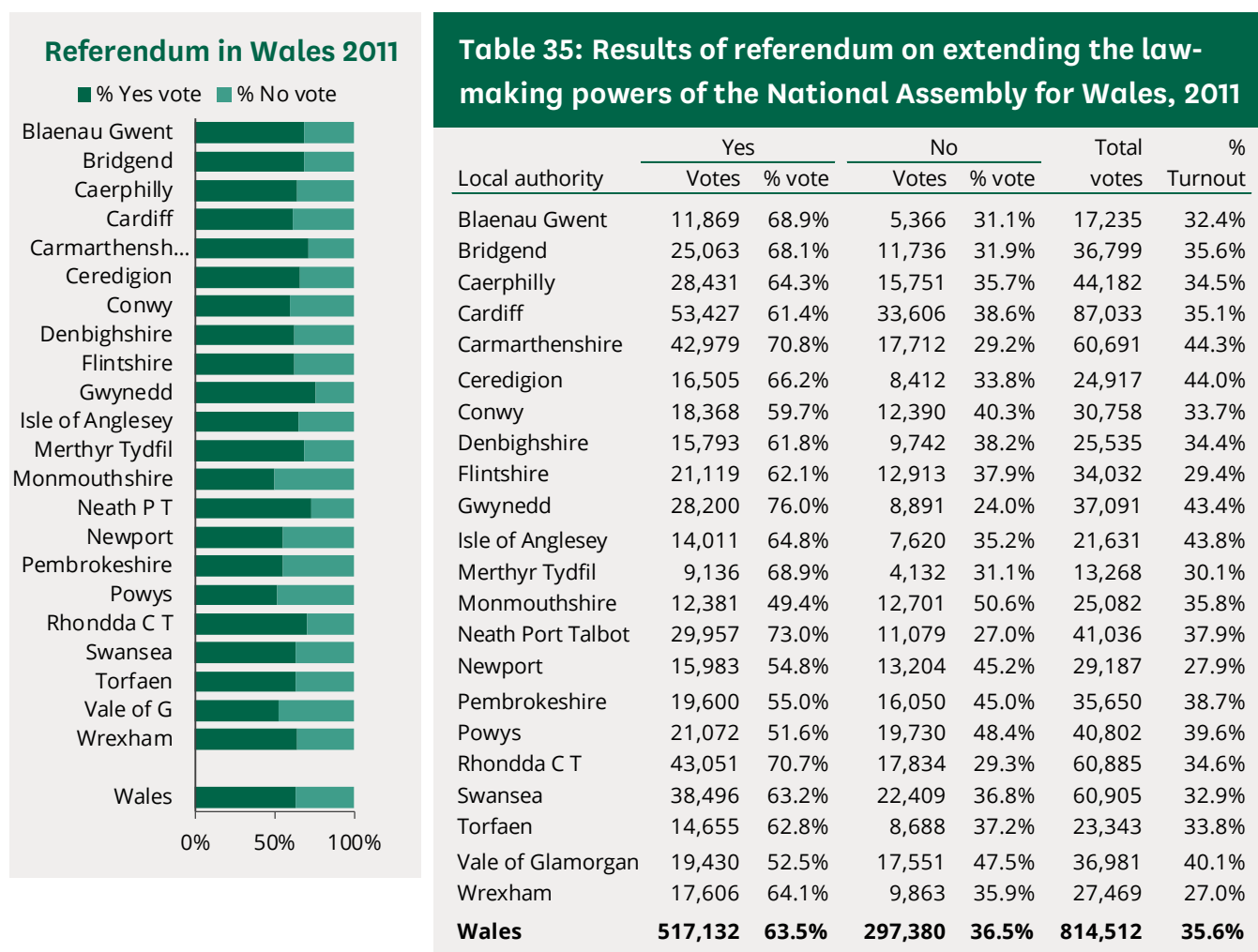
South Glamorgan: Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff. 1997 area includes communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and includes community of Pentyrch (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

West Glamorgan: Neath & Port Talbot, Swansea

Source: House of Commons Library RP97/113, Results of Devolution Referendums (1979 & 1997)

On 3 March 2011, a referendum was held on extending the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales. Voters were asked, 'Do you want the Assembly now to be able to make laws on all the matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for?' The question related to Schedule 5 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 which lists twenty subject areas in which the Assembly can legislate. 63.5% of voters were in favour while 36.5% were opposed. The 'Yes' vote was in the majority in all local authorities with the

exception of Monmouthshire, where there was a narrow majority against the change. Turnout across Wales was 35.6%.



Source: National Assembly for Wales, [Results of the National Assembly for Wales Referendum 2011](#)

8.5 Northern Ireland (1973 and 1998)

A referendum was held in Northern Ireland on 8 March 1973, on whether it should remain part the UK. Unionist parties, Alliance and the Northern Ireland Labour Party campaigned for a vote in support of remaining in the UK but Nationalist parties boycotted the vote. 98.9% of votes were in favour of staying in the UK. Turnout was 58.7%, compared with 72.0% in the previous general election.⁹

On 22 May 1998 voters were asked in a referendum whether they supported the Good Friday Agreement (the Belfast Agreement). 71.1% of voters

⁹ Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2012*, 247

supported the Agreement. The turnout was 81.1%, compared to 67.1% in the 1997 General Election the year before.¹⁰

8.6 London (May 1998)

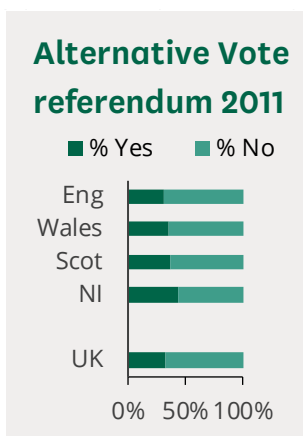
Voters in London were asked in a referendum on 7 May 1998 about the establishment of a Greater London Authority: “Are you in favour of the Government’s proposals for a Greater London Authority made up of an elected Mayor and separately elected authority?”

72.0% of voters were in favour. The ‘Yes’ vote was in the majority in all 32 London boroughs and the City of London. Turnout was 34.1%.¹¹

8.7 North-East England (November 2004)

On 4 November 2004, voters in the North-East were asked, ‘Should there be an elected regional assembly for the North East region?’ The proposal was rejected, with 77.9% of voters voting ‘No’. Turnout was 47.2%. Over 70% of voters opposed a regional assembly in all the region’s 23 local authorities (as they existed then).¹²

8.8 Alternative Vote (May 2011)



A referendum was held on 5 May 2011 on whether the UK should adopt the Alternative Vote system (AV) for voting in parliamentary elections. Voters were asked, ‘At present, the UK uses the “first past the post” system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the “alternative vote” system be used instead?’ The change to AV was rejected; 67.9% of voters were opposed compared to 32.1% in favour. The turnout was 42.0%.

¹⁰ Ibid, 247

¹¹ Ibid, 248

¹² Ibid, 249

Table 36: Results of the referendum on the Alternative Vote

5 May 2011

	Yes		No		Total vote	Turnout
	Votes	% vote	Votes	% vote		
England	4,824,357	30.9%	10,774,735	69.1%	15,599,092	40.7%
Wales	325,349	34.6%	616,307	65.4%	941,656	41.5%
Scotland	713,813	36.4%	1,249,375	63.6%	1,963,188	50.4%
Northern Ireland	289,088	43.7%	372,706	56.3%	661,794	55.2%
UK Total	6,152,607	32.1%	13,013,123	67.9%	19,165,730	42.0%

Source: House of Commons Library RP11/44, Alternative Vote Referendum 2011

9 Appendix: Voting systems and electoral geographies used in the UK elections

9.1 General Elections

Currently there are 650 Westminster parliamentary constituencies. Each constituency elects a single Member to the House of Commons using the First Past the Post system (FPTP). Voters select their preferred candidate and the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. The number of constituencies is not fixed and can change.

General elections are usually held every four to five years, although early elections have been called sooner than that. The Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 introduced a five-year election cycle but was repealed in 2022 after two early elections, in 2017 and 2019. The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 reinstated the prerogative power to call elections, but provides for the automatic dissolution of a parliament five years after the day it first convened. The last possible day for the next general election to be held is 28 January 2025.

9.2 Local government elections

England and Wales

Voters in local authority wards elect councillors using First Past the Post. Some wards elect multiple councillors at a time, in which case electors can vote for more than one candidate (including candidates from different parties); the candidates who receive the highest numbers of votes are elected.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

Councillors are elected using Single Transferable Vote, so that multiple councillors will be elected per local authority ward. Voters rank candidates according to preference. In order to be elected, candidates must obtain above a certain threshold of votes; if a candidate achieves the threshold then their surplus votes are redistributed based on voters' next preferred candidates. If no candidate achieves the threshold, then the candidate with fewest votes is eliminated and their votes redistributed to voters' next

preferred candidate. The process is repeated until the required number of members are elected.

9.3 European Parliament Elections

Members were elected to the European Parliament from twelve UK regions, comprising Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the nine English regions. Elections are held every five year, with the next election – in which the UK will not take part – taking place in 2024.

In Great Britain, MEPs were elected from each region using a closed Party List system: electors vote for their preferred party and cannot specify a preferred candidate. Parties receive seats in proportion to votes won and determine the order in which their candidates are elected. Prior to 1999, MEPs in Great Britain were elected by First Past the Post, from constituencies formed by aggregating several Westminster parliamentary seats. In Northern Ireland, MEPs were elected using the Single Transferable Vote.

9.4 Elections to devolved parliaments and assemblies

Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly are conducted using the Single Transferable Vote. Assembly constituencies are the same as Westminster Parliamentary constituencies. Currently there are eighteen constituencies, each returning six Members.

Elections to the Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru and London Assembly use the Additional Member System. In each institution there are a set number of constituency members and a set number of regional members. The regional seats are intended to align the distribution of seats more closely to the distribution of votes. Voters are given two ballots. One ballot is used to vote for a constituency member, elected using First Past the Post. The other (regional) ballot is used to vote for a closed party list of candidates. Once the constituency members are elected, the regional seats are allocated between parties based on their vote share in the regional ballot and the number of constituency seats they won in the region.

There are 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies, across eight Scottish Parliament regions. Each region returns seven Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) so there are 56 regional MSPs alongside the 73 constituency MSPs. Scottish Parliament constituencies are not the same as Westminster parliamentary constituencies.

Members of the Senedd Cymru are elected from 40 constituencies across five regions. Four regional Members of the Senedd (MS) are elected for each

region, so there are 20 regional MSs in addition to the 40 constituency MSs. Currently Senedd constituencies are the same as Westminster parliamentary constituencies, but the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 removed the automatic link between the two sets of boundaries.¹³

The London Assembly elects fourteen constituency Members and eleven regional Members using a single London-wide region.

3 Next elections

- May 2024 (London Assembly and Mayor)
- May 2026 (Senedd Cymru)
- May 2026 (Scottish Parliament)

9.5 Mayoral Elections

From May 2023, the Mayor of London and other local authority mayors in England will be elected using the First Past the Post system. Until then, mayors were elected using the Supplementary Vote system. Voters chose their first and second preference candidates. If a candidate received a majority of first preference votes, then he or she was elected; if not, the two candidates who received the most first preference votes went through to a second round. The other candidates were eliminated, and any second preference votes for the two remaining candidates were distributed accordingly. The candidate who received the most votes at the end of this process was elected for a four-year term.

The next election of the Mayor of London will be in 2024.

9.6 Police and Crime Commissioner elections

Police and Crime Commissioner elections are held in police force areas; each area elects one PCC. Like the mayoral elections, these elections will be held under the First Past the Post voting system from May 2023; they were held using the Supplementary Vote system until then (see above).

¹³ [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011](#), legislation.gov.uk

9.7

Further information

Results of individual elections can be found in relevant House of Commons Library research papers. Analyses of results from the most recent elections to various institutions can be found in the following:

- General Election 2019
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8749/>
- General Election 2017
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7979/>
- General Election 2015
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7186/>
- General Election 2010
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/rp10-36/>
- European Parliament elections 2019
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8600/>
- Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament elections: 2021
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9282/>
- Scottish Parliament elections: 2021
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9230/>
- Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 2022
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9549/>
- Local elections 2022
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9545/>
- London elections 2021
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9231/>

Further information on elected mayors, voting systems used for different UK elections, and characteristics of Members elected to the House of Commons and other institutions can be found in the following Library briefing papers:

- Directly-elected mayors
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn05000/>
- Voting systems in the UK
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn04458/>
- Social background of Members of Parliament
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-7483/>
- Women in politics and public life
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01250/>

- Ethnic diversity in politics and public life
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01156/>

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