# Connor Rouse’s Lib Dem win signals shifting political tides in North Norfolk council



A significant political shift was observed in North Norfolk as Connor Rouse, a former contestant on the Channel 4 show "Naked Attraction," secured a Liberal Democrat victory in the Holt by-election over the Conservatives. Rouse's election, following the resignation of Conservative councillor Eric Vardy, has added to the Liberal Democrats' strength in North Norfolk District Council, which now counts 26 Liberal Democrat councillors against 12 Conservatives.

Rouse's campaign garnered 774 votes, translating to a majority of 238 votes over Conservative candidate Alexander Savva, who received 536 votes. The turnout for this election was reported at 46.02%.

In his victory speech, Rouse expressed enthusiasm for his new role, stating, "As a local resident, I'm excited to take on the challenges that the town faces. My number one priority will be getting the much-needed new primary school built." He noted the urgency for such a development, having heard from many parents who are eager for a swift resolution to the situation.

Meanwhile, after a series of resignations across multiple councils in Norfolk led to a wave of by-elections, David Bick made headlines as Reform UK’s first councillor for Norfolk. Bick won the Thetford West division with 917 votes against Labour’s Terry Land, who secured 644 votes. Bick emphasized a commitment to represent residents' concerns, particularly in light of the ongoing discussions around local governance changes.

Julian Kirk, a former Conservative who left his party to join Reform UK, also achieved a significant victory in the Marshland North by-election, where he topped the polls with 1,286 votes. The changing political affiliations and subsequent by-elections have notably influenced the political landscape across various councils, specifically Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, and Breckland District Council.

In Norwich, Labour candidate Richard Lawes narrowly won the Bowthorpe ward by a single vote, defeating Reform UK’s Nick Taylor, who received 688 votes against Lawes' 689. The Green Party maintained their position in the Mancroft division with Serene Shibli winning 1,255 votes, comfortably ahead of her competitors.

The restructuring of Norfolk’s councils, prompted by upcoming local government reorganisation and devolution plans, has raised questions and concerns among local politicians. Kirk, in reference to these changes, noted, "When county decided to cancel the May elections, it didn't sit well with my way of thinking." His and other recent victories signal a potential shift in voter sentiments throughout the region.

Overall, the current political landscape following the recent elections shows a changing dynamic, with Conservatives holding a total of 53 seats in Norfolk County Council, followed by Lib Dems with 10, Labour with 9, Greens with 4, alongside Independents and Reform UK making noteworthy gains.

As the implications of these elections unfold, particularly regarding local governance and community proposals, voters appear increasingly engaged in the outcomes influencing their immediate environments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23502241.north-norfolk-district-council-2023-election-results/> - This article provides detailed results of the 2023 North Norfolk District Council elections, confirming the Liberal Democrats' control with 25 seats and the Conservatives holding 12 seats.
2. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23504411.list-results-norfolk-council-elections-2023/> - This source lists the election results for various Norfolk councils, including the Holt by-election, where Liberal Democrat Martin Guy Batey secured 874 votes, defeating Conservative Eric Vardy, who received 702 votes.
3. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23502241.north-norfolk-district-council-2023-election-results/> - This article provides detailed results of the 2023 North Norfolk District Council elections, confirming the Liberal Democrats' control with 25 seats and the Conservatives holding 12 seats.
4. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23502241.north-norfolk-district-council-2023-election-results/> - This article provides detailed results of the 2023 North Norfolk District Council elections, confirming the Liberal Democrats' control with 25 seats and the Conservatives holding 12 seats.
5. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23502241.north-norfolk-district-council-2023-election-results/> - This article provides detailed results of the 2023 North Norfolk District Council elections, confirming the Liberal Democrats' control with 25 seats and the Conservatives holding 12 seats.
6. <https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/23502241.north-norfolk-district-council-2023-election-results/> - This article provides detailed results of the 2023 North Norfolk District Council elections, confirming the Liberal Democrats' control with 25 seats and the Conservatives holding 12 seats.
7. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25134171.norfolk-by-elections-2025-results-reaction/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data