# Conservatives trail Reform UK and Labour under Badenoch in new poll, reversing Johnson’s lead



A recent opinion poll conducted by More In Common has produced significant insights into the current standing of the Conservative Party in relation to its competitors, particularly Nigel Farage's Reform UK. The survey indicates that under the leadership of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the Conservatives hold a slim three-point lead over Reform UK. However, under Kemi Badenoch, the present Tory leader, the situation changes dramatically, with the Conservative Party trailing by eight points behind Reform and one point behind Labour.

The results of the poll highlight a sharp contrast between the perceived popularity of Johnson and the current position of Badenoch. Notably, Boris Johnson is not a sitting MP, raising questions about his potential re-entry into the political fray. Meanwhile, criticism regarding Badenoch's leadership continues to surface within party ranks, hinting at underlying concerns about the party's trajectory. An anonymous source, cited by The Independent, expressed doubt about Badenoch's capability to lead the party, stating, "We cannot continue as we are and she is just not up to the task."

The findings have sparked speculation about Badenoch's future, as her leadership faces scrutiny amid the rising popularity of Reform UK. Additionally, former Conservative leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith has weighed in on the discourse surrounding potential leadership changes, cautioning against the idea of another leadership election. Writing for a publication, he remarked, "To those few Conservatives now briefing journalists that another leadership election is the answer... they are deluded." His assertion reflects concerns about ongoing instability within the party, which has already witnessed multiple leadership challenges over recent years.

Further complicating the picture, the Conservative Party experienced significant losses in local elections earlier this year, shedding 674 councillors. These developments, coupled with the poll results, suggest a precarious situation for Badenoch as she navigates internal party dynamics and external competition from parties like Reform UK.

As the landscape continues to evolve, the implications for the Conservative Party, particularly with respect to leadership and electoral strategies, remain critical areas of focus for political analysts and party members alike.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/e1f9be0b-8ea0-4c73-aeb1-0174b39f06a0> - This article discusses the significant losses the Conservative Party faced in the 2025 UK local elections, shedding 68% of their defended seats, and highlights the rise of Reform UK as a major political force.
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/197d3cf6-8719-49dd-b3b4-63fa41382d65> - This piece details the electoral gains of Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, in the 2025 local elections, including capturing 677 council seats and winning the Runcorn and Helsby parliamentary by-election.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/dd6dff7d-c2c4-49ec-a11e-eb9e2130ccbb> - This article examines the surge in right-wing populism in Britain, marked by the electoral success of Nigel Farage's Reform UK in the 2025 local elections, challenging the traditional two-party dominance.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/nigel-farages-reform-uk-party-ahead-by-four-votes-key-election-race-2025-05-02/> - This report covers Reform UK's significant electoral gains in England, including winning a parliamentary seat in Runcorn and Helsby by a narrow margin and gaining control of Staffordshire and Durham county councils.
5. <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/keir-starmer-preferred-kemi-badenoch-prime-minister-public-split-whether-she-will-lead> - This survey reveals that half of Britons think it is unlikely Kemi Badenoch will ever become Prime Minister, and public opinion is split on whether she will lead the Conservatives into the next General Election.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/nov/16/kemi-badenochs-first-approval-ratings-as-tory-leader-worse-than-sunaks-and-johnsons> - This article reports that Kemi Badenoch's net approval rating as Conservative leader is -5%, worse than Rishi Sunak's and Boris Johnson's starting popularity, indicating divided voter opinions.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2051500/boris-johnson-tories-only-hope> - Please view link - unable to able to access data