# Former UK Prime Minister Theresa May to Lead Group of Senior Conservative MPs Stepping Down Ahead of July General Election



Former UK Prime Minister Theresa May will lead a group of senior Conservative MPs who are stepping down from Parliament at the upcoming general election on July 4, 2024. Key figures including former chancellors Sajid Javid, Nadhim Zahawi, and Kwasi Kwarteng, as well as former Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab, are among the 66 Tory MPs choosing not to contest their seats. Additional notable departures include COP26 President Sir Alok Sharma, Northern Ireland Secretary Chris Heaton-Harris, and former Health Secretary Matt Hancock, now an independent.

The wave of resignations cuts across all major parties, with over 100 MPs announcing they will not stand in the election. Labour's Mother of the House Harriet Harman, ex-Foreign Secretary Dame Margaret Beckett, and Deputy Chief Whip Holly Lynch are among the 20 Labour MPs stepping down. Nine SNP MPs, seven independents, two from Sinn Fein, one Plaid Cymru MP, and the Green Party's sole MP Caroline Lucas will also not run.

The election, called by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, comes amidst speculation about strategic motives related to the rising influence of Nigel Farage's Reform Party, which has pushed the Conservatives into third place in several local ballots. Farage, however, confirmed he will not be a candidate, opting instead to support Donald Trump's re-election campaign in the US.

Overall, the political landscape is experiencing significant shifts, with many long-standing MPs from all parties opting out ahead of what is anticipated to be a highly competitive election.