# Housing Secretary Michael Gove to Step Down Ahead of General Election



Housing Secretary Michael Gove announced he will not seek re-election in the upcoming general election, ending his nearly 20-year tenure as the Conservative MP for Surrey Heath. Serving under four prime ministers, Gove has held various Cabinet positions including Education Secretary, Justice Secretary, and Environment Secretary. His decision adds to the record number of Conservative MPs stepping down, with the total now at 77.

In a letter to his constituency chairman, Gove called his time as an MP and minister a "profound privilege" and emphasized that it was time for "a new generation to lead." He highlighted significant achievements during his career and expressed gratitude towards his adoptive parents, who inspired his commitment to public service.

The announcement comes amidst a challenging campaign for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who recently declared a July 4 election date. This early election has prompted a rush of Conservative MPs to announce their retirements, including prominent figures such as former Prime Ministers Theresa May, Dominic Raab, and Ben Wallace.

Gove’s departure signals significant changes within the Conservative Party, which is facing a strong challenge in Gove's own constituency of Surrey Heath, where recent polling suggests a narrow margin between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.