# Prominent Conservative MP Sir John Redwood to Step Down from Politics



Sir John Redwood, a prominent Conservative MP and former Cabinet Minister, has announced he will not seek re-election in the forthcoming General Election on July 4, 2024. Redwood, 72, who has represented Wokingham since 1987, cited a desire to pursue other interests.

Redwood, known by the nickname "Vulcan" for his alleged resemblance to Star Trek's Mr. Spock, served as Welsh Secretary from 1993 to 1995 under John Major and headed Margaret Thatcher’s policy unit during her second term. A staunch advocate of Thatcherite policies, he has consistently promoted free-market economics and low taxation.

Redwood played a notable role in Brexit and famously opposed Theresa May’s Brexit deal with the EU. During John Major’s tenure, he was one of the rebels opposing the Maastricht Treaty. Redwood sought the Conservative leadership in 1995 and 1997 but was unsuccessful both times.

Sir John received a knighthood in the 2018 New Year’s Honours List. The Liberal Democrats are eyeing his Wokingham seat, having won 47% of the vote in local elections compared to the Conservatives' 35% in May 2023.

Redwood is among several high-profile Conservative MPs stepping down, amidst growing numbers citing various personal and political reasons. This record number surpasses the previous high of MPs not contesting, set before Tony Blair's 1997 victory.