# Labour Leader Starmer Criticizes Sunak's Leadership Amid Tory Exodus



**General Election Campaign Heats Up: Starmer Criticizes Sunak Amid Tory Exodus**

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer has criticized Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's leadership, highlighting Michael Gove's departure as a sign of waning confidence in Sunak’s plans. Speaking in Stafford on May 25, 2024, Starmer argued that Gove’s exit, along with the record number of Tory MPs stepping down, undermines trust in the Conservative election proposals.

The first weekend of the campaign saw Labour and the Conservatives clashing over economic policies. Starmer emphasized the cost-of-living crisis, while Chancellor Jeremy Hunt suggested tax breaks for high earners. Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves promised financial stability with a Thatcher-like approach to "sound money."

In a significant policy announcement, Starmer pledged to lower the voting age to 16. Meanwhile, Sunak faced further scrutiny for allegedly "hiding away in his mansion," a claim refuted by his campaign, highlighting his meeting with veterans in his constituency.

The Liberal Democrats, led by Sir Ed Davey, continued their campaign in the South East, focusing on marginal constituencies and criticizing water company executives’ bonuses while proposing a new regulator to replace Ofwat. Scottish party leaders also campaigned actively, with Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar and Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross opposing SNP policies.

As the campaign progressed, allegations of candidate shortages and social media mockery added to the controversies surrounding the Conservative party.

**Key Points:**
- Michael Gove's exit seen as losing faith in Rishi Sunak.
- Labour focuses on the cost-of-living crisis and pledges to lower voting age to 16.
- Conservatives hint at tax breaks for high earners.
- Lib Dems campaign on sewage issues and propose a new water industry regulator.
- Scottish party leaders criticize SNP policies.