# Reform UK party faces turmoil as mayoral elections loom



In the wake of the disarray plaguing the Reform UK party, senior member Dame Andrea Jenkyns has publicly addressed the internal disputes involving party leader Nigel Farage and MP Rupert Lowe. In an interview with Sky News, Jenkyns characteristically described the fallout as "clearly a big falling out," yet she expressed a questionable optimism that the situation would "blow over." However, she conceded that the ongoing turmoil "doesn't look great" and stressed the urgency of resolving these issues, all while attempting to shift focus toward the upcoming mayoral elections in May.

Dame Andrea, who found herself aligning with Reform after losing her Conservative seat in the tumultuous 2024 election, is now campaigning to become the first mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. This election could represent a critical turning point for Reform, as it strives to elevate its status from a party of rebellion to one that can offer substantive governance.

The political landscape in Lincolnshire has become a battleground of vital importance, with Reform poised to tap into voter discontent, especially in rural areas grappling with severe issues such as local flooding, inadequate farming subsidies, and burdensome inheritance tax changes. Following the last election, Richard Tice—the deputy leader—secured a Conservative seat in Boston and Skegness, pointing to a concerning strengthening of the party's position in various constituencies once thought secure for traditional parties.

The dynamics of this electoral race have sparked trepidation among Labour insiders, who are increasingly worried about Jenkyns’ potential victory over Labour’s Jason Stockwood and Conservative Rob Waltham. The Conservatives are keen to remind voters of Jenkyns' Yorkshire roots, suggesting that they value a candidate with local ties—an attempt to rally support against Reform’s incursion.

The unrest surrounding Rupert Lowe, who has faced serious allegations regarding his conduct toward the party leadership, has surprisingly not undermined Reform’s standing in the polls. A YouGov survey indicates that the party holds a commendable 23% support, closely trailing Labour at 24% and the Conservatives at 22%. This show of resilience could indicate a significant shift in Reform's base—from a mere coalition of protest voters to a more solid demographic rallying around themes of English nationalism, contrasting sharply with the current Labour government's policies that tend to overlook this voice.

Raheem Kassam, a former advisor to Farage, has remarked that the party leader may need to reassess his chairman, Zia Yusuf, as Reform grapples with its ongoing crisis. Kassam has posited that Farage is not the tyrannical figure he's often portrayed as, but rather a rational leader whose focus has been diverted by the internal turmoil. Such conflicts undermine his leadership when the party's priority should be addressing the dramatic shifts in public sentiment and policy under the new Labour regime.

In her interactions with voters, Jenkyns shared her own stories of domestic abuse, indicating the pressing need for Reform to adequately engage with women's issues. While asserting that the party does not possess a "woman problem," she acknowledged the importance of broader discussions on crucial topics such as education, mental health, and social welfare—issues often sidelined by Labour's current agenda.

The political landscape in Lincolnshire, compounded by Reform’s internal strife, is shrouded in uncertainty, raising questions about the party’s ability to influence the established political order dominated by Labour and the Conservatives. As Jenkyns and the party endeavor to unify their efforts for the mayoral election, the impending weeks may prove decisive in determining if they can convert their internal conflicts into a platform for electoral success, or if they will falter under the weight of a new and potentially unyielding Labour government.

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

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3V21xmFvkI> - This YouTube video discusses the internal turmoil within Reform UK, including the conflict between Nigel Farage and Rupert Lowe, which is central to the article's description of the party's current state.
* <https://www.europinion.uk/post/reform-uk-embroiled-in-civil-war> - This article from Europinion provides details on the internal disputes within Reform UK, focusing on the leadership tensions and allegations against Rupert Lowe, aligning with the article's portrayal of the party's crisis.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_UK> - This Wikipedia page offers background information on Reform UK, including its recent restructuring and membership growth, which supports the article's context about the party's evolution and challenges.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not directly available, this source is mentioned as the original provider of the article's information, offering insights into Reform UK's situation and Dame Andrea Jenkyns' role.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/reform-uk-candidates-linked-to-far-right-figures-0g7w6m9f5> - This article from The Times discusses Reform UK's candidates and their connections to far-right figures, which relates to the broader context of the party's political positioning and potential voter perceptions.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64851161> - This BBC article would typically provide coverage of UK political events, including Reform UK's activities and internal conflicts, offering additional context to the article's themes.
* <https://news.google.com/rss/articles/CBMijAFBVV95cUxQVFlVbTZfMThJRTNLWm9qaEVFTjIzallZaU9yd00zN2ZwZHJOTmpkVUNtOU0zOTBHOTZqUk81cjVRampWWHRsV2JFNnRITjhORFJzZUZrUjVqWUY2Vlh3cHJBOGdoRDhEWl9UcWwtUUtrWWgxRHU2ZVJoUllSenRhaFB5TW1mSzkyS0dVUQ?oc=5&hl=en-US&gl=US&ceid=US:en> - Please view link - unable to able to access data