# Nigel Farage claims Conservative Party will never recover after Reform UK’s local election surge



Nigel Farage has boldly asserted that the Conservative Party will “never recover” in the aftermath of significant gains by his party amid the latest local elections. With Reform UK winning control of 10 councils and amassing over 600 council seats across England, it is evident that the old political guard is crumbling as Reform UK positions itself as a formidable adversary against both Labour and Conservative parties.

The recent electoral results have put increasing pressure on Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer and Conservative Minister Kemi Badenoch to radically change their strategies. Starmer has pledged to accelerate his plans, desperate to compensate for what he perceives as unsatisfactory outcomes. Meanwhile, Badenoch's apologies to Conservative councillors who suffered losses come off as mere political posturing, as she feebly attempts to restore the party’s credibility against a resurgent Reform UK.

In an opinion piece in The Telegraph, Farage encapsulated the undeniable shift in political power: “The party that I lead is expanding. As we march on, the Conservatives are in retreat. In my opinion, they will never recover.” His assertion highlights the growing frustration with the two-party system that has dominated British politics for so long, now left on shaky ground.

The landscape has transformed dramatically, particularly with Reform UK’s narrow victory in the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, securing a seat with a razor-thin majority of just six votes against Labour. This success underscores Reform's ascent in local governance, especially with their control of Doncaster Council, which was previously under Labour's thumb.

Responses within Labour have been scattered and fraught with dissent. Backbencher Emma Lewell has called for a strategic overhaul, criticizing the government's recent decisions as detrimental to the party's standing. She insists that Labour urgently needs a “change of plan” that aligns with its supposed commitment to social justice. Clive Efford, Labour MP for Eltham and Chislehurst, lambasted the notion that voters merely want gradual change, deeming it “madness.”

Concerns over diminishing voter trust were voiced by South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard, who stressed the necessity of making financial decisions that address constituents' pressing concerns. However, with Labour's mayor in Doncaster, Ros Jones, managing to hold onto her position, it's clear the council is overwhelmingly influenced by Reform UK councillors.

Meanwhile, Labour MP Rachael Maskell has echoed the urgency for the government to reconsider welfare policies, claiming that they are alienating voters. Yet, as Labour scrambles to reclaim voter favor, internal clashes over immigration policies further reveal the party's lack of coherent direction. Jo White, chair of Labour’s Red Wall MPs, has bizarrely suggested that Starmer imitate strategies akin to former U.S. President Donald Trump to combat illegal immigration—notably a move that reflects Labour’s desperation amid an insurgent Reform UK.

Farage has made clear his intentions to block the housing of asylum seekers in the regions under Reform UK’s jurisdiction, signaling a firm opposition to central government policies on asylum. Party chairman Zia Yusuf's pledge for a future government to deport all illegal immigrants in five years serves as a stark indicator of their commitment to overhaul Britain's immigration framework.

In stark contrast, the Conservative Party finds itself in a precarious position, having lost over 600 councillors and all 15 councils they controlled. Despite some party figures attempting to downplay these losses, Shadow Chief Treasury Secretary Richard Fuller’s warning that Reform UK will come to face the realities of managing local public finances reveals a party grappling with denial.

This latest round of local elections has dramatically redrawn the political map, compelling parties to reevaluate their strategies in the face of a determined and growing Reform UK. The era of complacent governance appears to be reaching its end, as the voters are searching for an alternative that addresses their grievances head-on.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/197d3cf6-8719-49dd-b3b4-63fa41382d65> - This article discusses Reform UK's significant gains in local elections, including winning control of 10 councils and capturing 677 council seats, highlighting the party's challenge to the traditional two-party system.
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/new-look-populist-reform-party-could-reshape-uk-political-landscape-2025-04-29/> - This piece details Reform UK's transformation under Nigel Farage, emphasizing its emergence as a significant force in British politics and its potential to reshape the political landscape.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/d72de3feac338b7a72ecc114086e4d01> - This article covers the local elections where Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, aimed for significant gains, particularly at the expense of the Conservative Party, and discusses the party's aspirations to challenge the two-party dominance.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/dd6dff7d-c2c4-49ec-a11e-eb9e2130ccbb> - This analysis examines the rise of right-wing populism in the UK, marked by Reform UK's electoral success, and discusses the party's policies and their impact on the political landscape.
5. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-02/la-derecha-populista-de-farage-propina-un-duro-golpe-al-gobierno-laborista-en-las-elecciones-locales-de-inglaterra.html> - This article reports on Reform UK's impact on traditional British parties, including the Conservative and Labour parties, in the local elections, highlighting the party's gains and the challenges faced by established parties.
6. <https://apnews.com/article/7a5b9304bf368a8edd56da74eff8ae1e> - This piece discusses Nigel Farage's ambitions to reshape British politics by propelling Reform UK to challenge the traditional dominance of the Conservatives and Labour, and the party's platform and support base.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/farage-reform-uk-has-supplanted-tories-after-local-elections-sweep-3253BR3JOBNSVKO65HSL6JXDHY/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data