# Reform UK surges past Labour and Conservatives in latest polls sparking political upheaval



# The Rise of a New Order: The Shift Towards Reform UK

In a striking demonstration of shifting political allegiances, recent polling has revealed a notable surge in support for a certain right-leaning party, which has gained significant traction since the UK general election earlier this year. According to findings from a national survey conducted by Find Out Now, this party's support has climbed to 33%, overtaking the Labour Party at a mere 20% and leaving the Conservatives in a weakened position at just 16%. These figures indicate a potential shake-up in British politics, suggesting that the party could be poised for a breakthrough in future elections.

The implications of these results are alarming for Labour and the Conservatives. Should this polling translate into actual votes, projections indicate that the party could secure an astounding 365 seats in the House of Commons—replicating Boris Johnson’s majority in 2019—while Labour could find themselves with as few as 97 seats. The Conservatives, meanwhile, would face a catastrophic decline, potentially relegated to the sixth largest party in Parliament with just 23 seats. These dramatic shifts reflect a pervasive voter dissatisfaction with the traditional political status quo.

Recent electoral gains by this rising party, particularly in the Runcorn and Helsby by-election where they captured the seat by a slim margin following a scandal that brought down a Labour MP, are evidence of this growing discontent. Additionally, they have made notable inroads in Conservative strongholds, ballooning their local election victories to over 600 council seats and securing their first mayoralty in Greater Lincolnshire. These wins underscore a broader trend: voters are increasingly disillusioned with both Labour and the Conservatives amid economic stagnation and ineffectiveness from those in power.

The deputy leader of this party confidently proclaimed their polling success, emphasizing that they are now "17% ahead of disappearing Tories." Their leader has expressed a strong belief that these electoral trends signal the potential end of Britain’s two-party system, indicating a promising future for the party as they position themselves as a definite opposition to the incoming Labour government.

As Labour grapples with rising internal criticisms regarding centrist policies, their new Prime Minister has described the results of the Runcorn by-election as "disappointing." With public sentiments growing increasingly restless over healthcare and welfare issues, Starmer faces mounting pressure to shift Labour’s messaging and reconnect with its constituents. Analysts warn that without a robust economic recovery plan and meaningful engagement with voters, Labour risks losing even more support to this newly invigorated political force.

The Conservative leadership under Kemi Badenoch also faces a critical crossroads. Accusations of disconnecting from core voters have surfaced, leading to significant losses in local elections. Badenoch has acknowledged prevalent voter distrust, rendering it essential for her party to rebuild confidence among its traditional base.

This shifting political climate is indicative of a more fragmented electoral landscape, with the potential rise of other parties complicating matters for both Labour and Conservative factions. Polling indicates that voter loyalties are straying from traditional affiliations, heightening the challenges facing both established parties.

In summary, the ascent of this right-leaning party has not only captured a substantial share of public sentiment but has also spurred a critical conversation about the viability and relevance of the UK’s traditional political institutions. As elections approach, Labour and the Conservatives must confront this resurgent political force that has firmly established itself as a formidable player, signifying a pivotal moment that could redefine the country's political narrative for years to come.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/2052589/bombshell-poll-reform-record> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-05/la-victoria-de-la-derecha-populista-de-farage-en-las-elecciones-locales-del-reino-unido-siembra-los-nervios-entre-laboristas-y-conservadores.html> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, achieved significant victories in the UK's local elections, including winning over 40% of nearly 1,600 contested council seats, securing its first mayoralty in Greater Lincolnshire, and capturing a parliamentary seat in Runcorn & Helsby, a traditional Labour stronghold. These successes indicate a shift in the UK's political landscape, with Reform UK challenging the dominance of traditional parties. Farage's party capitalized on public dissatisfaction, anti-immigration sentiments, and fatigue with established parties. The Conservative Party faces internal challenges and leadership questions, while the Labour Party, despite losing council seats, is criticized for its conservative policy shifts. Analysts suggest that Reform UK is no longer a transient force but a significant entity capable of altering the UK's political equilibrium. ([elpais.com](https://elpais.com/internacional/2025-05-05/la-victoria-de-la-derecha-populista-de-farage-en-las-elecciones-locales-del-reino-unido-siembra-los-nervios-entre-laboristas-y-conservadores.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/dd6dff7d-c2c4-49ec-a11e-eb9e2130ccbb> - The rise of right-wing populism in the UK is exemplified by Nigel Farage's Reform UK party, which has translated polling momentum into tangible electoral successes. The party won the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, secured the Greater Lincolnshire mayoralty, and gained control of several county councils, challenging both Labour and Conservative strongholds. This signals the erosion of the UK's two-party system, as public disillusionment deepens due to economic stagnation and institutional dysfunction. Class allegiances are shifting, with Conservatives and Reform attracting working-class voters, while Labour increasingly appeals to young urban professionals. While Reform is currently the biggest gainer, its growth may be constrained by Farage's polarizing presence and increased scrutiny. The rise of third parties, including the Liberal Democrats and Greens, hints at an evolving multi-party landscape and could revive calls for electoral reform. Meanwhile, both Labour and Conservative leaders face critical challenges. Labour must focus on economic growth to solidify support and fund public services, resisting the temptation to dilute its message in response to populist pressures. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/dd6dff7d-c2c4-49ec-a11e-eb9e2130ccbb?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://apnews.com/article/33fa773d553d022c6af527656e54ac21> - In the latest UK local elections, Nigel Farage’s hard-right Reform UK party achieved substantial gains, signaling a challenge to the traditional dominance of the Labour and Conservative parties. Reform UK won a Westminster seat in Runcorn and Helsby by a narrow margin, taking it from Labour following a scandal-related resignation. The party also secured over 600 local council seats and gained control in conservative heartlands such as Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, and Durham. This marks a significant expansion from the previous national election where Reform held just 14% of the vote. Farage described the results as a turning point in British politics, hinting at the decline of long-established two-party dynamics. The Labour government under Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced a sobering rebuff, with public discontent over economic stagnation and welfare cuts. The Conservatives suffered even heavier losses, and leader Kemi Badenoch acknowledged ongoing voter distrust. The centrist Liberal Democrats also made gains in southern England, appealing to socially liberal voters. Political analyst John Curtice noted these results reflect a fragmentation of British politics, with Reform now seen as a major threat to both leading parties. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/33fa773d553d022c6af527656e54ac21?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/02/starmer-describe-como-decepcionante-la-victoria-del-populista-reforma-en-unas-elecciones-locales-con-un-escano-en-juego-cadena-ser/> - UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the results of a by-election held on Thursday as 'disappointing,' where the populist Reform Party, led by Nigel Farage, won a key seat. Reform's candidate, Sarah Pochin, achieved a narrow victory by just six votes in the Runcorn and Helsby constituency, taking the seat from Labour. Starmer acknowledged the defeat and stated that the Labour Party must intensify its efforts to achieve promised changes, such as improvements in the healthcare system. This election was the first significant electoral test since Starmer became Prime Minister. The seat became vacant after the resignation of Labour MP Mike Amesbury, who was convicted of assault. Additionally, three mayoral elections were held on the same day. ([cadenaser.com](https://cadenaser.com/nacional/2025/05/02/starmer-describe-como-decepcionante-la-victoria-del-populista-reforma-en-unas-elecciones-locales-con-un-escano-en-juego-cadena-ser/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/50eb9b29-a662-45b3-a75d-0c642e4d96b4> - Nigel Farage, once seemingly retired from frontline politics, has made a dramatic return, winning the Clacton seat in 2024 and leading Reform UK to significant gains in recent local elections. Known for his resilience and charisma, Farage has repeatedly reemerged in British politics despite earlier retirements and controversies. He has survived internal party conflicts, a near-fatal plane crash, and criticism for his ties to Donald Trump. Farage skillfully leverages media, especially through GB News and social platforms like TikTok, to maintain visibility and influence. Unlike many pro-Trump international figures, Farage has managed to thrive, partly due to weaker opponents and Britain’s ongoing political dissatisfaction, including discontent over Brexit and immigration. Though his overall favorability remains low, projected national results from local elections suggest Reform could top the polls, challenging the dominance of established parties. If successful in the next general election, Farage could become the oldest incoming prime minister since Churchill and with minimal time in Parliament. His political journey underscores an extraordinary ability to blend populist appeal with media savvy, making him a potent force in contemporary British politics. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/50eb9b29-a662-45b3-a75d-0c642e4d96b4?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/02a06002-d769-478f-8ac9-6c2fb0dd4640> - In this episode of the Financial Times' Political Fix podcast, Lucy Fisher and colleagues analyze the significant shake-up in the UK's political landscape following recent local elections. The main highlight is the marked success of Reform UK under Nigel Farage, including winning a fifth MP, a first mayoralty in Lincolnshire, and control of at least two councils. This shift signals a substantial blow to both Labour and the Conservatives, especially the latter, facing what some described as an existential crisis. The panel explores how populist dissatisfaction and ineffective delivery from mainstream parties spurred voter support for smaller parties like Reform, the Greens, and the Liberal Democrats. Discussion spans the unsuitability of the first-past-the-post system in a fragmented political environment, scrutiny facing Reform UK's newly acquired local powers, and struggles within the Conservative leadership under Kemi Badenoch. Keir Starmer’s Labour government is critiqued for inadequate delivery, while potential strategies for both major parties are debated, including economic messaging and coalition speculation. The podcast concludes with commentary on the long-term erosion of class-based voting patterns and the evolving identities of the UK’s traditional political parties. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/02a06002-d769-478f-8ac9-6c2fb0dd4640?utm_source=openai))