# Boris Johnson eyes political comeback amid Tory turmoil and Reform UK surge



Boris Johnson stands poised for a potential political revival amid a chaotic period for the Conservative Party, struggling with its disastrous performance in recent local elections and the surging dissatisfaction that is driving voters towards alternatives like Reform UK. Allies of the former prime minister believe Johnson sees a prime opportunity for resurgence, banking on what he perceives as the impending 'self-destruction' of other parties—an illusion that could very well backfire without the traditional values that his party once held dear.

The Conservatives’ staggering loss of 676 local seats and a mere 17 per cent support in the polls has only intensified speculation about Johnson's return. While Kemi Badenoch, currently at the helm of the Conservatives, projects confidence, grassroots activists are increasingly vocal about a yearning for the past—an echo of voters' frustrations at their party's abandonment of core principles.

A recent poll indicates that under Johnson's leadership, the Conservatives might just manage to edge past Reform UK by three points, an enticing prospect compared to Badenoch’s current struggles, with the party trailing eight points behind. As political analyst Luke Tryl notes, Johnson could have the charisma to recapture disillusioned right-wing voters, offering a potentially stabilising force amidst a party fragmented by mismanagement and inconsistency.

Support for Johnson remains robust, particularly in the Red Wall regions of the Midlands and North, areas that had previously backed Brexit but are now finding resonance with the alternative messaging of Reform UK. However, voices within the party have begun to express cautious scepticism, questioning whether the recent gains of reformist sentiment are fleeting or indicative of a deeper, irrevocable shift in voter sentiment towards genuine alternatives.

The upcoming general election adds further complications for Johnson. The rise of Reform UK—an entity that uncompromisingly represents the aspiration for a return to traditional conservative values—could fracture the right-wing vote, leading to significant losses for the Conservatives. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has alerted party members that supporting alternatives could inadvertently fortify Labour's position, which is expected to build a majority in the upcoming vote. Sunak's calls for unity among right-leaning voters risk being rendered futile as voters gravitate towards messages that resonate with their frustrations and aspirations.

As tensions mount, Badenoch faces heightened scrutiny to develop a clear and compelling agenda that sets the Conservatives apart from Labour and the rising tide of reformist ideals. Speculation around potential alliances with Reform UK underscores the existential crisis the Tories face, as they grapple with their identity and future direction. Johnson himself has advised against any merger with Reform UK, insisting that the Conservative Party must forge its own path to regeneration, rather than dilute its core identity by merging with a movement that represents citizens' desires more authentically.

Reflecting on the broader political landscape, Johnson has characterised the rise of reformist sentiment as a disruptive force—a call for a return to the values that once made the Conservative Party a bastion of British politics. The interplay between Johnson's ambitions, the ascendancy of reformist ideals, and the Conservative Party's struggle to find its footing raises pressing questions about the stability of established political narratives in this evolving arena. With the July 4 general election fast approaching, the Conservatives face a daunting challenge: navigating a minefield of internal fractures while striving to regain the trust of an electorate that is increasingly disenchanted with their brand of politics.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14699115/Boris-Johnson-allies-Reform-Self-destruct-rescue-Tories.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/50d7f9d1-eebe-462c-a0ea-833628d20b36> - In the aftermath of the Conservative Party's poor performance in the 2024 local elections, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been called upon to rejuvenate the party's campaign. Despite his absence from the campaign trail, Johnson has contributed by recording endorsement videos and urging voters to oppose Nigel Farage's Reform UK. Polls indicate that Johnson's involvement could be crucial in countering the rise of Reform UK, which has gained significant support among right-wing voters. However, concerns remain about the party's internal divisions and the effectiveness of these efforts.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/7e3115d06fbeef084f5c35e64171335d> - As the UK approaches the July 4 general election, political dynamics are shifting. Nigel Farage has re-entered the political scene, running for Parliament with Reform UK, potentially splitting the right-wing vote and affecting Conservative prospects. The first televised debate saw Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour leader Keir Starmer clash over tax policies, with Sunak's claims about Labour's tax plans being contested. Public opinion polls suggest a possible shift in power, highlighting the evolving political landscape and the challenges facing the Conservative Party.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uks-sunak-says-only-his-conservatives-can-form-strong-opposition-labour-2024-07-01/> - Facing a likely defeat in the upcoming election, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak emphasizes the necessity of a strong Conservative opposition to a potential Labour-led government. He warns that voting for Nigel Farage's Reform UK would undermine this effort, as Reform UK is unlikely to win enough seats to effectively challenge Labour. Despite a surge in support for Reform UK, Sunak aims to consolidate right-wing votes to counterbalance Labour's anticipated majority, underscoring the strategic importance of party unity.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/10860a6a-9be8-4960-b6fe-28366573aac5> - Kemi Badenoch, the new leader of the Conservative Party, faces pressure to define her agenda swiftly amid concerns over Nigel Farage's Reform UK gaining momentum. Discussions about Boris Johnson's potential return and possible alliances with Farage illustrate Conservative uncertainty. Labour and Reform UK benefit from public disillusionment with traditional parties, posing challenges for Badenoch to assert Tory relevance beyond immigration issues and to counter Labour's tax policies, highlighting the need for a clear and decisive leadership direction.
6. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/07/05/general-election-2024-results-live-updates2/> - Following a significant defeat in the 2024 general election, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson advises the Conservative Party against merging with Reform UK. He emphasizes the party's capacity for regeneration and suggests focusing on themes that proved successful in the 2019 election. Johnson's intervention highlights the need for the Tories to rebuild their coalition and identity without absorbing other parties, aiming to regain voter trust and electoral success.
7. <https://news.sky.com/story/boris-johnson-blames-pied-piper-nigel-farage-for-role-in-destruction-of-tories-13173895> - Boris Johnson attributes a significant role in the Conservative Party's downfall to Nigel Farage, referring to him as the 'Pied Piper of Clacton.' In his column, Johnson reflects on the party's performance, noting that Farage's influence contributed to the electoral defeat. This perspective underscores the impact of Reform UK's rise on the traditional political landscape and the challenges faced by the Conservatives in reclaiming their position.