# Nigel Farage’s party surges to 29% as Conservatives hit lowest poll ratings since 2019



Nigel Farage's party is rapidly repositioning itself within the UK political landscape, gaining substantial ground in recent polling. A YouGov poll conducted for The Times and Sky News indicates that this movement has capitalised on a wave of discontent with traditional parties, particularly the Conservative Party’s alarming decline. The polling shows them at 29%, a notable increase since early May, while the Conservatives, under Kemi Badenoch’s uninspired leadership, have plummeted to a mere 16%—their lowest position since 2019. This stark fall has pushed them behind the Liberal Democrats, who currently sit at 17%.

In response to these shifts, Farage has been unequivocally critical of the Conservatives, warning that their current trajectory could lead to devastating losses in an upcoming general election. This growing momentum is indicative of broader disenchantment with established political parties, particularly as Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer also struggles, marked by his controversial policy shifts and a disconcerting drift to the right. His net favourability has reached a record low of -46, reflecting substantial dissatisfaction among the electorate.

The political landscape in the UK is radically reshaping itself, with Farage's party emerging as a formidable opponent to both the Labour and Conservative parties. Starmer has faced this reality head-on, recognising this movement as a significant challenge and implying that the Conservatives are nearing “the end of the road.” This acknowledgment highlights a broader trend of rising discontent that resonates throughout the continent, as traditional parties falter in retaining loyal supporters.

The geographical concentration of support for Farage’s platform further underscores the socio-economic dynamics at play. Regions classified as 'left behind'—characterised by low social mobility and a strong pro-Brexit sentiment—are increasingly aligning with his message. In neglected areas like Clacton, where educational outcomes are dire, there’s a pressing need for targeted reforms. Alarmingly, only 12% of disadvantaged students on free school meals achieved passing GCSE grades, a stark contrast to national averages, underscoring the urgent call for change.

Despite internal strife within the party, including legal investigations into former MP Rupert Lowe, the movement has enjoyed remarkable electoral success, recently capturing 31% of the vote in local elections and securing over 677 council seats. This political surge, however, surfaces alongside critiques of Farage's leadership style, particularly allegations that he manipulates party dynamics for personal gain, casting shadows on his democratic credentials.

Kemi Badenoch's pivot towards economic issues in light of this shifting landscape signifies an acknowledgement that past strategies focusing predominantly on immigration and cultural topics have failed to resonate with voters. Senior Conservatives are beginning to recognise vulnerabilities in their economic narratives, handing Badenoch a potential opening to reaffirm her party’s relevance by addressing these pressing concerns head-on.

As the upcoming electoral landscape looms, a significant realignment appears inevitable, with voters increasingly pursuing alternatives amid widespread dissatisfaction with traditional politics. With Farage’s party making considerable advancements, the rapidly evolving political narratives suggest that the next general election will serve as a decisive litmus test for the established political order in the UK.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2057904/nigel-farage-issues-12-word-warning> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/659406e7-552c-4e10-83a0-0adebb5ad838> - A recent YouGov poll indicates that Sir Keir Starmer's popularity has declined to a record low, with a net favorability of -46. This decline is attributed to his shift to the political right, including controversial moves like cuts to international aid and stricter welfare reforms. Concurrently, Nigel Farage's Reform UK party is gaining momentum, surpassing Labour in national polls with 29% support compared to Labour’s 23% and the Conservatives’ 18%. These developments highlight a significant shift in the UK's political landscape.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/087f35aa-6d0b-49ec-af6c-9b30b87d787d> - UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer now identifies Nigel Farage's Reform UK as his primary political opponent amid rising support for the party and waning Conservative influence. Starmer believes a major political realignment is underway, referring to the Conservatives under Kemi Badenoch as nearing 'the end of the road.' Public opinion polls confirm this shift, showing Reform UK ahead of both the Conservatives and Labour. Despite mounting criticism from within his party over welfare cuts and his tough rhetoric on migration, Starmer continues to push his agenda.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/d1aa75a2-ce2b-4e1b-8783-77a34b80dd3c> - A Financial Times analysis highlights that Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, is gaining significant electoral traction in England’s 'left behind' areas—regions with low social mobility and strong support for Brexit. These areas, such as Farage's constituency Clacton in Essex, show poor educational outcomes for disadvantaged students, with only 12% of free school meal (FSM) pupils passing core GCSEs, compared to nearly twice that nationally. The findings underscore the urgent need for targeted socio-economic reform.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/9907cf67-537c-4c7e-9e82-fe56cbafa282> - The Metropolitan Police have dropped their investigation into former Reform UK MP Rupert Lowe regarding allegations that he threatened party chair Zia Yusuf. The Crown Prosecution Service stated there was insufficient evidence to support criminal charges against Lowe. Despite internal party conflicts, Reform UK experienced a surge in popularity, winning 31% of the vote and 677 council seats in recent local elections. Lowe criticized Nigel Farage, accusing him of manipulating the justice system for political ends.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/05bcd5ca-fbf2-4728-be1a-84b747ec30ed> - Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch is shifting her political strategy to focus more on the economy, aiming to counter the growing threat from Nigel Farage's Reform UK. Despite her previous emphasis on immigration and 'woke' issues, recent election losses and poor polling suggest these themes have not resonated with voters. Senior Tories believe the economy is a weak spot for both Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer and Reform UK, offering the Conservatives a potential advantage.
7. <https://www.ft.com/content/4616acb6-9d5e-4bc5-a92b-0f47222e8e25> - UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has ruled out rejoining the EU customs union, emphasizing that such a move would undermine the trade agreements recently struck with India and the US. Speaking in Parliament, Starmer described the new EU-UK deal—which includes provisions on fishing, export checks, and a potential youth mobility program—as the beginning of closer cooperation with European neighbors. However, he insisted on maintaining red lines, including remaining outside the customs union.