# Nigel Farage ramps up attack on Sir Keir Starmer to win working-class voters



Nigel Farage is set to escalate his campaign against Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, stepping into the role of the populist champion for working-class voters while positioning his party as the only credible opposition to the Labour government. In an upcoming major address, Farage is expected to denounce Starmer as “unpatriotic” and “out-of-touch,” aggressively challenging the Prime Minister's recent actions, including his dealings with the European Union and the controversial transfer of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius. This speech comes at a crucial juncture for Farage, especially following the party's recent victories in local elections and a notable win in the Runcorn and Helsby by-election. Supporters believe this moment could solidify their party’s standing, particularly among disillusioned voters from both Conservative and Labour backgrounds.

Farage's plan to confront Starmer directly by inviting him to join him at a working men’s club in northern England illustrates his desire to connect authentically with the electorate. This bold approach could resonate with communities frustrated by the political elite's disconnect, particularly as Labour grapples with internal conflict over crucial issues like family benefits and immigration policy. With tensions escalating around Labour’s stance on migration, Farage intends to advocate for the abolition of the two-child benefit cap and the restoration of winter fuel payments—both hot-button issues that have the potential to challenge Labour's credibility.

Labour's representatives have not held back in their criticisms. Party chairwoman Ellie Reeves has dismissed Farage as a purveyor of elite interests, focused more on personal ambition than genuinely addressing the concerns of working-class voters. She has pointed to Farage's past record on issues such as the NHS and his unfunded manifesto pledges, raising questions about his party's commitment to serving the everyday needs of British citizens. Such exchanges reflect the broader political discontent, with voters increasingly turning to alternatives like Farage’s party, particularly in light of Labour’s failures to manage net migration effectively.

The growing disillusionment with the current political establishment is palpable, especially in traditionally Conservative strongholds like Romford, where constituents express frustration with the status quo and are considering the party as a serious alternative. Polls display a complex picture: while Labour may lead in the immediate elections, Farage’s appeal to disenchanted Conservative voters could complicate the political landscape, potentially drawing votes away from the Tories. His non-candidacy in the forthcoming elections does not diminish his influence; rather, it adds an unpredictable dynamic that could significantly shape voter behaviour and party strategies.

As the party seeks to redefine itself beyond its initial Brexit focus, the potential for Farage to mobilize support among working-class voters disillusioned by Labour’s policies could reshape the electoral landscape. With the first-past-the-post system posing challenges for tactical voting, some may fear that backing Farage could inadvertently aid Labour by fragmenting the opposition votes.

As the political tide continues to turn, Farage's looming address may serve as both a rallying cry for his supporters and a strategic maneuver to unsettle Labour’s position. Whether the party can translate this period of discontent into electoral gains is yet to be determined, but the swirling political uncertainty presents both formidable obstacles and exciting opportunities for all parties navigating this increasingly fractious environment.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/farage-to-park-his-tanks-on-labours-lawn-with-pitch-to-working-class-voters-QDCDUF6VBRPTVDSZWQZIZU2DIU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/farage-to-park-his-tanks-on-labours-lawn-with-pitch-to-working-class-voters-QDCDUF6VBRPTVDSZWQZIZU2DIU/> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, is set to launch a direct attack on Sir Keir Starmer, accusing him of being 'unpatriotic' and 'out-of-touch'. Farage plans to position Reform UK as the true opposition to Labour, highlighting Starmer's 'betrayal' over his EU deal and the Chagos Islands handover. Allies view this as a significant moment for Reform, following successes in May's council contests and the Runcorn and Helsby by-election. Farage intends to challenge Starmer to engage directly with working-class communities to demonstrate who better connects with the electorate.
3. <https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2024/06/02/in-the-uk-nigel-farage-hopes-to-win-back-disappointed-conservatives_6673433_4.html> - Nigel Farage, leader of Reform UK, aims to attract disillusioned Conservative voters in the upcoming July 4 elections. Although not a candidate himself, Farage's party criticises both Conservative and Labour policies, particularly on immigration and the economy. Richard Tice, leader of Reform UK, proposes taxing employers who hire immigrants to reduce mass migration. Despite a mixed message and Farage's non-candidacy, the party polls between 8% and 14%, positioning itself as a strong opposition to Labour, which is expected to win according to polls.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/fed-up-britons-consider-an-election-gamble-on-wildcard-farage-2024-06-14/> - In Romford, traditionally a Conservative stronghold, voters are considering Nigel Farage's Reform UK as an alternative due to dissatisfaction with major parties. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives trail Labour by approximately 20 points, and Farage's return complicates the political landscape. Locals express distrust in politicians' promises, citing immigration, healthcare, and the cost of living as pressing concerns. Despite Reform UK's rising popularity and Farage's candid communication style, voters fear wasting their votes, as the first-past-the-post system may split the right-wing vote, indirectly aiding Labour.
5. <https://time.com/6985435/nigel-farage-uk-election-campaign/> - Nigel Farage, known for his Brexit support and xenophobic campaigns, has launched his eighth bid for a seat in the U.K. House of Commons. Campaigning in Clacton-on-Sea, Farage faced mixed reactions, including protests and a milkshake incident. Returning to frontline politics as head of Reform UK, his move potentially threatens the Conservative Party, which is already trailing behind Labour in the polls. Political experts suggest Farage's return could further diminish Conservative votes, tilting the election outcome more favourably towards Labour.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/123fb5ed-d317-477f-84b8-ceb8973ff86a> - Reform UK, led by Nigel Farage, is gaining momentum ahead of key local elections in England, with polls showing it neck and neck with Labour at 25% support. Farage, now an MP for Clacton, sees these elections as a crucial test of his party’s viability as a major political force, aiming beyond its Brexit roots to national governance. Reform is projected to capture a significant number of council seats and possibly win mayoralties and a by-election in Runcorn and Helsby.
7. <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-labour-party-campaign-strategy-nigel-farage-reform-uk-party-uk-election/> - Labour strategists decided not to confront Nigel Farage's Reform UK directly, viewing his presence as beneficial to their cause by splitting the right-wing vote. This approach led to Reform UK winning 4.1 million votes and five seats in Parliament, with Farage securing his first seat in Clacton. The decision not to challenge Reform UK was based on the belief that it would harm the Conservative Party more than Labour, allowing them to focus on other campaign priorities.