



UK Election Statistics: 1918-2012

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This paper presents an overview of results from UK elections since 1918. It includes summary results for general elections and parliamentary by-elections; local government elections including elected mayors; elections to the European Parliament and devolved bodies; and results from referendums. Data are also provided on the social backgrounds of Members elected to the House of Commons.

Feargal McGuinness

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Research Paper 12/43

This paper replaces Library Research Paper 08/12 *Election Statistics: UK 1918-2012*.

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1 Introduction

This paper provides summary results for UK elections from 1918 to 2012, primarily focusing on elections to the House of Commons.

1918 marks a paradigm shift in British electoral politics. A large extension of the electoral franchise meant women aged over 30 were able to vote in general elections for the first time. It was no longer necessary to hold property in order to be able to vote, thus bringing many more working class people into the electorate. The Liberals' position as one of the two dominant parties in British politics alongside the Conservatives was threatened by splits in the party leadership. Labour became the main opposition party at the 1918 General Election as a consequence of a Conservative-Liberal coalition, and by 1922 Labour had supplanted the Liberals as the Conservatives' main challenger.

From 1918 onwards, British politics has generally been dominated by the Conservatives and Labour. In fifteen out of twenty-five general elections since 1918 the Conservative Party have won the most seats while Labour have won the most seats on the other ten occasions. In all general elections between 1918 and 1945 the Conservatives received more votes than any other party; only in 1997 did the party for the first time fail to win at least 35% of the vote.

Labour did not win a House of Commons majority until 1945, although it had twice previously formed minority governments after the 1923 and 1929 elections. Labour became the second largest party at Westminster, behind the Conservatives, in 1922, when it received slightly more votes than the Liberals but won more than twice as many seats.

Between 1945 and 1970 all but a handful of House of Commons seats were held by the Conservatives and Labour, who together took about nine in every ten votes cast in general elections over this period. Since 1974 an increasing share of the vote has gone to the Liberal Party and its successor, the Liberal Democrats. There has also been an increase in support for candidates other than from the three main parties; smaller parties and independent candidates won 12% of the vote in 2010 compared to less than 1% in 1951.

The profile of Members elected at general elections has altered since 1918. Only one of the 707 Members elected in 1918 was a woman, compared to 145 out of 650 MPs in 2012. Four Labour MPs elected in 1987 were the first black and minority ethnic (BME) Members to sit in the House in the post-war era; today there are 27 Members from BME backgrounds. More MPs in the current parliament have been to university than was the case sixty years ago, while the numbers who attended private schools or went to Oxbridge have decreased.

The growth in support for smaller parties at general elections can also be observed in local government elections and, to an even greater extent, elections to the European Parliament. The three main parties won 97% of the vote in the 1979 European Parliament elections but only 57% in 2009. The introduction of a proportional voting system for European Parliament elections in 1999 was a factor in more MEPs being elected from outside the three main parties: in 2009 about one-third of UK MEPs were from smaller parties. The First Past the Post electoral system used in Westminster elections and local elections in England and Wales means that the increase in votes for smaller parties has not translated into an increase in their number of MPs or councillors.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru have generally performed better in devolved elections than in Westminster elections. However, while the SNP have improved on their performance in the first Scottish Parliament election in 1999, Plaid Cymru have been unable to match their performance at the 1999 National Assembly for Wales elections at subsequent Assembly elections.

Parliamentary by-elections are now less common than fifty years ago and in local authorities that have moved from a two-tier structure to unitary status, local elections are less frequent. However, devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the introduction of elected mayors for some local authorities mean additional events have been added to the electoral calendar. The first elections for the Mayor of London and London Assembly were held in 2000. The office of elected mayor has been introduced in seventeen English local authorities since 2001, and another 35 authorities have rejected creating the new office in a referendum. From November 2012, voters in England and Wales (excluding London) will elect a police and crime commissioner for their local police force area.

Detailed results from individual elections can be found in relevant House of Commons Library research papers. This paper replaces Library Research Paper 08/12 *Election Statistics: UK 1918-2012*.

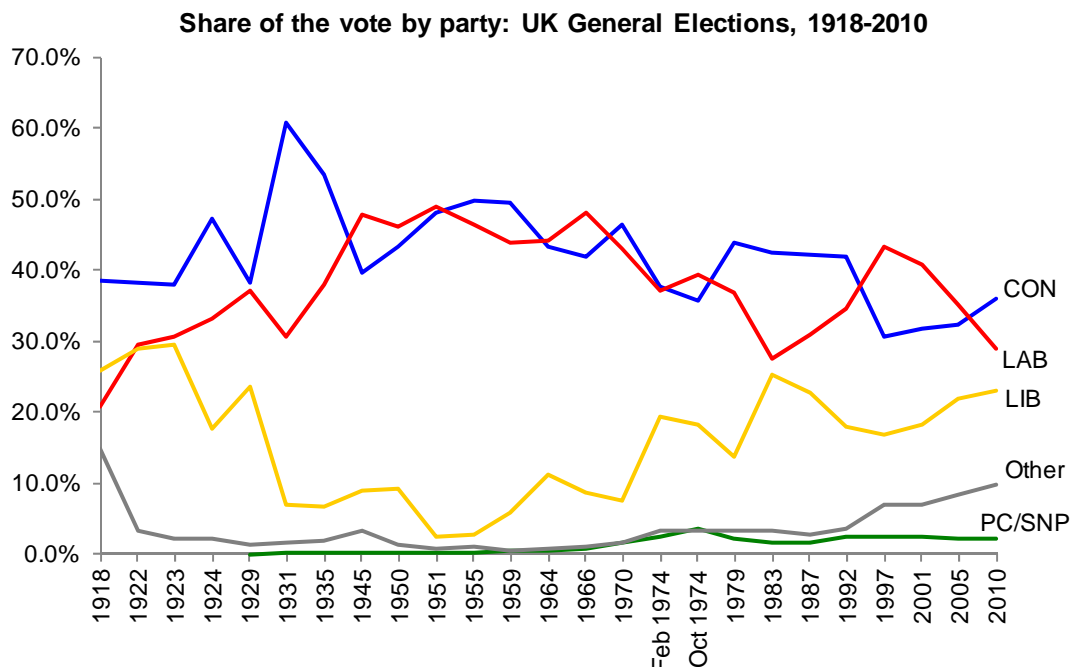
2 General Elections since 1918

2.1 Summary of results

There have been 25 UK general elections since 1918. On fifteen occasions the Conservatives won the most seats while Labour won the most seats on ten occasions.

In four general elections no party secured an overall majority of seats. The Conservatives held the most seats following the 1923 general election but resigned government to be replaced by a minority Labour administration. Labour was the largest party in the House of Commons after the 1929 and February 1974 general elections and on both occasions formed a minority government. In 2010, the Conservatives won the most seats and entered government in coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

On three occasions, the party with the most votes did not win the most seats. In 1929 and in February 1974, Labour polled fewer votes than the Conservatives but had more MPs. In 1951 the Conservatives won the most seats but received fewer votes than Labour.



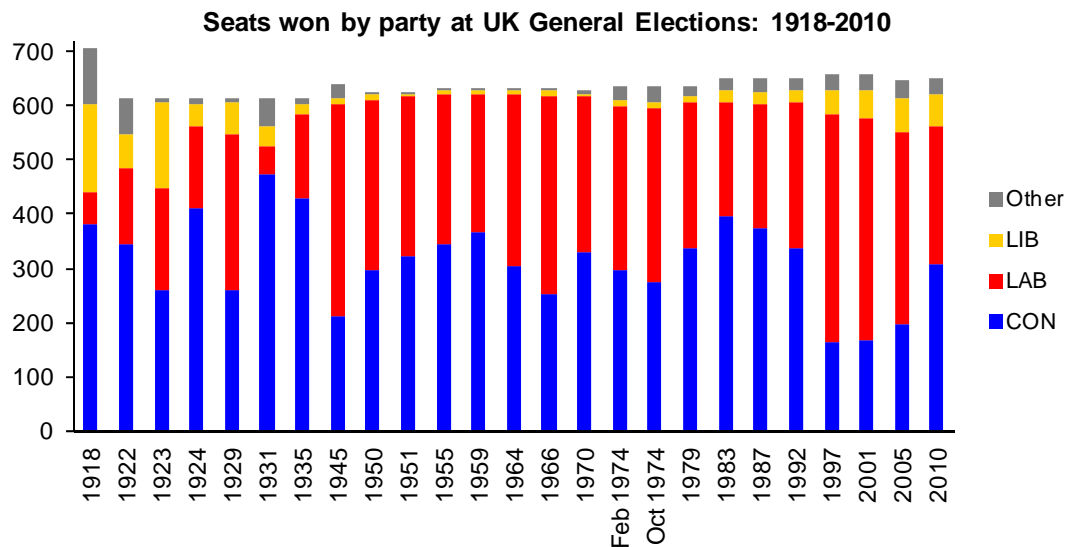
Note: Liberal vote share includes votes for Liberal/SDP alliance (1983-87) and Liberal Democrats from 1992. Figures for 1918 include all Ireland.

Conservatives

The Conservatives' best results in terms of both share of the vote and seats won was in the 1931 general election, which followed the creation of a National Coalition government between Ramsey MacDonal's National Labour, the Conservatives and some Liberal Members. The Conservatives received 55.5% of the vote and won 474 seats (60.8% of the vote and 522 seats if National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates are included as well).

The party's best result in terms of seats won since 1945 was at the 1983 General Election, when 397 Conservative MPs were elected. Its highest share of the vote was 49.7% in 1955.

At the 1997 general election, there were 165 Conservative MPs elected and the party received 30.7% of the vote. This was its worst performance in terms of share of the vote and seats won since 1918.



Labour

Prior to 1945, Labour had never had a majority in the House of Commons although they had twice formed a minority government (following the 1923 and 1929 general elections). After the 1918 election, a coalition between Conservatives and Liberals meant Labour became the largest opposition party despite having only 59 MPs. The 1929 election was the first time they were the largest party in terms of MPs elected, winning 287 out of 615 seats. However, only 52 Labour MPs were returned in the 1931 general election, following the formation of the National Coalition government.

418 Labour MPs were elected in 1997, the highest number ever. The highest share of the vote received by Labour in a general election was 48.8% in 1951, when the Conservatives won the most seats despite polling fewer votes.

Labour's worst general election performance of the post-war years was in 1983, when it polled 27.6% of the vote and won 209 seats.

Liberals

Labour supplanted the Liberal Party as the main challenger to the Conservatives in the aftermath of the First World War. The Liberal Party had won 399 seats at the 1906 General Election, a majority of 129, and in both elections of 1910 they had been the largest party in terms of seats won. However after the 1929 election, when 59 Liberal MPs were elected, the party ceased to challenge on the same scale as the Conservatives and Labour. The party split in 1931/32, with National Liberals in government under Ramsay MacDonald. Only 117 Liberal candidates contested the 1931 election; 36 were elected.

The Liberals contested the 1983 and 1987 elections in alliance with the Social Democratic Party (SDP), before the two parties merged in 1988. The SDP had been established in January 1981 and by March 1982 it had built up a parliamentary presence of 29 MPs, most of whom had defected from Labour. The Alliance received a quarter of votes cast in the 1983 election, but won only 23 seats.

62 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected in 2005, the highest number for the party and its predecessors since 1923 (when the Liberals won 158 seats). In 2010 the number of Liberal Democrat MPs fell to 57. However neither Labour nor the Conservatives won a majority and the Liberal Democrats formed a coalition government with the Conservatives.

Governments formed following general elections, 1918 to 2010

Date	Party forming government	Prime Minister	Majority¹
14/12/1918 ²	Coalition	David Lloyd George	283
15/11/1922	Conservative	Andrew Bonar Law	74
06/12/1923 ³	Labour	Ramsay MacDonald	None
29/10/1924	Conservative	Stanley Baldwin	210
30/05/1929	Labour	Ramsay MacDonald	None
27/10/1931 ⁴	National	Ramsay MacDonald	492
14/11/1935 ⁵	National	Stanley Baldwin	242
05/07/1945	Labour	Clement Attlee	147
23/02/1950	Labour	Clement Attlee	6
25/10/1951	Conservative	Sir Winston Churchill	16
26/05/1955	Conservative	Sir Anthony Eden	59
08/10/1959	Conservative	Harold Macmillan	99
15/10/1964	Labour	Harold Wilson	5
31/03/1966	Labour	Harold Wilson	97
18/06/1970	Conservative	Edward Heath	31
28/02/1974	Labour	Harold Wilson	None
10/10/1974	Labour	Harold Wilson	4
03/05/1979	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	44
09/06/1983	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	144
11/06/1987	Conservative	Margaret Thatcher	101
09/04/1992	Conservative	John Major	21
01/05/1997	Labour	Tony Blair	178
07/06/2001	Labour	Tony Blair	166
05/05/2005	Labour	Tony Blair	65
06/05/2010 ⁶	Coalition	David Cameron	77

Notes

1. Government majority is calculated as the number of seats held by the governing parties minus the number of seats held by all other parties or independent Members. The Speaker is excluded when calculating the majority but Members who did not take their seats (for example Sinn Féin MPs) are included.

2. The Conservatives and Prime Minister David Lloyd George's wing of the Liberal Party contested the 1918 General Election as a Coalition. More than half of House of Commons seats were won by Conservative candidates, so that the subsequent Coalition government was Conservative dominated.

3. Labour formed a government after the 1923 election but the Conservatives had won the most seats (although not a majority).

4. Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald led a 'National Government' into the 1931 election which consisted of the Conservative and Liberal parties along with a few National Labour Members like MacDonald. Conservatives won over three quarters of seats so that the National Government was Conservative dominated.

5. The Conservatives contested the 1935 election again as part of a National Government. The Prime Minister before and after the election, Stanley Baldwin, was a Conservative. The National Government remained Conservative dominated as over half of House of Commons seats were won by Conservative candidates.

6. The Conservatives were the largest party following the 2010 election but did not have a majority. A coalition government was formed with the Liberal Democrats.

Sources:

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

Peter Joyce, *Politico's Guide to UK General Elections 1832-2001*

Other parties

The **Scottish National Party** (SNP) won its first seat at a general election in 1970, although it had previously won seats at by-elections in 1945 and 1967. In October 1974, it received over 30% of the vote in Scotland, its highest-ever share, and won eleven seats.

Plaid Cymru won its first seats in a general election in February 1974, having previously won a by-election in 1966. Its highest share of the vote in Wales was 14.3% in 2001. The most seats won by Plaid Cymru at a general election is four, in 1992, 1997 and 2001.

Three MPs were elected as independents or for smaller parties in the 2005 general election, (excluding MPs for Northern Ireland seats and SNP and Plaid Cymru Members). This was the highest number since 1945, when 21 MPs in Great Britain were elected as independents or for smaller parties. The **Green Party** won a House of Commons seat for the first time in 2010.

Historically the **Ulster Unionist Party** (UUP) enjoyed the most success at general elections out of parties in Northern Ireland, but since 2001 it has been replaced by the **Democratic Unionist Party** (DUP) as the main unionist party. Having held a majority of seats in 1997 the Ulster Unionists failed to win a seat in 2010. The DUP currently hold eight seats. **Sinn Féin** increased its share of the vote at every general election since 1997 and currently holds five seats. The **Social Democratic and Labour Party** (SDLP) won three seats in each general election since 1997 although its share of the Northern Ireland vote declined from 24.1% in 1997 to 16.5% in 2010.

Northern Ireland was defined following the *Government of Ireland Act 1920* and remained within the UK following the partition of Ireland and the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922.¹ The Ulster Unionists dominated elections to Westminster as well as to the devolved Northern Ireland parliament, and the few seats that did not return Unionist candidates were generally won by the Nationalist Party. The structure of party competition altered in the early 1970s when new parties were created. On the unionist side, there were the Democratic Unionists and the Vanguard Unionists, while the SDLP swiftly emerged as the main nationalist party after its formation in 1970.² The Ulster Unionists took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972. In this paper, Ulster Unionist general election candidates are listed as Conservatives for elections up to 1970 but are listed separately from 1974.

The Speaker of the House of Commons contests general elections as “the Speaker seeking re-election” rather than as a party candidate. It is now widely expected that the main parties will not stand against the Speaker in a general election, although there have previously been several occasions on which the Speaker faced opposition from candidates for the main parties (most recently in 1987). In this paper, the Speaker is listed under ‘Other’ for elections from 1997 onwards. For elections before 1997, the Speaker is listed under the party for which he was formerly a Member.

¹ For more information see House of Commons Library Research Paper 98/57, [HNorthern Ireland: political developments since 1972](#)

² Sydney Elliot, *Voting systems and political parties in Northern Ireland*, in Brigid Hadfield (ed.), *Northern Ireland: Politics and the Constitution*, 1992, pp85-90

Table 1a: General Election Results, 1918-2010: United Kingdom¹

	Votes (millions)						Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918 ⁴	4.14	2.25	2.79	..	1.61	10.79	38.4%	20.8%	25.8%	..	14.9%	100.0%
1922	5.50	4.24	4.14	..	0.51	14.39	38.2%	29.4%	28.8%	..	3.6%	100.0%
1923	5.51	4.44	4.30	..	0.29	14.55	37.9%	30.5%	29.6%	..	2.0%	100.0%
1924	7.85	5.49	2.93	..	0.37	16.64	47.2%	33.0%	17.6%	..	2.2%	100.0%
1929	8.66	8.37	5.31	0	0.31	22.65	38.2%	37.0%	23.4%	0.0%	1.4%	100.0%
1931	13.16	6.65	1.48	0.02	0.35	21.66	60.8%	30.7%	6.8%	0.1%	1.6%	100.0%
1935	11.76	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.43	22.00	53.5%	37.9%	6.6%	0.1%	2.0%	100.0%
1945	9.97	11.97	2.25	0.05	0.86	25.10	39.7%	47.7%	9.0%	0.2%	3.4%	100.0%
1950	12.47	13.27	2.62	0.03	0.39	28.77	43.3%	46.1%	9.1%	0.1%	1.4%	100.0%
1951	13.72	13.95	0.73	0.02	0.18	28.60	48.0%	48.8%	2.6%	0.1%	0.6%	100.0%
1955	13.29	12.41	0.72	0.06	0.29	26.76	49.6%	46.4%	2.7%	0.2%	1.1%	100.0%
1959	13.75	12.22	1.64	0.10	0.16	27.86	49.4%	43.8%	5.9%	0.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1964	11.98	12.21	3.10	0.13	0.24	27.66	43.3%	44.1%	11.2%	0.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1966	11.42	13.07	2.33	0.19	0.26	27.26	41.9%	47.9%	8.5%	0.7%	1.0%	100.0%
1970	13.15	12.18	2.12	0.48	0.42	28.34	46.4%	43.0%	7.5%	1.7%	1.5%	100.0%
1974 Feb	11.83	11.65	6.06	0.80	1.00	31.34	37.8%	37.2%	19.3%	2.6%	3.2%	100.0%
1974 Oct	10.43	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.95	29.19	35.7%	39.3%	18.3%	3.4%	3.3%	100.0%
1979	13.70	11.51	4.31	0.64	1.07	31.22	43.9%	36.9%	13.8%	2.0%	3.4%	100.0%
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.96	30.67	42.4%	27.6%	25.4%	1.5%	3.1%	100.0%
1987	13.74	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.88	32.53	42.2%	30.8%	22.6%	1.7%	2.7%	100.0%
1992	14.09	11.56	6.00	0.78	1.18	33.61	41.9%	34.4%	17.8%	2.3%	3.5%	100.0%
1997	9.60	13.52	5.24	0.78	2.14	31.29	30.7%	43.2%	16.8%	2.5%	6.8%	100.0%
2001	8.34	10.72	4.81	0.46	2.03	26.37	31.6%	40.7%	18.3%	1.8%	7.7%	100.0%
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	2.24	27.15	32.4%	35.2%	22.0%	2.2%	8.2%	100.0%
2010	10.70	8.61	6.84	0.66	2.88	29.69	36.1%	29.0%	23.0%	2.2%	9.7%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918 ⁴	445	361	421	..	396	1,623	382	57	163	..	105	707
1922	482	414	485	..	60	1,441	344	142	115	..	14	615
1923	536	427	457	..	26	1,446	258	191	158	..	8	615
1924	534	514	339	..	41	1,428	412	151	40	..	12	615
1929	590	569	513	3	55	1,730	260	287	59	0	9	615
1931	583	516	117	7	69	1,292	522	52	36	0	5	615
1935	515	552	161	9	111	1,348	429	154	21	0	11	615
1945	618	603	306	15	141	1,683	210	393	12	0	25	640
1950	618	617	475	10	148	1,868	297	315	9	0	4	625
1951	617	590	104	9	56	1,376	321	295	6	0	3	625
1955	623	620	110	13	43	1,409	344	277	6	0	3	630
1959	625	621	216	25	49	1,536	365	258	6	0	1	630
1964	629	628	365	28	97	1,747	303	317	9	0	1	630
1966	629	621	311	43	103	1,707	253	363	12	0	2	630
1970	629	624	332	101	151	1,837	330	287	6	1	6	630
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	266	2,135	297	301	14	9	14	635
1974 Oct	621	623	619	107	282	2,252	276	319	13	14	13	635
1979	622	622	577	107	648	2,576	339	268	11	4	13	635
1983	633	633	633	110	569	2,578	397	209	23	4	17	650
1987	632	633	633	109	318	2,325	375	229	22	6	18	650
1992	645	634	632	107	931	2,949	336	271	20	7	17	651
1997	648	639	639	112	1,686	3,724	165	418	46	10	20	659
2001	643	640	639	112	1,285	3,319	166	412	52	9	20	659
2005	630	627	626	99	1,572	3,554	198	355	62	9	22	646
2010	631	631	631	99	2,158	4,150	306	258	57	9	20	650

Notes

- For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.
- Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.
- Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1992 onwards.
- 1918 figures include all of Ireland.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

Table 1b: General Election Results, 1918-2010: Great Britain¹

	Votes (millions)						Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918	3.85	2.25	2.79	..	0.86	9.75	39.5%	23.0%	28.6%	..	8.8%	100.0%
1922	5.39	4.24	4.14	..	0.41	14.18	38.0%	29.9%	29.2%	..	2.9%	100.0%
1923	5.40	4.44	4.30	..	0.17	14.31	37.7%	31.0%	30.1%	..	1.2%	100.0%
1924	7.40	5.49	2.93	..	0.30	16.12	45.9%	34.0%	18.2%	..	1.9%	100.0%
1929	8.30	8.37	5.21	0.00	0.25	22.14	37.5%	37.8%	23.5%	0.0%	1.1%	100.0%
1931	13.01	6.64	1.48	0.02	0.23	21.37	60.9%	31.1%	6.9%	0.1%	1.1%	100.0%
1935	11.76	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.44	22.00	53.4%	37.8%	6.6%	0.1%	2.0%	100.0%
1945	9.58	11.90	2.25	0.05	0.59	24.38	39.3%	48.8%	9.2%	0.2%	2.4%	100.0%
1950	12.12	13.20	2.62	0.03	0.25	28.21	42.9%	46.8%	9.3%	0.1%	0.9%	100.0%
1951	13.44	13.89	0.73	0.02	0.05	28.13	47.8%	49.4%	2.6%	0.1%	0.2%	100.0%
1955	12.84	12.37	0.72	0.06	0.12	26.11	49.2%	47.4%	2.8%	0.2%	0.5%	100.0%
1959	13.31	12.17	1.64	0.10	0.07	27.29	48.8%	44.6%	6.0%	0.4%	0.3%	100.0%
1964	11.58	12.10	3.08	0.13	0.12	27.02	42.9%	44.8%	11.4%	0.5%	0.4%	100.0%
1966	11.05	12.99	2.30	0.19	0.14	26.67	41.4%	48.7%	8.6%	0.7%	0.5%	100.0%
1970	12.72	12.08	2.11	0.48	0.17	27.57	46.2%	43.8%	7.6%	1.7%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Feb	11.83	11.65	6.06	0.80	0.28	30.62	38.6%	38.0%	19.8%	2.6%	0.9%	100.0%
1974 Oct	10.43	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.25	28.49	36.6%	40.2%	18.8%	3.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1979	13.70	11.51	4.31	0.64	0.37	30.53	44.9%	37.7%	14.1%	2.1%	1.2%	100.0%
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.20	29.91	43.5%	28.3%	26.0%	1.5%	0.7%	100.0%
1987	13.74	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.15	31.80	43.2%	31.5%	23.1%	1.7%	0.5%	100.0%
1992	14.05	11.56	6.00	0.78	0.44	32.83	42.8%	35.2%	18.3%	2.4%	1.3%	100.0%
1997	9.59	13.52	5.24	0.78	1.36	30.50	31.5%	44.3%	17.2%	2.6%	4.5%	100.0%
2001	8.34	10.72	4.81	0.66	1.02	25.56	32.6%	42.0%	18.8%	2.6%	4.0%	100.0%
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	1.52	26.43	33.2%	36.1%	22.6%	2.2%	5.8%	100.0%
2010	10.70	8.61	6.84	0.66	2.21	29.01	36.9%	29.7%	23.6%	2.3%	7.6%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918	409	361	421	..	228	1,419	359	57	163	..	27	606
1922	470	414	485	..	57	1,426	334	142	115	..	12	603
1923	524	427	457	..	22	1,430	248	191	158	..	6	603
1924	522	514	339	..	31	1,406	400	40	151	..	12	603
1929	580	569	507	3	49	1,708	250	287	59	0	7	603
1931	571	515	117	7	66	1,276	512	52	36	0	3	603
1935	571	552	161	9	38	1,331	419	154	21	0	9	603
1945	606	598	306	15	134	1,659	202	393	12	0	21	628
1950	606	612	475	10	142	1,845	287	315	9	0	2	613
1951	608	586	104	9	49	1,356	312	295	6	0	0	613
1955	611	617	110	13	30	1,381	334	277	6	0	1	618
1959	613	618	215	25	36	1,507	353	258	6	0	1	618
1964	617	618	361	28	94	1,718	291	317	9	0	1	618
1966	617	617	308	43	95	1,680	242	363	12	0	1	618
1970	617	617	328	101	134	1,797	322	287	6	1	2	618
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	218	2,087	297	301	14	9	2	623
1974 Oct	621	623	619	107	239	2,209	276	319	13	14	1	623
1979	622	622	577	107	584	2,512	339	268	11	4	1	623
1983	633	633	633	110	474	2,483	397	209	23	4	0	633
1987	632	633	633	109	241	2,248	375	229	22	6	1	633
1992	634	634	632	107	842	2,849	336	271	20	7	0	634
1997	640	639	639	112	1,569	3,599	165	418	46	10	2	641
2001	640	640	639	112	1,188	3,219	166	412	52	9	2	641
2005	627	627	626	99	1,470	3,449	198	355	62	9	4	628
2010	631	631	631	99	2,050	4,042	306	258	57	9	2	632

Notes

1. For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.

2. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.

3. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1992 onwards.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

Table 1c: General Election Results, 1918-2010: England¹

	Votes (millions)					Share of vote (%)				
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	Other	Total
1918	3.41	1.81	2.14	0.69	8.05	42.4%	22.5%	26.5%	8.6%	100.0%
1922	4.81	3.37	3.21	0.31	11.70	41.1%	28.8%	27.5%	2.6%	100.0%
1923	4.73	3.55	3.57	0.07	11.93	39.7%	29.8%	30.0%	0.6%	100.0%
1924	6.46	4.47	2.39	0.25	13.56	47.6%	32.9%	17.6%	1.8%	100.0%
1929	7.18	6.85	4.34	0.13	18.50	38.8%	37.0%	23.5%	0.7%	100.0%
1931	11.48	5.46	1.01	0.13	18.08	63.5%	30.2%	5.6%	0.7%	100.0%
1935	9.99	7.05	1.11	0.12	18.27	54.7%	38.6%	6.1%	0.7%	100.0%
1945	8.27	9.97	1.91	0.38	20.54	40.3%	48.6%	9.3%	1.9%	100.0%
1950	11.62	11.63	0.54	0.04	23.83	48.8%	48.8%	2.3%	0.1%	100.0%
1951	10.47	11.05	2.25	0.18	23.95	43.7%	46.1%	9.4%	0.8%	100.0%
1955	11.14	10.36	0.57	0.07	22.14	50.3%	46.8%	2.6%	0.3%	100.0%
1959	11.56	10.09	1.45	0.03	23.13	50.0%	43.6%	6.3%	0.1%	100.0%
1964	10.08	9.98	2.78	0.09	22.94	44.0%	43.5%	12.1%	0.4%	100.0%
1966	9.69	10.86	2.04	0.11	22.69	42.7%	47.8%	9.0%	0.5%	100.0%
1970	11.28	10.10	1.85	0.12	23.36	48.3%	43.2%	7.9%	0.5%	100.0%
1974 Feb	10.47	9.84	5.57	0.25	26.14	40.1%	37.7%	21.3%	1.0%	100.0%
1974 Oct	9.38	9.70	4.88	0.24	24.19	38.8%	40.1%	20.2%	1.0%	100.0%
1979	12.26	9.53	3.88	0.31	25.97	47.2%	36.7%	14.9%	1.2%	100.0%
1983	11.71	6.86	6.71	0.18	25.47	46.0%	26.9%	26.4%	0.7%	100.0%
1987	12.52	8.01	6.47	0.14	27.13	46.1%	29.5%	23.8%	0.5%	100.0%
1992	12.80	9.55	5.40	0.40	28.15	45.5%	33.9%	19.2%	1.4%	100.0%
1997	8.78	11.35	4.68	1.25	26.06	33.7%	43.5%	18.0%	4.8%	100.0%
2001	7.71	9.06	4.25	0.86	21.87	35.2%	41.4%	19.4%	3.9%	100.0%
2005	8.11	8.05	5.20	1.34	22.70	35.7%	35.5%	22.9%	5.9%	100.0%
2010	9.91	7.04	6.08	2.06	25.08	39.5%	28.1%	24.2%	8.2%	100.0%

	Candidates					Seats won				
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	Other	Total
1918	352	291	327	181	1,151	315	42	107	21	485
1922	406	340	368	42	1,156	307	95	75	8	485
1923	444	350	362	285	1,441	221	138	123	3	485
1924	440	414	280	25	1,159	347	109	19	10	485
1929	469	467	422	30	1,388	221	226	35	3	485
1931	476	428	87	41	1,032	436	29	19	1	485
1935	473	452	132	21	1,078	357	116	11	1	485
1945	507	494	265	97	1,363	167	331	5	7	510
1950	502	506	91	13	1,112	271	233	2	0	506
1951	503	505	413	107	1,528	252	251	2	1	506
1955	508	510	95	21	1,134	292	216	2	1	511
1959	509	511	191	23	1,234	315	193	3	0	511
1964	510	511	323	65	1,409	261	246	3	1	511
1966	510	510	273	70	1,363	219	285	6	1	511
1970	510	510	282	101	1,403	292	216	2	1	511
1974 Feb	516	516	452	190	1,674	268	237	9	2	516
1974 Oct	514	516	515	221	1,766	252	255	8	1	516
1979	516	516	506	536	2,074	306	203	7	0	516
1983	523	523	523	431	2,000	362	148	13	0	523
1987	522	523	523	214	1,782	357	155	10	1	523
1992	524	524	522	758	2,328	319	195	10	0	524
1997	528	527	527	1,363	2,945	165	328	34	2	529
2001	529	529	528	1,002	2,588	165	323	40	1	529
2005	529	529	528	1,231	2,817	194	286	47	2	529
2010	532	532	532	1,829	3,425	297	191	43	2	533

Notes

- For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.
- Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.
- Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1992 onwards.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

Table 1d: General Election Results, 1918-2010: Wales¹

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC	Other	Total
1918	59.6	163.1	258.8	..	47.6	529.0	11.3%	30.8%	48.9%	..	9.0%	100.0%
1922	190.9	363.6	306.0	..	32.3	892.7	21.4%	40.7%	34.3%	..	3.6%	100.0%
1923	178.1	355.2	299.3	..	12.5	845.1	21.1%	42.0%	35.4%	..	1.5%	100.0%
1924	224.0	320.4	244.8	..	0.0	789.2	28.4%	40.6%	31.0%	..	0.0%	100.0%
1929	289.7	577.6	440.9	0.6	8.1	1316.9	22.0%	43.9%	33.5%	0.0%	0.6%	100.0%
1931	340.7	479.5	229.0	1.1	38.2	1088.5	31.3%	44.1%	21.0%	0.1%	3.5%	100.0%
1935	292.5	395.8	157.1	2.5	23.3	871.3	33.6%	45.4%	18.0%	0.3%	2.7%	100.0%
1945	316.7	779.2	198.6	14.3	21.9	1,330.7	23.8%	58.6%	14.9%	1.1%	1.6%	100.0%
1950	418.7	888.0	193.1	17.6	11.2	1,528.6	27.4%	58.1%	12.6%	1.2%	0.7%	100.0%
1951	471.3	925.8	116.8	10.9	4.6	1,529.4	30.8%	60.5%	7.6%	0.7%	0.3%	100.0%
1955	428.9	825.7	104.1	45.1	30.0	1,433.7	29.9%	57.6%	7.3%	3.1%	2.1%	100.0%
1959	486.3	841.5	79.0	77.6	7.0	1,491.3	32.6%	56.4%	5.3%	5.2%	0.5%	100.0%
1964	425.0	837.0	106.1	69.5	9.4	1,447.0	29.4%	57.8%	7.3%	4.8%	0.6%	100.0%
1966	396.8	863.7	89.1	61.1	12.8	1,423.4	27.9%	60.7%	6.3%	4.3%	0.9%	100.0%
1970	419.9	781.9	103.7	175.0	36.0	1,516.6	27.7%	51.6%	6.8%	11.5%	2.4%	100.0%
1974 Feb	412.5	745.5	255.4	171.4	9.0	1,593.8	25.9%	46.8%	16.0%	10.8%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Oct	367.2	761.4	239.1	166.3	3.8	1,537.8	23.9%	49.5%	15.5%	10.8%	0.2%	100.0%
1979	526.3	768.5	173.5	132.5	35.8	1,636.6	32.2%	47.0%	10.6%	8.1%	2.2%	100.0%
1983	499.3	603.9	373.4	125.3	7.2	1,609.0	31.0%	37.5%	23.2%	7.8%	0.4%	100.0%
1987	501.3	765.2	304.2	123.6	3.7	1,698.1	29.5%	45.1%	17.9%	7.3%	0.2%	100.0%
1992	499.7	865.7	217.5	154.9	11.0	1,748.8	28.6%	49.5%	12.4%	8.9%	0.6%	100.0%
1997	317.1	886.9	200.0	161.0	54.9	1,620.1	19.6%	54.7%	12.3%	9.9%	3.4%	100.0%
2001	268.7	667.0	189.4	195.9	51.6	1,372.5	19.6%	48.6%	13.8%	14.3%	3.8%	100.0%
2005	297.8	594.8	256.2	174.8	69.0	1,392.7	21.4%	42.7%	18.4%	12.6%	5.0%	100.0%
2010	382.7	531.6	295.2	165.4	91.8	1,466.7	26.1%	36.2%	20.1%	11.3%	6.3%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	PC	Other	Total
1918	8	25	29	..	9	71	4	9	20	..	2	35
1922	19	28	30	..	3	80	6	18	10	..	1	35
1923	19	27	31	..	1	78	4	19	11	..	1	35
1924	17	33	21	..	0	71	9	16	10	..	0	35
1929	35	33	34	1	3	106	1	25	9	0	0	35
1931	20	30	14	1	7	72	11	16	8	0	0	35
1935	20	12	33	1	2	68	11	18	6	0	0	35
1945	27	34	17	7	2	87	4	25	6	0	0	35
1950	35	36	21	7	6	105	4	27	5	0	0	36
1951	36	9	4	4	31	84	6	27	3	0	0	36
1955	32	36	10	11	2	91	6	27	3	0	0	36
1959	34	36	8	20	3	101	7	27	2	0	0	36
1964	36	36	12	23	5	112	6	28	2	0	0	36
1966	36	36	11	20	8	111	3	32	1	0	0	36
1970	36	36	19	36	11	138	7	27	1	0	1	36
1974 Feb	36	36	31	36	9	148	8	24	2	2	0	36
1974 Oct	36	36	36	36	6	150	8	23	2	3	0	36
1979	35	35	28	36	20	154	11	21	1	2	1	36
1983	38	38	38	38	17	169	14	20	2	2	0	38
1987	38	38	38	38	6	158	8	24	3	3	0	38
1992	38	38	38	35	31	180	6	27	1	4	0	38
1997	40	40	40	40	63	223	0	34	2	4	0	40
2001	40	40	40	40	64	224	0	34	2	4	0	40
2005	40	40	40	40	90	250	3	29	4	3	1	40
2010	40	40	40	40	108	268	8	26	3	3	0	40

Notes

1. For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.

2. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.

3. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1992 onwards.

Sources

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House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

Table 1e: General Election Results, 1918-2010: Scotland¹

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	SNP	Other	Total
1918	358.5	265.7	385.1	..	117.4	1126.7	31.8%	23.6%	34.2%	..	10.4%	100.0%
1922	379.4	501.3	617.2	..	71.5	1569.4	24.2%	31.9%	39.3%	..	4.6%	100.0%
1923	468.3	532.5	423.0	..	77.6	1501.3	31.2%	35.5%	28.2%	..	5.2%	100.0%
1924	688.3	697.1	286.5	..	45.1	1717.1	40.1%	40.6%	16.7%	..	2.6%	100.0%
1929	792.1	937.3	407.1	3.3	103.2	2242.9	35.3%	41.8%	18.1%	0.1%	4.6%	100.0%
1931	1180.0	696.2	205.4	21.0	71.7	2174.3	54.3%	32.0%	9.4%	1.0%	3.3%	100.0%
1935	1135.4	863.8	174.2	25.7	124.7	2323.8	48.9%	37.2%	7.5%	1.1%	5.4%	100.0%
1945	964.1	1,144.3	132.8	30.6	118.0	2,389.9	40.3%	47.9%	5.6%	1.3%	4.9%	100.0%
1950	1,222.0	1,259.4	180.3	9.7	55.3	2,726.7	44.8%	46.2%	6.6%	0.4%	2.0%	100.0%
1951	1,349.3	1,330.2	76.3	7.3	14.7	2,777.8	48.6%	47.9%	2.7%	0.3%	0.5%	100.0%
1955	1,273.9	1,188.1	47.3	12.1	21.9	2,543.3	50.1%	46.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1959	1,260.3	1,245.3	109.0	21.7	31.3	2,667.5	47.2%	46.7%	4.1%	0.8%	1.2%	100.0%
1964	1,069.7	1,283.7	200.1	64.0	17.1	2,634.5	40.6%	48.7%	7.6%	2.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1966	960.7	1,273.9	172.4	128.5	16.9	2,552.4	37.6%	49.9%	6.8%	5.0%	0.7%	100.0%
1970	1,020.7	1,197.1	147.7	306.8	16.0	2,688.2	38.0%	44.5%	5.5%	11.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Feb	950.7	1,057.6	229.2	633.2	16.5	2,887.1	32.9%	36.6%	7.9%	21.9%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Oct	681.3	1,000.6	228.9	839.6	7.7	2,758.1	24.7%	36.3%	8.3%	30.4%	0.3%	100.0%
1979	916.2	1,211.4	262.2	504.3	22.6	2,916.6	31.4%	41.5%	9.0%	17.3%	0.8%	100.0%
1983	801.5	990.7	692.6	332.0	7.8	2,824.6	28.4%	35.1%	24.5%	11.8%	0.3%	100.0%
1987	713.1	1,258.1	570.1	416.5	10.1	2,967.8	24.0%	42.4%	19.2%	14.0%	0.3%	100.0%
1992	752.0	1,142.9	383.9	629.6	23.4	2,931.7	25.6%	39.0%	13.1%	21.5%	0.8%	100.0%
1997	493.1	1,283.4	365.4	621.6	53.4	2,816.7	17.5%	45.6%	13.0%	22.1%	1.9%	100.0%
2001	360.7	1,001.2	378.0	464.3	109.5	2,313.7	15.6%	43.3%	16.3%	20.1%	4.7%	100.0%
2005	369.4	907.2	528.1	412.3	116.9	2,333.9	15.8%	38.9%	22.6%	17.7%	5.0%	100.0%
2010	412.9	1,035.5	465.5	491.4	60.5	2,465.8	16.7%	42.0%	18.9%	19.9%	2.5%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	SNP	Other	Total	CON ²	LAB	LIB ³	SNP	Other	Total
1918	37	39	61	..	28	165	30	6	33	..	2	71
1922	36	43	81	..	8	168	13	29	27	..	2	71
1923	52	48	59	..	8	167	14	34	22	..	1	71
1924	56	63	34	..	3	156	36	26	8	..	1	71
1929	65	66	45	2	14	192	20	36	13	0	2	71
1931	65	57	14	5	14	155	57	7	7	0	0	71
1935	69	63	16	7	12	167	43	20	3	0	5	71
1945	68	68	22	8	18	184	27	37	0	0	7	71
1950	68	71	41	3	29	212	31	37	2	0	1	71
1951	70	71	9	2	8	160	35	35	1	0	0	71
1955	71	71	5	2	7	156	36	34	1	0	0	71
1959	70	71	16	5	10	172	31	38	1	0	1	71
1964	71	71	26	15	14	197	24	43	4	0	0	71
1966	71	71	24	23	17	206	20	46	5	0	0	71
1970	71	71	27	65	22	256	23	44	3	1	0	71
1974 Feb	71	71	34	70	19	265	21	40	3	7	0	71
1974 Oct	71	71	68	71	12	293	16	41	3	11	0	71
1979	71	71	43	71	28	284	22	44	3	2	0	71
1983	72	72	72	72	26	314	21	41	8	2	0	72
1987	72	72	72	71	21	308	10	50	9	3	0	72
1992	72	72	72	72	53	341	11	49	9	3	0	72
1997	72	72	72	72	143	431	0	56	10	6	0	72
2001	71	71	71	72	122	407	1	55	10	5	1	72
2005	58	58	58	59	149	382	1	40	11	6	1	59
2010	59	59	59	59	113	349	1	41	11	6	0	59

Notes

1. For elections up to 1992, the Speaker of the House of Commons is listed under the party he represented before his appointment. From 1997 the Speaker is listed under 'Other'.

2. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour candidates for 1931-1935; National and National Liberal candidates for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative candidates 1945-1970.

3. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; and Independent Liberal for 1931. Figures show Liberal/SDP Alliance vote for 1983-1987 and Liberal Democrat vote from 1992 onwards.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

Table 1f: General Election Results, 1918-2010: Northern Ireland¹

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	CON	NAT ²	LAB	LIB	Other	Total	CON	NAT ²	LAB	LIB	Other	Total
1918 ³	289.2	228.9	..	..	521.1	1039.2	27.8%	22.0%	..	..	50.1%	100.0%
1922	108.0	90.1	..	..	9.9	207.9	51.9%	43.3%	..	..	4.7%	100.0%
1923	117.2	87.7	..	..	37.4	242.3	48.4%	36.2%	..	..	15.4%	100.0%
1924	451.3	..	..	..	68.1	519.4	86.9%	..	..	..	13.1%	100.0%
1929	354.7	24.2	..	100.1	31.1	510.1	69.5%	4.7%	..	19.6%	6.1%	100.0%
1931	149.6	123.1	9.4	..	..	282.0	53.0%	43.6%	3.3%	..	..	100.0%
1935	292.8	101.5	..	..	56.8	451.2	64.9%	22.5%	..	..	12.6%	100.0%
1945	392.5	148.1	65.5	..	113.8	719.8	54.5%	20.6%	9.1%	..	15.8%	100.0%
1950	352.3	65.2	67.8	..	76.1	561.4	62.8%	11.6%	12.1%	..	13.6%	100.0%
1951	274.9	92.8	62.3	..	33.2	463.2	59.4%	20.0%	13.5%	..	7.2%	100.0%
1955	442.6	..	35.6	..	168.4	646.6	68.5%	..	5.5%	..	26.0%	100.0%
1959	445.0	..	44.4	3.3	83.5	576.1	77.2%	..	7.7%	0.6%	14.5%	100.0%
1964	401.9	..	102.8	17.4	116.3	638.3	63.0%	..	16.1%	2.7%	18.2%	100.0%
1966	368.6	22.2	72.6	29.1	103.7	596.2	61.8%	3.7%	12.2%	4.9%	17.4%	100.0%
1970	422.0	..	98.2	12.0	246.9	779.1	54.2%	..	12.6%	1.5%	31.7%	100.0%
	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total
1974 Feb	326.4	160.4	58.7	..	172.1	717.6	45.5%	22.4%	8.2%	..	24.0%	100.0%
1974 Oct	256.1	154.2	59.5	..	232.4	702.1	36.5%	22.0%	8.5%	..	33.1%	100.0%
1979	254.6	126.3	71.0	..	244.0	695.9	36.6%	18.2%	10.2%	..	35.1%	100.0%
1983	260.0	137.0	152.7	102.7	112.5	764.9	34.0%	17.9%	20.0%	13.4%	14.7%	100.0%
1987	276.2	154.1	85.6	83.4	130.8	730.1	37.8%	21.1%	11.7%	11.4%	17.9%	100.0%
1992	271.0	154.4	103.0	78.3	178.3	785.1	34.5%	19.7%	13.1%	10.0%	22.7%	100.0%
1997	258.3	190.8	107.3	126.9	107.3	790.8	32.7%	24.1%	13.6%	16.1%	13.6%	100.0%
2001	216.8	169.9	182.0	175.9	65.7	810.4	26.8%	21.0%	22.5%	21.7%	8.1%	100.0%
2005	127.4	125.6	241.9	174.5	48.2	717.6	17.8%	17.5%	33.7%	24.3%	6.7%	100.0%
2010	102.4	111.0	168.2	171.9	120.4	673.9	15.2%	16.5%	25.0%	25.5%	17.9%	100.0%
	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total
1918 ³	36	56	..	..	112	204	23	6	..	..	72	101
1922	12	2	..	..	1	15	10	2	..	..	0	12
1923	12	2	..	..	2	16	10	2	..	..	0	12
1924	12	..	..	..	10	22	12	..	..	..	0	12
1929	10	3	..	6	3	22	10	2	..	0	0	12
1931	12	3	1	..	..	16	10	2	0	..	..	12
1935	12	2	..	..	3	17	10	2	..	..	0	12
1945	11	3	6	..	4	24	8	2	0	..	2	12
1950	12	2	5	..	4	23	10	2	0	..	0	12
1951	12	3	4	..	1	20	9	2	0	..	1	12
1955	12	..	3	..	13	28	10	..	0	..	2	12
1959	12	..	3	1	13	29	12	..	0	0	0	12
1964	12	..	10	4	13	39	12	..	0	0	0	12
1966	12	1	4	3	7	27	11	0	0	0	1	12
1970	12	..	8	3	17	40	8	..	0	0	4	12
	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total	UUP	SDLP	DUP	SF	Other	Total
1974 Feb	14	12	2	..	20	48	7	1	1	..	3	12
1974 Oct	7	9	2	..	25	43	6	1	1	..	4	12
1979	11	9	5	..	39	64	5	1	3	..	3	12
1983	16	17	14	14	34	95	11	1	3	1	1	17
1987	12	13	4	14	34	77	9	3	3	1	1	17
1992	13	13	7	14	53	100	9	4	3	0	1	17
1997	16	18	9	17	65	125	10	3	2	2	1	18
2001	17	18	14	18	33	100	6	3	5	4	0	18
2005	18	18	18	18	33	105	1	3	9	5	0	18
2010	17	18	16	17	40	108	0	3	8	5	2	18

Notes

1. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in the table from 1974 onwards. Ulster Unionists took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972 and are listed as Conservatives for general elections up to 1970; from 1974 they are listed as UUP.

2. Irish Nationalist/Anti-Partitionist

3. 1918 figures include all of Ireland. After the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922 Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library, RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

2.2 Turnout and electorate

Between 1922 and 1997, turnout at UK general elections remained above 71%, rising to more than 80% in the general elections of 1950 and 1951. Turnout was only 57% in the 1918 general election, although this was partly due to a low service vote and a large number of uncontested seats (107 out of a total of 707 seats).

In 2001, turnout fell to 59.4%, its lowest level since 1918 and down 12% points compared to 1997. Although turnout rose again in 2005 and 2010, it was still well below its 1997 level.

Table 2: Turnout at UK General Elections, 1918-2010

Valid votes as % of electorate

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
1918 ¹	55.7%	65.9%	55.1%	69.5%	57.2%
1922	72.8%	79.4%	70.4%	77.2%	73.0%
1923	71.1%	77.3%	67.9%	76.5%	71.1%
1924	77.4%	80.0%	75.1%	66.7%	77.0%
1929	76.6%	82.4%	73.5%	63.8%	76.3%
1931	76.1%	79.3%	77.4%	74.5%	76.4%
1935	70.7%	76.4%	72.6%	72.0%	71.1%
1945	73.4%	75.7%	69.0%	67.4%	72.8%
1950	84.4%	84.8%	80.9%	77.4%	83.9%
1951	82.7%	84.4%	81.2%	79.9%	82.6%
1955	76.9%	79.6%	75.1%	74.1%	76.8%
1959	78.9%	82.6%	78.1%	65.9%	78.7%
1964	77.0%	80.1%	77.6%	71.7%	77.1%
1966	75.9%	79.0%	76.0%	66.1%	75.8%
1970	71.4%	77.4%	74.1%	76.6%	72.0%
Feb 1974	79.0%	80.0%	79.0%	69.9%	78.8%
Oct 1974	72.6%	76.6%	74.8%	67.7%	72.8%
1979	75.9%	79.4%	76.8%	67.7%	76.0%
1983	72.5%	76.1%	72.7%	72.9%	72.7%
1987	75.4%	78.9%	75.1%	67.0%	75.3%
1992	78.0%	79.7%	75.5%	69.8%	77.7%
1997	71.4%	73.5%	71.3%	67.1%	71.4%
2001	59.2%	61.6%	58.2%	68.0%	59.4%
2005	61.3%	62.6%	60.8%	62.9%	61.4%
2010	65.5%	64.8%	63.8%	57.6%	65.1%

1. 1918 figures include all of Ireland.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
House of Commons Library Research Paper RP10/36, *General Election 2010*

The franchise for voting in parliamentary elections has expanded since the start of the twentieth century. Prior to 1918, only male householders aged over 21 who paid rates had the vote. The *Representation of the People Act 1918* extended the franchise to women aged 30 and over and removed the property requirement. Women aged 21 and over were given the vote in 1928. The voting age for both men and women was lowered to 18 in 1969.

The 1918 Act permitted an extra vote to people who occupied business premises worth more than £10 per year and to their spouse, provided the premises were in a different constituency to their residence. This extra business vote was abolished in 1949.³

³ Women who occupied business premises in their own right had an extra vote if the property was worth more than £5 a year. From 1928, their husbands were also granted an extra vote. For more information see Robert Blackburn, *The Electoral System in Britain*, 1995, pp66-75

2.3 Spoilt ballots

Statistics relating to spoilt ballots (votes cast but which cannot be included in the count of votes) have been routinely collected for general elections since 1964. The number of spoilt ballots was highest in 1979, when the general election coincided with local elections and voters received two ballot papers. There have also been relatively large numbers of spoilt ballots in general elections since 1997, which have all coincided with local elections.

Table 3: Spoilt Ballot Papers in UK General Elections, 1964-2010

	Number of ballots rejected at the count				Total	Average number per constituency	% of all ballots
	Want of Official Mark	Voting for more than one candidate	Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	Unmarked or void for uncertainty			
1964	2,826	15,486	6,787	15,974	41,073	65	0.15%
1966	2,061	11,519	8,525	27,794	49,899	79	0.18%
1970	2,118	14,144	7,541	17,544	41,347	66	0.15%
1974 Feb	3,176	12,214	7,320	19,542	42,252	67	0.13%
1974 Oct	2,938	13,492	6,009	15,267	37,706	59	0.13%
1979	3,282	72,515	5,801	36,250	117,848	186	0.38%
1983	2,819	27,938	4,693	15,654	51,104	79	0.17%
1987	2,408	14,216	4,976	15,345	36,945	57	0.11%
1992	2,593	14,538	5,008	17,587	39,726	61	0.12%
1997	2,169	25,234	4,421	61,415	93,408	142	0.30%
2001	2,548	22,590	3,760	69,910	100,005	152	0.38%
2005	2,971	20,595	4,439	54,377	85,038	132	0.31%
2010	640	21,996	2,522	50,964	81,879	117	0.28%

Note: Rows may not sum to the total. For some constituencies in some years the number of spoilt ballots by reason is not available. The total column also includes spoilt ballots classified as 'rejected in part'.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
Electoral Commission

2.4 Postal votes

Figures on postal voting have been compiled since the 1945 General Election, when temporary provision was made for postal voting by service voters. The *Representation of the People Act 1948* granted postal voting facilities to both service personnel and certain groups of civilians.

From February 2001 it was possible to get a postal vote on demand; electors no longer had to state a reason for applying for an absent vote or to obtain attestation of illness (etc.) from a medical practitioner or employer. As a result, the number of postal votes at general elections rose from 800,000 before the change to about 5,800,000 in 2010.

Table 4: Postal Ballot Papers in UK Elections, 1945-2010

	Number of postal ballot papers issued	Covering envelopes returned before close of poll	Number of postal votes included in count	% of all postal ballot papers issued	Postal votes as % of total valid votes
1945	1,219,519	1,032,688	1,018,329	83.5%	3.9%
1950	507,717	478,038	466,347	91.9%	1.6%
1951	831,877	756,967	742,574	89.3%	2.5%
1955	595,000	526,904	515,593	86.7%	1.9%
1959	692,827	612,231	598,559	86.4%	2.1%
1964	818,901	723,927	707,636	86.4%	2.5%
1966	617,481	528,006	513,041	83.1%	1.8%
1970	731,249	639,674	625,355	85.5%	2.2%
1974 Feb	743,441	645,080	628,907	84.6%	2.0%
1974 Oct	1,075,131	875,324	850,105	79.1%	2.8%
1979	847,335	714,892	691,969	81.7%	2.2%
1983	757,604	643,634	623,554	82.3%	2.0%
1987	947,948	818,349	793,062	83.7%	2.4%
1992	835,074	714,895	692,139	82.9%	2.0%
1997	937,205	764,366	738,614	78.8%	2.3%
2001	1,758,055	1,402,073	1,370,884	78.0%	4.9%
2005	5,362,501	4,110,039	3,963,792	73.9%	12.7%
2010	6,996,006	5,818,853	5,596,865	80.0%	18.8%

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
Electoral Commission

2.5 Characteristics of Members of Parliament

Gender

143 female MPs were elected at the 2010 General Election (22% of all MPs), more than at any previous election. Two more female MPs have since been elected at by-elections.

Women were first able to stand for Parliament in 1918 from the age of 21 years.⁴ Countess Constance de Markievicz became the first female MP following that year's general election, but along with other Sinn Féin MPs she did not take her seat. Nancy Astor, elected in 1919, became the first woman to sit in the House of Commons. Until 1997, women had never held more than 10% of seats. The proportion of seats held by women doubled at the 1997 General Election, when 120 female MPs were elected (18% of all MPs).

In total, 366 women have been elected to the House of Commons since 1918, 7% of all MPs over the period. 220 have been Labour MPs (60%), defined as the party of first election.

Table 5: Women MPs elected at General Elections by party 1918 to 2010

	CON ¹	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total	% MPs
1918 ³	0	0	0	1	1	0.1%
1922	1	0	1	0	2	0.3%
1923	3	3	2	0	8	1.3%
1924	3	1	0	0	4	0.7%
1929	3	9	1	1	14	2.3%
1931	13	0	1	1	15	2.4%
1935	6	1	1	1	9	1.5%
1945	1	21	1	1	24	3.8%
1950	6	14	0	1	21	3.4%
1951	6	11	0	0	17	2.7%
1955	10	14	0	0	24	3.8%
1959	12	13	0	0	25	4.0%
1964	11	18	0	0	29	4.6%
1966	7	19	0	0	26	4.1%
1970	15	10	0	1	26	4.1%
1974 Feb	9	13	0	1	23	3.6%
1974 Oct	7	18	0	2	27	4.3%
1979	8	11	0	0	19	3.0%
1983	13	10	0	0	23	3.5%
1987	17	21	2	1	41	6.3%
1992	20	37	2	1	60	9.2%
1997	13	101	3	3	120	18.2%
2001	14	95	5	4	118	17.9%
2005	17	98	10	3	128	19.8%
2010	49	81	7	6	143	22.0%

Notes

1. Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-35; National and National Liberal for 1945; National Liberal & Conservative for 1945-70.

2. Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; National Liberal for 1922; Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance for 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1922.

3. Figures for all Ireland, not just Northern Ireland.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library RP10/36 *General Election 2010*

⁴ The *Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918* allowed women aged 21 and over to stand for Parliament. Women aged 30 and over were given the vote in 1918. In 1928 the voting age for women was lowered to 21.

Age of MPs

The average (mean) age of MPs elected at the last general election was 50 years at 6 May 2010. The oldest Member is Sir Peter Tapsell (born 1930) and the youngest Member is Pamela Nash (born 1984).

Table 6: Age of MPs elected at 2010 General Election

Age	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total
20-30	4	11			15
30-40	67	28	13	3	111
40-50	113	57	13	11	194
50-60	91	96	19	11	217
60-70	29	53	12	4	98
70-80	1	13			14
80+	1				1
Total	306	258	57	29	650

Note: age at date of election

Source: House of Commons Library MP database

Conservative MPs elected at general elections over the past sixty years have tended to be younger than their Labour counterparts. The average age of MPs elected has remained around fifty years since 1918.⁵

Table 7: Median age of Members of Parliament at general elections, 1951-2010 (3 main parties)

	51	55	59	64	66	70	Feb 74	Oct 74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10
Conservative	47	49	48	45	48	49	48	47	47	47	48	48	50	48	48	47
Labour	52	54	55	52	50	50	50	49	51	51	47	51	48	50	53	52
Liberal ¹	42	46	46	43	39	39	39	45	47	43	45	45	46	47	46	50

1. Data for 1983 and 1987 are for Liberals only (not SDP)

Source: David Butler, Denis Kavanagh and others, *The British General Election of ... (1951-2010)*

Ethnicity

An individual's ethnicity is self-defined, so it is hard to obtain complete historical records of MPs' ethnicity. It is generally stated that the first black and minority ethnic (BME) MPs since World War II were elected in 1987, when four Labour MPs were from BME backgrounds. Following the 2010 General Election there were 27 BME MPs, 4.2% of the total.

The first black and minority ethnic MP is thought to be David Ochterlony Dyce Sombre, elected as Liberal MP for Sudbury in 1841 and of mixed European and Indian origin. However it is possible that John Stewart, elected as MP for Lymington in 1832, was also from a mixed ethnic background.

There have been no BME Liberal Democrat MPs elected at general elections. Parmjit Singh Gill was elected for the Liberal Democrats at a by-election in 2004 in Leicester South, but he did not retain the seat at the 2005 General Election.

⁵ J.F.S. Ross, *Elections and Electors*, 1955, p398

Table 8: Black and Minority Ethnic MPs elected at General Elections, 1987-2010

	Number					% of all MPs				
	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total
1987	0	4	0	0	4	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%
1992	1	5	0	0	6	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%
1997	0	9	0	0	9	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%
2001	0	12	0	0	12	0%	3%	0%	0%	2%
2005	2	13	0	0	15	1%	4%	0%	0%	3%
2010	11	16	0	0	27	4%	6%	0%	0%	4%

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library RP10/36 General Election 2010

Parliamentary experience

A record number of new MPs were returned in the 1945 General Election. 324 out of 640 MPs (51%) had no prior experience of the House of Commons.⁶ The election resulted in a landslide Labour victory and a change of government. The previous general election had been held ten years earlier in 1935.

Table 9 shows the number of new MPs entering the House of Commons at general elections since 1979. At the 1997 and 2010 elections, over a third of MPs elected were new to the House. The high turnover of MPs on these occasions is attributable not only to the change of government but also the large numbers of incumbent MPs who did not seek re-election. 117 MPs stood down in 1997 and in 2010 there were 149 MPs who chose not to stand again.⁷

Table 9: MPs entering House of Commons for first time at general elections, 1979-2010

	New MPs ¹					% of MPs who are new ¹				
	CON	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total	CON	LAB	LD ²	Other	Total
1979	77	37	0	2	116	23%	14%	0%	12%	18%
1983	100	34	7	9	150	25%	16%	30%	43%	23%
1987	53	62	3	3	121	14%	27%	14%	13%	19%
1992	54	66	4	3	127	16%	24%	20%	13%	20%
1997	33	178	26	6	243	20%	43%	57%	20%	37%
2001	26	38	14	14	92	16%	9%	27%	48%	14%
2005	51	41	20	7	119	26%	12%	32%	23%	18%
2010	147	63	10	7	227	48%	24%	18%	24%	35%

Notes

1. Excludes former MPs returning to the House of Commons after time away from Parliament.

2. Liberal Democrat includes predecessor parties.

Source: House of Commons Library MP database

⁶ J.F.S. Ross, *Elections and Electors*, 1955, p387⁷ David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh, *The British General Election of 1997*; House of Commons Library Research Paper RP10/36, *General Election 2010*

2.6 Social background of Members of Parliament

Education

About three-quarters of MPs elected in 2010 were university graduates. Over one third have been to fee-paying schools.

The main change in terms of educational background of MPs over the past sixty years has been the rising proportion who attended non-Oxbridge universities. 338 MPs from the main parties elected in 1951 had been to university, including 229 who went to Oxford or Cambridge. By comparison 478 MPs elected in 2010 had been to university, of whom 165 went to Oxbridge.

Table 10: Education of Members of Parliament 1951-2010

Percentage of parties' MPs

	Percentage of parties' MPs															
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10
Conservative																
Private School	75	76	72	75	81	74	74	75	73	70	68	62	66	64	60	54
University	65	63	60	63	67	63	67	69	68	71	70	73	81	83	81	80
Oxbridge	52	53	50	52	57	52	54	56	49	48	44	45	51	48	43	34
Labour																
Private School	20	22	18	18	18	17	16	18	18	14	14	15	16	17	18	12
University	41	40	39	42	51	54	53	57	59	53	56	61	66	67	64	61
Oxbridge	19	17	18	19	23	25	20	25	21	15	15	16	15	16	16	15
Liberal																
Private School	50	50	67	33	58	50	71	69	55	52	45	50	41	35	39	39
University	100	100	100	78	83	100	71	62	45	65	73	75	70	69	79	81
Oxbridge	67	67	83	44	50	50	43	38	27	30	27	30	33	27	31	28

Sources: David Bulter, Dennis Kavanagh and others, *The British General Election of... (1951-2010)*

Occupation⁸

The occupational backgrounds of Members have altered over the past sixty years. In 1951, 18% of MPs from the three main parties were formerly manual workers, compared to only 4% in 2010. The proportion of MPs who are barristers has also declined, from 16% in 1959 to 6% in 2010. Meanwhile there has been an increase in the number of MPs entering the House of Commons already possessing a political background: 3% of MPs elected for the three main parties in 1983 were previously politicians or political organisers, compared to 14% in 2010.

The proportion of MPs from the main parties who were previously teachers (in schools or in further/higher education) peaked at around one-fifth in 1997, but decreased to 8% in 2010. MPs with a teaching background tend to be Labour. Members with a background in business formed about a quarter of the main parties' MPs in 2010 and are most often Conservatives.

⁸ Members may have had multiple occupations before entering the House of Commons. Therefore Members are classified to different occupational groups based on what is judged to have been their main former occupation. Source: Information contributed by Byron Criddle and others to: David Butler, Dennis Kavanagh and others, *The British General Election of ... (1951-2010)*

Table 11: Main former occupations of Members of Parliament, 1951-2010

Three main parties																
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 51 55 59 64 66 70 74 74 79 83 87 92 97 01 05 10 </div>															
Professions																
Barrister	93	97	103	100	94	97	93	90	67	69	57	53	36	33	34	38
Solicitor	24	21	25	29	33	28	23	22	29	35	31	30	28	35	38	48
Civil service/local government	18	21	22	25	22	15	13	14	30	27	22	19	37	35	28	18
Teachers	47	43	41	57	77	66	77	92	77	75	84	102	126	117	91	49
Armed services	34	50	40	30	22	24	9	8	20	19	16	15	10	12	14	16
Other Professions	24	32	39	39	31	61	66	66	55	53	52	39	35	38	37	49
Business																
Company Executive/Director	80	64	94	66	69	108	82	79	71	105	123	123	78	77	87	115
Other business	66	73	46	50	41	21	44	41	67	57	38	29	35	30	31	41
White collar																
Politician/political organiser	18	24	18	18	12	21	13	12	21	20	34	46	60	66	87	90
Publisher/journalist	46	46	51	47	46	58	56	50	46	45	43	44	47	50	43	38
Miscellaneous white collar	16	9	10	17	29	4	7	10	9	21	28	46	72	76	80	94
Manual Workers																
Miner	35	33	34	31	32	22	19	19	21	20	17	13	13	12	11	8
Other Manual	74	65	57	74	79	56	71	72	65	54	52	50	43	41	27	17
Miscellaneous																
Other	47	50	49	47	41	42	39	34	30	29	30	18	9	8	7	0
Total	622	628	629	630	628	623	612	609	608	629	627	627	629	630	615	621
Conservative																
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 51 55 59 64 66 70 74 74 79 83 87 92 97 01 05 10 </div>															
Professions																
Barrister	61	66	72	65	55	60	59	55	51	56	43	39	20	18	22	27
Solicitor	11	11	14	14	15	14	13	12	19	26	21	21	9	13	18	29
Civil service/local government	9	12	14	18	13	12	8	7	14	16	13	3	5	2	3	2
Teachers	5	4	5	5	4	9	10	12	18	20	25	22	8	7	6	4
Armed services	32	47	37	28	19	24	9	8	20	18	15	14	9	11	13	15
Other Professions	14	19	25	17	11	30	34	33	32	41	39	32	10	13	14	30
Business																
Company Executive/Director	76	62	88	58	52	94	62	61	59	100	114	112	53	49	64	100
Other business	41	39	25	22	23	7	33	30	56	42	25	16	12	11	11	25
White collar																
Politician/political organiser	12	17	11	11	2	10	5	4	8	12	21	20	15	18	20	31
Publisher/journalist	13	19	26	20	17	30	32	27	31	31	26	28	14	14	14	18
Miscellaneous white collar	4	4	4	5	7	1	0	0	4	6	8	9	2	2	4	23
Manual Workers																
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Manual	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	2	3	0	0	1	1
Miscellaneous																
Other	42	43	43	39	33	37	31	26	24	25	23	16	7	7	7	0
Total	321	344	365	304	253	330	297	277	339	397	376	336	165	166	198	306

Labour

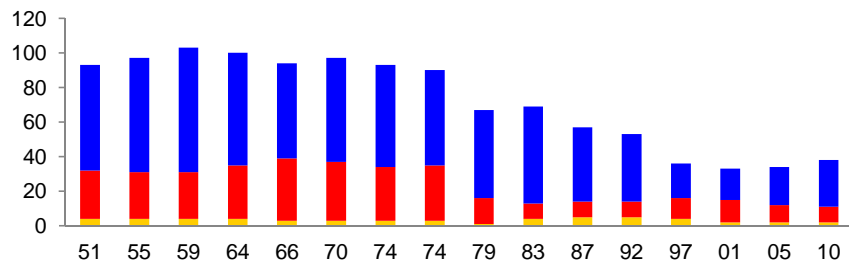
	Feb Oct															
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10
Professions																
Barrister	28	27	27	31	36	34	31	32	15	9	9	9	12	13	10	9
Solicitor	12	9	10	15	18	13	9	9	10	8	9	8	17	18	18	17
Civil service/local government	9	9	8	7	9	3	5	7	16	10	8	16	30	30	22	13
Teachers	42	39	36	51	72	56	65	78	56	52	55	76	111	98	73	35
Armed services	2	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other Professions	10	13	14	22	18	31	28	30	20	8	12	6	18	19	17	14
Business																
Company Executive/Director	4	2	6	6	14	14	19	17	12	5	9	9	16	15	10	8
Other business	24	33	20	28	18	14	10	10	10	14	11	13	21	18	15	12
White collar																
Politician/political organiser	6	7	7	7	9	11	8	8	13	7	12	24	40	44	60	52
Publisher/journalist	33	27	25	27	29	27	23	22	13	9	14	13	29	32	24	15
Miscellaneous white collar	12	5	6	11	22	3	7	10	5	14	18	36	69	73	70	60
Manual Workers																
Miner	35	33	34	31	32	22	19	19	21	20	16	12	12	11	10	7
Other Manual	73	64	56	72	77	54	70	70	62	50	50	47	42	40	25	15
Miscellaneous																
Other	5	7	6	7	6	5	7	7	5	3	6	2	1	0	0	0
Total	295	278	258	317	363	287	301	319	258	209	229	271	418	412	355	258

Liberal Democrat & predecessors

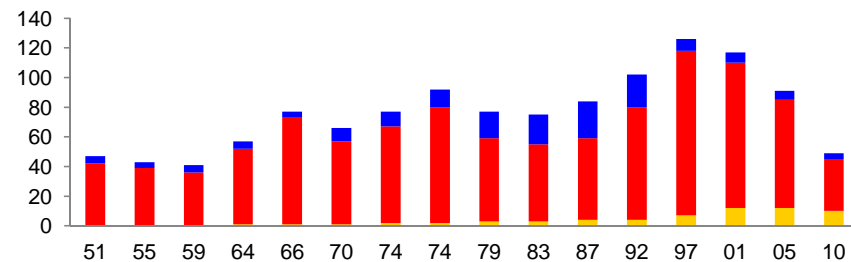
	Feb Oct															
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05	10
Professions																
Barrister	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	1	4	5	5	4	2	2	2
Solicitor	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	4	2	2
Civil service/local government	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	3	3	3
Teachers	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	7	12	12	10
Armed services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Other Professions	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	3	3	4	1	1	7	6	6	5
Business																
Company Executive/Director	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	9	13	13	7
Other business	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	5	4
White collar																
Politician/political organiser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	4	7	7
Publisher/journalist	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	3	3	4	4	5	5
Miscellaneous white collar	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	6	11
Manual Workers																
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous																
Other	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Total	6	6	6	9	12	6	14	13	11	23	22	20	46	52	62	57

Main former occupations of Members of Parliament, 1951-2010

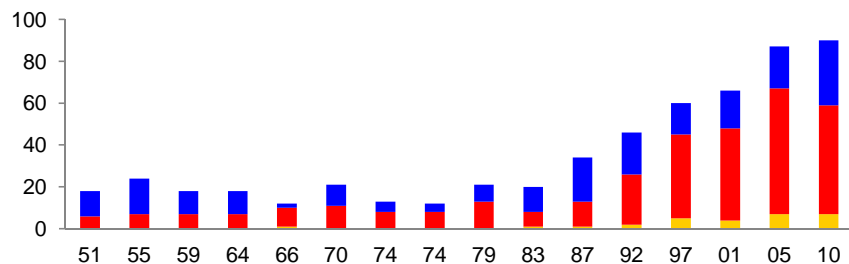
Barrister



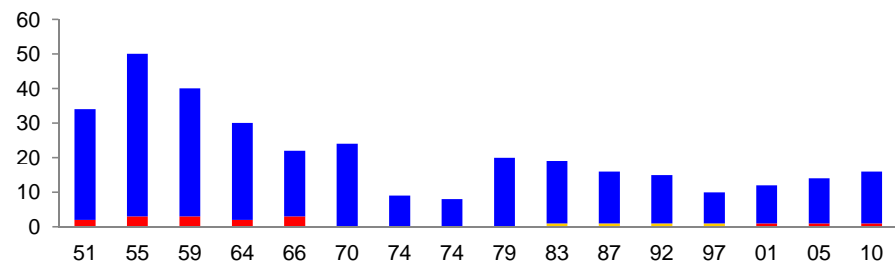
Teacher



Politician/political organiser

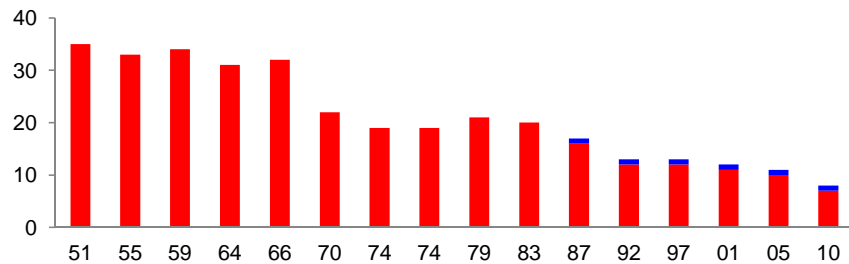


Armed services

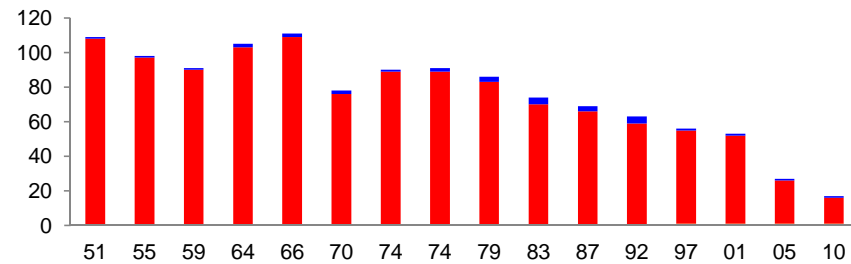


■ Con
■ Lab
■ Lib/LD

Miner



All manual workers



3 House of Commons by-elections

3.1 Great Britain

By-elections have been less frequent in recent parliaments than was the case in the immediate post-war years. There has only been one parliament since 1979 when there were more than twenty by-elections (1987-1992) and between 2001 and 2005 there were as few as six. By contrast, during the 1959-64 Parliament there were 61 by-elections. As is the case with general and local elections, average turnout at by-elections has fallen in recent years.

Generally parties in government perform poorly at by-elections while opposition parties have the chance to make gains. Historically, the Liberal Democrats (and their predecessor parties) have performed well; in every parliament between 1959 and 2010, with the exception of the eight-month parliament of 1974, they gained seats. The 1997-2001 Parliament was the only one since 1951-55 where the party in government did not lose a single seat to another party at a by-election. In the current Parliament to date, neither of the Coalition parties has had to defend a seat at a by-election.

Table 12: Summary of parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain, 1945-2012

	Number of by-elections	Net Seat Gains and Losses					Average change in share of vote since previous election				Average turnout		
		CON	LAB	LD	SNP/PC	Other	No change	CON	LAB	LD		SNP/PC	Other
1945-50	50	+4	-1	...	...	-3	45	3.7%	-2.3%	-1.3%	1.4%	-0.7%	67.3%
1950-51	14	...	...	...	...	...	14	+6.8%	-2.0%	-4.6%	...	-0.2%	68.8%
1951-55	44	+1	-1	...	...	...	43	-0.6%	+0.3%	-0.6%	+0.6%	+0.3%	58.6%
1955-59	49	-2	+4	...	...	-2	34	-8.7%	+1.3%	+6.2%	+0.3%	+0.9%	63.5%
1959-64	61	-5	+4	+1	...	...	54	-14.1%	-2.1%	+13.7%	+1.2%	+1.5%	62.9%
1964-66	13	...	-1	+1	...	...	11	+1.3%	-1.8%	+0.5%	+0.3%	+0.4%	58.2%
1966-70	37	+11	-15	+1	+2	+1	22	+6.8%	-17.3%	+3.3%	+5.5%	+1.7%	62.1%
1970-74	30	-5	...	+5	+1	-1	20	-10.7%	-4.2%	+9.0%	+4.0%	+1.9%	56.5%
1974	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%
1974-79	30	+6	-6	+1	...	-1	23	+9.9%	-9.3%	-4.9%	-0.3%	+4.6%	57.5%
1979-83	17	-3	+1	+4	...	-2	11	-11.4%	-10.2%	+18.6%	+1.6%	+1.4%	56.7%
1983-87	16	-4	...	+4	...	...	11	-14.0%	+0.4%	+12.3%	+0.1%	+1.2%	63.5%
1987-92	23	-7	+3	+3	+1	...	15	-11.0%	-0.8%	-0.6%	+5.7%	+6.6%	57.4%
1992-97	17	-8	+3	+4	+1	...	9	-19.9%	+7.4%	+5.2%	+2.4%	+4.9%	52.7%
1997-2001	15	-2	+1	+2	...	-1	14	-0.6%	-11.1%	+5.0%	+3.1%	+3.6%	42.4%
2001-05	6	...	-2	+2	...	...	4	-4.2%	-19.8%	+15.8%	+1.1%	+7.0%	39.3%
2005-10	14	...	-1	+1	...	...	9	+2.6%	-10.4%	+2.0%	+4.3%	+1.4%	48.8%
2010-	6	...	-1	...	...	+1	5	-10.0%	+4.1%	-7.2%	+2.6%	+10.6%	42.3%

The largest swing at a by-election since 1945 was in Southwark, Bermondsey in February 1982. Liberal candidate Simon Hughes won the seat on a 44.2% point swing from Labour. Hughes successfully defended the seat at the 1983 General Election. Respect candidate George Galloway won Bradford West from Labour on a 36.5% point swing in March 2012.

In the early 1990s, Liberal Democrats secured a string of by-election wins in what were previously very safe Conservative seats. For example, in Christchurch in July 1993 a Conservative majority of 23,000 at the previous general election was converted into a Liberal Democrat majority of over 16,000. Other gains included Eastbourne (October 1990), Ribble Valley (March 1991), Newbury (May 1993) and Eastleigh (June 1994).

Notable retentions of seats at by-elections include Hull North (January 1966), when a swing to Labour influenced Prime Minister Harold Wilson to call a general election. Labour holds in by-elections in Darlington (March 1983) and Glenrothes (November 2008) were significant in relieving pressure on the party leadership at the time.⁹

⁹ David Butler and Gareth Butler (2011), *British Political Facts*, p288

Table 13: Parliamentary by-elections in Great Britain since 1945

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1945								
01/10/1945	Smethwick	Lab hold	-2.9%	+2.9%	...	...	...	65.4%
02/10/1945	Ashton-under-Lyme	Lab hold	-8.6%	-2.3%	+10.9%	...	...	70.5%
03/10/1945	Edinburgh E	Lab hold	+1.1%	+5.2%	...	-6.3%	...	51.0%
30/10/1945	Monmouth	Con hold	+0.8%	-0.8%	...	...	...	66.7%
31/10/1945	City of London ^{1,2}	Con gain	-3.8%	...	14.0%	...	-10.2%	51.6%
14/11/1945	Bromley	Con hold	+4.6%	+5.0%	-9.6%	...	...	56.5%
15/11/1945	Bournemouth	Con hold	-8.7%	+12.0%	-3.3%	...	...	56.5%
20/11/1945	Kensington South	Con hold	+11.9%	+7.0%	+18.9%	...	...	36.8%
13/12/1945	Tottenham North	Lab hold	+8.2%	-8.2%	...	...	...	39.5%
31/01/1946	Preston ¹	Lab gain	2.6%	...	-6.1%	...	-3.8%	64.9%
07/02/1946	Ayrshire South	Lab hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	69.0%
12/02/1946	Glasgow, Cathcart	Con hold	-6.3%	-4.1%	...	+10.4%	...	55.6%
21/01/1946	Heywood and Radcliffe	Lab hold	+0.5%	-0.5%	...	...	...	75.6%
22/02/1946	Hemsworth	Lab hold	By-election uncontested					
13/03/1946	Combined English Universities ³	Con gain from Ind	Not Comparable					42.1%
04/06/1946	Ogmore	Lab hold	-18.0%	-5.8%	...	+23.8%	...	33.1%
22/07/1946	Bexley	Lab hold	+17.7%	-4.4%	-13.3%	...	...	61.2%
23/07/1946	Pontypool	Lab hold	+4.1%	-4.1%	...	...	...	64.8%
25/07/1946	Battersea North	Lab hold	+3.5%	-5.0%	...	...	+1.5%	55.4%
29/08/1946	Glasgow, Bridgeton	ILP hold	-12.0%	+28.0%	...	...	-16.0%	53.3%
19/11/1946	Bermondsey, Rotherhithe	Lab hold	-11.2%	-14.1%	+25.3%	...	...	50.9%
20/11/1946	Paddington North	Lab hold	+6.1%	-5.6%	...	...	-0.5%	53.9%
22/11/1946	Combined Scottish Universities ³	Con gain from Ind	Not Comparable					50.7%
26/11/1946	Aberdeen South	Con hold	+8.0%	+2.9%	-10.9%	...	...	65.6%
05/12/1946	Aberdare	Lab hold	-4.0%	-16.0%	...	+20.0%	...	65.7%
05/12/1946	Kilmarnock	Lab hold	-8.1%	+0.3%	...	+7.8%	...	68.4%
11/02/1947	Normanton	Lab hold	+2.1%	-4.5%	...	...	+2.4%	54.6%
07/05/1947	Jarrow	Lab hold	+3.5%	-6.7%	...	...	+3.2%	73.4%
11/09/1947	Liverpool, Edge Hill	Lab hold	+7.5%	-12.8%	+4.4%	...	+0.9%	62.7%
25/09/1947	Islington West	Lab hold	+0.4%	-16.6%	+16.0%	...	+0.2%	51.4%
26/11/1947	Gravesend	Lab hold	+12.9%	-0.7%	-12.2%	...	...	77.3%
27/11/1947	Howdenshire	Con hold	+8.0%	-3.7%	-4.3%	...	...	67.0%
27/11/1947	Edinburgh East	Lab hold	-3.0%	-5.8%	+10.1%	-1.3%	...	63.0%
04/12/1947	Epsom	Con hold	+11.0%	-6.3%	-4.7%	...	...	70.5%
28/01/1948	Glasgow, Camlachie	Con gain from ILP	+1.4%	+42.1%	+1.2%	...	-44.7%	56.8%
18/02/1948	Paisley	Lab hold	+10.5%	+1.2%	-10.0%	...	-1.7%	76.0%
04/03/1948	Wigan	Lab hold	+3.9%	-9.2%	...	...	+1.9%	81.4%
11/03/1948	Croydon North	Con hold	+12.9%	-3.5%	-9.4%	...	...	74.8%
24/03/1948	Brigg	Lab hold	+4.3%	-4.3%	...	...	...	77.1%
29/04/1948	Southwark Central	Lab hold	+6.5%	-6.5%	...	...	...	48.7%
30/09/1948	Glasgow, Gorbals	Lab hold	+8.6%	-25.5%	...	...	+16.9%	50.0%
07/10/1948	Stirling and Falkirk	Lab hold	-1.1%	-7.1%	...	+8.2%	...	72.9%
13/11/1948	Edmonton	Lab hold	+17.6%	-14.8%	...	...	-2.8%	62.7%
25/11/1948	Glasgow, Hillhead	Con hold	+9.9%	-2.0%	-7.9%	...	...	56.7%
17/02/1949	Batley and Morley	Lab hold	+12.3%	+1.2%	-13.5%	...	...	81.3%
24/02/1949	Hammersmith South	Lab hold	+5.2%	-5.2%	...	...	...	60.6%
10/03/1949	St.Pancras North	Lab hold	+4.8%	-6.3%	...	...	+1.5%	65.1%
16/03/1949	Sowerby	Lab hold	+16.0%	+2.3%	-18.3%	...	...	80.7%
21/07/1949	Leeds West	Lab hold	+17.2%	-3.9%	-13.3%	...	...	65.1%
08/12/1949	Bradford South	Lab hold	+9.3%	-1.2%	-14.4%	...	+6.3%	75.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1950								
05/04/1950	Sheffield, Neepsend	Lab hold	-0.4%	-1.9%	...	...	+2.3%	62.9%
25/04/1950	Dunbartonshire West	Lab hold	+1.8%	+1.1%	...	...	-2.9%	83.4%
04/05/1950	Brighouse and Spenborough	Lab hold	+1.7%	-1.7%	...	...	...	85.4%
28/09/1950	Leicester NE	Lab hold	+8.8%	+1.4%	-9.5%	...	-0.7%	63.0%
25/10/1950	Glasgow, Scotstoun	Con hold	+4.3%	+1.3%	-4.9%	...	-0.7%	73.7%
02/11/1950	Oxford	Con hold	+10.6%	+1.8%	-11.6%	...	-0.8%	69.3%
16/11/1950	Birmingham, Handsworth	Con hold	+10.2%	-1.1%	-10.3%	...	+1.2%	63.2%
30/11/1950	Bristol SE	Lab hold	+8.4%	-5.9%	-1.4%	...	-1.1%	61.1%
30/11/1950	Aberillery	Lab hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	71.1%
15/02/1951	Bristol West	Con hold	+22.5%	-11.4%	-11.1%	...	...	53.6%
08/04/1951	Ormskirk	Con hold	+5.2%	-7.2%	...	...	+2.0%	64.7%
21/04/1951	Harrow West	Con hold	+13.4%	-1.5%	-11.9%	...	...	68.0%
14/06/1951	Woolwich East	Lab hold	+6.3%	-0.8%	-3.5%	...	-2.0%	66.8%
21/06/1951	Westthoughton	Lab hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	76.5%

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1951								
06/02/1952	Bournemouth East and Christchurch	Con hold	-1.5%	-1.7%	-1.5%	...	+4.7%	63.8%
06/02/1952	Southport	Con hold	+1.8%	+3.7%	-5.5%	...	...	61.0%
07/02/1952	Leeds SE	Lab hold	-2.7%	+2.7%	...	...	...	55.7%
17/07/1952	Dundee East	Lab hold	-10.6%	+2.5%	...	+7.4%	+0.7%	55.7%
23/10/1952	Cleveland	Lab hold	+0.7%	-0.7%	...	...	...	71.4%
04/11/1952	Wycombe	Con hold	+0.3%	-0.3%	...	...	...	83.9%
27/11/1952	Birmingham, Small Heath	Lab hold	+2.1%	+3.6%	-5.7%	...	...	46.6%
27/11/1952	Farnworth	Lab hold	-0.7%	+0.7%	...	...	...	71.0%
12/02/1953	Canterbury	Con hold	+6.0%	+1.9%	-7.9%	...	...	49.2%
12/03/1953	Isle of Thanet	Con hold	-0.3%	+0.3%	...	...	...	58.7%
31/03/1953	Barnsley	Lab hold	+9.8%	+3.2%	-13.0%	...	...	57.9%
31/03/1953	Stoke-on-Trent North	Lab hold	-4.1%	+4.1%	...	...	...	50.5%
01/04/1953	Hayes and Harlington	Lab hold	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	45.0%
13/05/1953	Sunderland South	Con gain from Lab	-1.1%	-4.2%	+5.3%	...	...	72.7%
30/06/1953	Abingdon	Con hold	-2.3%	-4.8%	+7.1%	...	...	75.9%
02/07/1953	Birmingham, Edgbaston	Con hold	+3.3%	-3.3%	...	...	...	50.2%
17/09/1953	Broxtowe	Lab hold	-1.4%	+1.4%	...	...	...	63.5%
12/11/1953	Crosby	Con hold	-2.8%	+1.5%	...	...	+4.3%	62.5%
12/11/1953	Ormskirk	Con hold	-2.0%	+2.0%	...	...	...	54.1%
19/11/1953	Holborn and St.Pancras S	Lab hold	-0.2%	+1.9%	-1.7%	...	...	56.2%
03/12/1953	Paddington North	Lab hold	+1.0%	-1.9%	...	...	+0.9%	60.3%
03/02/1954	Ilford North	Con hold	+4.3%	-5.7%	+1.4%	...	...	45.4%
11/02/1954	Kingston upon Hull, Haltemprice	Con hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	45.7%
11/02/1954	Harwich	Con hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	58.8%
18/02/1954	Bournemouth West	Con hold	+4.2%	-4.2%	...	...	...	45.1%
09/03/1954	Arundel and Shoreham	Con hold	+1.1%	-1.1%	...	...	...	54.2%
11/03/1954	Harrogate	Con hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	55.3%
08/04/1954	Edinburgh East	Lab hold	-3.5%	+3.5%	...	...	...	61.8%
14/04/1954	Motherwell	Lab hold	-3.4%	-0.9%	...	...	+4.3%	70.5%
30/09/1954	Croydon East	Con hold	-2.2%	-5.8%	+8.0%	...	...	57.5%
21/10/1954	Shoreditch and Finsbury	Lab hold	-5.6%	+5.6%	...	...	...	40.7%
21/10/1954	Wakefield	Lab hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	68.6%
28/10/1954	Aldershot	Con hold	-0.2%	+0.2%	...	...	...	58.7%
28/10/1954	Aberdare	Lab hold	-0.9%	-9.0%	...	+9.9%	...	69.7%
04/11/1954	Sutton And Cheam	Con hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
04/11/1954	Morpeth	Lab hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	73.0%
18/11/1954	Liverpool, West Derby	Con hold	+1.6%	-1.6%	...	...	...	58.9%
21/12/1954	Inverness	Con hold	-23.1%	+36.0%	-12.9%	...	...	49.2%
13/01/1955	Norfolk South	Con hold	-3.0%	+3.0%	...	...	...	66.6%
20/01/1955	Orpington	Con hold	+3.1%	-3.1%	...	...	...	55.4%
25/01/1955	Twickenham	Con hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	47.3%
27/01/1955	Edinburgh North	Con hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	46.4%
03/02/1955	Stockport South	Con hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	64.6%
17/03/1955	Wrexham	Lab hold	-4.0%	-3.7%	...	+7.7%	...	62.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1955								
07/12/1955	Gateshead West	Lab hold	-1.2%	+1.2%	...	...	...	42.3%
08/12/1955	Greenock	Lab hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	75.3%
15/12/1955	Torquay	Con hold	-9.4%	-0.2%	+9.6%	...	...	62.6%
02/02/1956	Blaydon	Lab hold	-3.4%	+3.4%	...	...	...	56.5%
09/02/1956	Leeds NE	Con hold	+1.8%	-1.8%	...	...	...	39.9%
14/02/1956	Hereford	Con hold	-7.5%	+11.6%	-4.1%	...	...	61.5%
14/02/1956	Gainsborough	Con hold	-15.0%	-6.6%	+21.6%	...	...	61.9%
14/02/1956	Taunton	Con hold	-1.9%	+9.7%	-8.4%	...	...	75.0%
01/03/1956	Walthamstow West	Lab hold	-14.1%	-1.0%	+14.7%	...	...	52.0%
07/06/1956	Tonbridge	Con hold	-8.4%	+8.4%	...	...	...	60.6%
06/07/1956	Newport(Mon.)	Lab hold	-6.4%	+2.6%	+3.8%	...	...	72.1%
27/09/1956	Cheter-le-Street	Lab hold	-4.5%	+4.5%	...	...	...	64.9%
15/11/1956	City of Chester	Con hold	-5.0%	+4.6%	+0.4%	...	...	71.5%
19/12/1956	Melton	Con hold	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	56.5%
14/02/1957	Lewisham North	Lab gain from Con	-7.5%	+3.5%	...	...	+4.0%	70.8%
28/02/1957	Wednesbury	Lab hold	-11.6%	+1.7%	...	...	+9.9%	60.0%
28/02/1957	Carmathen	Lab gain from Lib	...	+4.6%	-8.3%	+3.7%	...	87.5%
07/03/1957	Bristol West	Con hold	-5.1%	+5.1%	...	...	...	61.1%
07/03/1957	Warwick and Lemington	Con hold	-12.2%	+12.2%	...	...	...	77.9%
21/03/1957	Beckenham	Con hold	-6.1%	+6.1%	...	...	...	64.7%
21/03/1957	Newcastle upon Tyne	Con hold	-3.6%	+3.6%	...	...	...	64.1%
29/05/1957	Edinburgh South	Con hold	-21.9%	-1.6%	+23.5%	...	...	65.8%
30/05/1957	East Ham North	Lab hold	-11.5%	-2.8%	...	...	+14.3%	57.3%
30/05/1957	Hornsey	Con hold	-6.7%	+9.3%	...	...	-2.6%	63.0%
27/06/1957	Dorset North	Con hold	-7.0%	+2.8%	+3.7%	...	+0.5%	75.8%
12/09/1957	Gloucester	Lab hold	-20.5%	+0.4%	+20.1%	71.0%

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Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
24/10/1957	Ipswich	Lab hold	-14.4%	-7.1%	+21.5%	...	...	75.6%
28/11/1957	Leicester SE	Con hold	-3.2%	+3.2%	...	...	...	56.4%
05/12/1957	Liverpool, Garston	Con gain from Ind Con	-14.3%	-0.9%	+15.2%	...	...	49.7%
12/02/1958	Rochdale	Lab gain from Con	-31.7%	-3.8%	+35.5%	...	...	80.2%
13/03/1958	Glasgow, Kelvingrove	Lab gain from Con	-13.8%	+3.4%	...	...	+10.4%	60.5%
27/03/1958	Torrington	Lib gain from Con	-27.7%	-10.3%	+38.0%	...	...	80.6%
15/05/1958	Islington North	Lab hold	-10.4%	+7.4%	...	...	+3.0%	35.6%
12/06/1958	Ealing South	Con gain from Ind Con	-9.2%	+1.6%	+7.6%	...	...	64.5%
12/06/1958	St.Helens	Lab hold	-0.4%	+0.4%	...	...	...	54.6%
12/06/1958	Wigan	Lab hold	-5.7%	+6.6%	...	...	-0.9%	70.3%
12/06/1958	Weston-super-Mare	Con hold	-13.4%	-11.1%	+24.5%	...	...	72.2%
12/06/1958	Argyll	Con hold	-20.8%	-6.7%	+27.5%	...	...	67.1%
06/11/1958	Morecambe and Lonsdale	Con hold	-5.9%	+5.9%	...	...	...	63.8%
06/11/1958	Chichester	Con hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	51.7%
10/11/1958	Pontypool	Lab hold	-5.6%	-4.4%	...	+10.0%	...	61.7%
20/11/1958	Aberdeenshire East	Con hold	-19.9%	-4.4%	+24.3%	...	...	65.9%
27/11/1958	Shoreditch and Finsbury	Lab hold	-2.5%	+2.5%	...	...	...	24.9%
29/01/1959	Southend West	Con hold	-8.6%	-0.6%	+9.2%	...	...	42.9%
19/03/1959	Harrow East	Con hold	-1.6%	+0.6%	...	...	+1.0%	68.9%
25/03/1959	Norfolk SW	Lab hold	+0.7%	-3.3%	...	...	+2.6%	75.2%
09/04/1958	Galloway	Con hold	-16.5%	-9.2%	+25.7%	...	...	72.7%
11/06/1959	Penistone	Lab hold	-1.8%	+1.8%	...	...	...	65.0%
18/06/1959	Whitehaven	Lab hold	-0.6%	+0.6%	...	...	...	79.2%

GENERAL ELECTION 1959

17/03/1960	Brighouse and Spenborough	Con gain from Lab	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	82.4%
17/03/1960	Harrow West	Con hold	-15.2%	-10.9%	+21.4%	...	+4.7%	61.6%
19/05/1960	Edinburgh North	Con hold	-9.8%	-5.7%	+15.5%	...	...	53.8%
16/11/1960	Bolton East	Con hold	-15.0%	-11.0%	+24.8%	...	+1.2%	68.2%
16/11/1960	Bedfordshire Mid	Con hold	-1.4%	-6.2%	+7.0%	...	+0.6%	71.1%
16/11/1960	Tiverton	Con hold	-9.9%	-7.6%	+17.5%	...	...	68.4%
16/11/1960	Petersfield	Con hold	-6.5%	-4.7%	+11.2%	...	...	53.6%
16/11/1960	Ludlow	Con hold	-13.9%	-13.4%	+27.3%	...	...	63.6%
16/11/1960	Carshalton	Con hold	-2.3%	-9.8%	+12.1%	...	...	54.2%
17/11/1960	Ebbw Vale	Lab hold	-6.3%	-12.2%	+11.5%	+7.0%	...	76.1%
24/11/1960	Blyth	Lab hold	-3.8%	-5.7%	+9.5%	...	...	54.1%
16/03/1961	Worcester	Con hold	-18.0%	-12.1%	+30.1%	...	...	64.2%
16/03/1961	Cambridgeshire	Con hold	-12.0%	-12.0%	+24.0%	...	...	62.4%
16/03/1961	High Peak	Con hold	-8.6%	-1.9%	+10.5%	...	...	72.5%
16/03/1961	Colchester	Con hold	-4.4%	-2.8%	+7.2%	...	...	64.9%
23/03/1961	Birmingham, Small Heath	Lab hold	-13.8%	+1.8%	+12.0%	...	...	42.6%
20/04/1961	Warrington	Lab hold	-12.1%	-0.4%	+12.5%	...	...	56.7%
20/04/1961	Paisley	Lab hold	-29.5%	-11.9%	+41.4%	...	...	68.1%
04/05/1961	Bristol SE	Lab hold	-13.3%	+13.3%	...	...	...	56.7%
07/11/1961	Manchester, Moss Side	Con hold	-21.1%	-11.9%	+27.8%	...	+5.2%	46.7%
08/11/1961	Oswestry	Con hold	-15.1%	+0.0%	+12.3%	...	+2.8%	60.8%
08/11/1961	Fife East	Con hold	-22.4%	-3.7%	+26.1%	...	...	67.3%
16/11/1961	Glasgow, Bridgeton	Lab hold	-15.9%	-5.9%	...	+18.7%	+3.1%	41.9%
08/03/1962	Lincoln	Lab hold	-14.7%	-4.6%	+18.2%	...	+1.1%	75.0%
13/03/1962	Blackpool North	Con hold	-19.5%	+4.8%	+14.7%	...	...	55.2%
14/03/1962	Middlesbrough	Lab hold	-23.7%	-1.0%	+22.9%	...	+1.8%	52.2%
14/03/1962	Orpington	Lib gain from Con	-21.9%	-9.8%	+31.7%	...	...	80.3%
22/03/1962	Pontefract	Lab hold	-4.2%	+0.9%	...	...	+3.3%	63.3%
05/04/1962	Stockton-on-Tees	Lab hold	-18.5%	-8.4%	+26.9%	...	...	81.5%
17/04/1962	Derby North	Lab hold	-24.7%	-3.4%	+25.4%	...	+2.7%	60.5%
15/05/1962	Montgomeryshire	Lib hold	-9.4%	-6.0%	+9.2%	+6.2%	...	85.1%
06/06/1962	Middlesbrough West	Lab gain from Con	-21.2%	+4.3%	+16.1%	...	+0.8%	72.2%
06/06/1962	Debyshire West	Con hold	-25.2%	-11.4%	+32.5%	...	+4.1%	79.4%
14/06/1962	West Lothian	Lab hold	-28.3%	-9.4%	+10.8%	+23.3%	+3.6%	71.1%
12/07/1962	Leicester NE	Lab hold	-23.9%	-10.4%	+34.3%	...	...	60.8%
22/11/1962	Dorset South	Lab gain from Con	-18.0%	-1.2%	+6.2%	...	+13.0%	70.2%
22/11/1962	Norfolk Central	Con hold	-12.6%	+2.2%	+7.6%	...	+2.8%	60.2%
22/11/1962	Northamptonshire South	Con hold	-15.8%	-4.4%	+19.3%	...	+0.9%	69.0%
22/11/1962	Chippenham	Con hold	-15.2%	-1.9%	+15.6%	...	+1.5%	68.0%
22/11/1962	Glasgow, Woodside	Lab gain from Con	-19.1%	-7.0%	+14.0%	+11.1%	+1.0%	54.7%
21/03/1963	Colne Valley	Lab hold	-14.5%	+0.1%	+13.7%	...	+0.7%	78.9%
28/03/1963	Rotherham	Lab hold	-8.8%	+6.5%	...	...	+2.3%	56.3%
28/03/1963	Swansea East	Lab hold	-14.7%	-6.3%	+15.8%	-5.3%	+10.5%	55.9%
20/06/1963	Leeds South	Lab hold	-10.9%	+4.4%	+4.3%	...	+2.2%	60.5%
04/07/1963	Deptford	Lab hold	-18.9%	-3.6%	+22.5%	...	...	44.1%
04/07/1963	West Bromwich	Lab hold	-19.0%	+1.4%	+17.6%	...	...	55.2%
15/08/1963	Stratford	Con hold	-25.0%	+2.6%	+21.0%	...	+1.4%	69.4%
20/08/1963	Bristol SE	Lab hold	-43.8%	+23.5%	...	...	+20.3%	42.2%
07/11/1963	Luton	Lab gain from Con	-15.6%	+3.1%	+11.4%	...	+1.1%	74.0%

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
07/11/1963	Kinross-shire and Perthshire West	Con hold	-10.8%	-1.6%	+19.5%	-7.7%	+0.6%	76.1%
21/11/1963	Dundee West	Lab hold	-8.9%	+1.0%	...	+7.4%	+0.5%	71.6%
05/12/1963	St.Marylebone	Con hold	-9.6%	+8.2%	+1.4%	...	...	44.2%
05/12/1963	Manchester, Openshaw	Lab hold	-10.6%	+5.7%	...	...	+4.9%	46.1%
05/12/1963	Sudbury and Woodbridge	Con hold	-3.4%	+4.0%	-0.6%	...	...	70.5%
12/12/1963	Dunfriesshire	Con hold	-17.5%	-3.1%	+10.9%	+9.7%	...	71.6%
14/05/1964	Winchester	Con hold	-15.1%	+1.9%	+13.2%	...	...	68.7%
14/05/1964	Bury St.Edmunds	Con hold	-9.7%	+2.2%	+7.5%	...	...	74.6%
14/05/1964	Devizes	Con hold	-4.6%	+1.0%	+10.3%	...	-6.7%	75.8%
14/05/1964	Rutherglen	Lab gain from Con	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	82.0%
04/06/1964	Faversham	Lab hold	+5.6%	+4.8%	...	...	+0.8%	74.8%
11/06/1964	Liverpool, Scotland	Lab hold	-12.5%	+12.5%	...	...	...	42.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1964								
21/01/1965	Leyton	Con gain from Lab	+9.3%	-7.9%	-2.2%	...	+0.8%	57.7%
21/01/1965	Nuneaton	Lab hold	+5.8%	-3.8%	-2.0%	...	...	60.8%
04/02/1965	Altrincham and Sale	Con hold	+3.2%	+1.0%	+5.8%	...	+1.6%	62.0%
04/02/1965	East Grinstead	Con hold	+1.8%	-6.3%	+4.5%	...	...	64.5%
04/02/1965	Salisbury	Con hold	-0.1%	+3.0%	-4.4%	...	+1.5%	69.1%
23/03/1965	Saffron Walden	Con hold	-0.8%	+2.1%	-1.3%	...	...	76.1%
24/03/1965	Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire and Peeblesshire	Lib gain from Con	-4.2%	-4.5%	+10.3%	-2.5%	+0.9%	82.2%
01/04/1965	Abertillery	Lab hold	+0.2%	-6.9%	...	+6.7%	...	63.2%
06/05/1965	Birmingham, Hall Green	Con hold	+2.2%	-3.0%	+0.8%	...	...	52.4%
22/07/1965	Hove	Con hold	-6.2%	-11.0%	+16.9%	...	+0.3%	58.5%
04/11/1965	Cities of London and Westminster	Con hold	+1.2%	+2.3%	-4.8%	...	...	41.8%
11/11/1965	Erith and Crayford	Lab hold	+4.9%	+2.3%	-7.2%	...	...	72.0%
27/01/1966	Kingston upon Hull North	Lab hold	+0.0%	+8.9%	-9.6%	...	+0.7%	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1966								
14/07/1966	Carmarthen	PC gain from Lab	-4.5%	-13.1%	-5.3%	+22.9%	...	74.9%
09/03/1967	Nuneaton	Lab hold	+1.1%	-11.8%	+3.1%	...	+7.6%	66.1%
09/03/1967	Rhondda West	Lab hold	-3.5%	-27.1%	...	+31.2%	-0.6%	82.2%
09/03/1967	Glasgow, Pollok	Con gain from Lab	-10.7%	-21.2%	+1.9%	+28.2%	+1.8%	75.7%
16/03/1967	Honiton	Con hold	+2.5%	-6.3%	+3.8%	...	...	72.6%
27/04/1967	Brierley Hill	Con hold	+2.6%	-12.6%	+7.8%	...	+2.2%	68.0%
21/09/1967	Cambridge	Con gain from Lab	+8.2%	-8.9%	+1.6%	...	-0.9%	65.7%
21/09/1967	Walthamstow West	Con gain from Lab	+12.2%	-24.4%	+8.8%	...	+3.4%	54.0%
02/11/1967	Leicester SW	Con gain from Lab	+10.3%	-22.8%	+12.5%	...	...	57.5%
02/11/1967	Manchester, Gorton	Lab hold	+4.6%	-14.2%	+5.9%	...	+3.7%	72.4%
02/11/1967	Hamilton	SNP gain from Lab	-16.3%	-29.7%	...	+46.0%	...	73.7%
23/11/1967	Derbyshire West	Con hold	+7.0%	-18.8%	+6.6%	...	+5.2%	64.5%
14/03/1968	Kensington South	Con hold	+10.3%	-11.2%	-2.5%	...	+3.4%	40.0%
28/03/1968	Acton	Con gain from Lab	+6.3%	-23.8%	+11.4%	...	+6.1%	59.7%
28/03/1968	Dudley	Con gain from Lab	+17.2%	-25.1%	+7.9%	...	...	63.5%
28/03/1968	Meriden	Con gain from Lab	+18.4%	-18.4%	...	...	...	66.0%
28/03/1968	Warwick and Leamington	Con hold	+16.7%	-19.6%	+2.9%	...	...	58.5%
13/06/1968	Oldham West	Con gain from Lab	+7.7%	-27.6%	+6.7%	...	+13.2%	54.7%
13/06/1968	Sheffield Brightside	Lab hold	+13.5%	-20.8%	...	...	+7.3%	49.8%
27/06/1968	Nelson and Colne	Con gain from Lab	+11.9%	-10.9%	+9.0%	...	-10.0%	74.2%
18/07/1968	Caerphilly	Lab hold	-4.2%	-28.7%	+3.6%	+29.3%	...	75.9%
31/10/1968	Bassetlaw	Lab hold	+9.5%	-11.9%	...	...	+2.4%	68.0%
07/11/1968	New Forest	Con hold	+15.1%	-12.9%	-2.2%	...	...	55.9%
27/03/1969	Brighton, Pavilion	Con hold	+12.5%	-23.3%	+10.8%	...	...	45.1%
27/03/1969	Walthamstow East	Con gain from Lab	+20.8%	-11.0%	-9.8%	...	...	51.2%
27/03/1969	Weston-super-Mare	Con hold	+13.6%	-14.2%	+0.6%	...	...	60.8%
22/05/1969	Chichester	Con hold	+17.0%	-12.9%	-4.1%	...	...	53.4%
26/06/1969	Birmingham, Ladywood	Lib gain from Lab	-0.6%	-33.4%	+30.6%	...	+3.4%	51.9%
30/10/1969	Islington North	Lab hold	+8.2%	-10.2%	+0.3%	...	+1.7%	32.8%
30/10/1969	Paddington North	Lab hold	+16.0%	-6.7%	-9.3%	...	...	46.3%
30/10/1969	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Lab hold	+5.7%	-15.7%	+6.4%	...	+3.6%	72.3%
30/10/1969	Swindon	Con gain from Lab	+5.1%	-20.8%	+15.3%	...	+0.4%	69.8%
30/10/1969	Glasgow, Gorbals	Lab hold	-4.2%	-19.7%	...	+25.0%	-1.1%	58.5%
04/12/1969	Louth	Con hold	+11.0%	-17.0%	+1.0%	...	+4.4%	44.7%
04/12/1969	Wellingborough	Con gain from Lab	+6.8%	-12.6%	...	...	+5.8%	69.6%
12/03/1970	Bridgwater	Con hold	+11.1%	-6.2%	-4.9%	...	...	70.3%
19/03/1970	Ayrshire South	Lab hold	-7.2%	-13.2%	...	+20.4%	...	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1970								
22/10/1970	St.Marylebone	Con hold	+1.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%	...	+3.4%	35.3%
19/11/1970	Enfield West	Con hold	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.5%	...	+1.3%	49.9%
01/04/1971	Liverpool, Scotland	Lab hold	-6.8%	-3.5%	+10.3%	37.7%
01/04/1971	Arundel and Shoreham	Con hold	+3.3%	-2.0%	-1.6%	...	+0.3%	53.1%

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Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
27/05/1971	Southampton, Itchen	Lab hold	+31.6%	-11.8%	+5.4%	...	-25.2%	50.1%
27/05/1971	Bromsgrove	Lab gain from Con	-10.1%	+10.1%	...	...	...	67.0%
27/05/1971	Goole	Lab hold	-8.7%	+8.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
17/06/1971	Hayes and Harlington	Lab hold	-15.9%	+17.0%	...	...	-1.1%	42.3%
08/07/1971	Greenwich	Lab hold	-8.3%	+9.4%	-6.4%	...	+5.3%	39.2%
16/09/1971	Stirling and Falkirk	Lab hold	-15.9%	-4.2%	...	+20.1%	...	60.0%
23/09/1971	Widnes	Lab hold	-11.4%	+11.4%	...	...	...	45.4%
30/09/1971	Macclesfield	Con hold	-7.4%	+9.4%	-3.9%	...	+1.9%	75.8%
13/04/1972	Merthyr Tydfil	Lab gain from Ind Lab	-2.4%	+19.8%	+2.4%	+27.4%	-47.2%	79.5%
04/05/1972	Southwark	Lab gain from Ind Lab	-10.1%	+12.0%	...	...	-1.9%	32.1%
04/05/1972	Kingston upon Thames	Con hold	-4.3%	-0.7%	-0.4%	...	+5.4%	53.6%
26/10/1972	Rochdale	Lib gain from Lab	-10.3%	-10.5%	+11.9%	...	+8.9%	69.1%
07/12/1972	Sutton and Cheam	Lib gain from Con	-26.2%	-18.6%	+39.0%	...	+5.8%	56.3%
07/12/1972	Uxbridge	Con hold	-9.4%	-5.1%	+1.3%	...	+13.2%	54.3%
01/03/1973	Lincoln	Dem Lab gain from Lab	-21.5%	-27.7%	...	...	+49.2%	72.6%
01/03/1973	Chester-le-Street	Lab hold	-20.0%	-18.6%	+38.6%	...	...	72.3%
01/03/1973	Dundee East	Lab hold	-17.2%	-15.6%	+8.3%	+21.3%	+3.2%	70.6%
24/05/1973	West Bromwich	Lab hold	-19.4%	-2.0%	...	...	+21.4%	43.6%
24/05/1973	Westhoughton	Lab hold	-2.3%	+1.6%	...	...	+0.7%	63.4%
27/06/1973	Manchester, Exchange	Lab hold	-20.7%	-13.2%	+36.5%	...	-2.6%	43.7%
26/07/1973	Isle of Ely	Lib gain from Con	-24.9%	-13.4%	+38.3%	...	...	65.8%
26/07/1973	Ripon	Lib gain from Con	-20.2%	-12.3%	+30.4%	...	+2.1%	64.3%
08/11/1973	Hove	Con hold	-20.9%	-19.7%	+37.3%	...	+3.3%	62.4%
08/11/1973	Berwick-upon-Tweed	Lib gain from Con	-11.0%	-7.6%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	75.0%
08/11/1973	Edinburgh North	Con hold	-14.1%	-13.1%	+8.3%	+18.9%	...	54.4%
08/11/1973	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from Lab	-16.5%	-21.8%	+8.2%	+31.6%	-1.5%	51.7%
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (FEB)								
23/05/1974	Newham South	Lab hold	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (OCT)								
26/06/1975	Greenwich, Woolwich West	Con gain from Lab	+10.2%	-5.0%	-9.0%	...	+3.8%	62.3%
04/03/1976	Coventry NW	Lab hold	+5.8%	-4.2%	-4.4%	...	+2.8%	72.9%
11/03/1976	Sutton, Carshalton	Con hold	+6.3%	-10.4%	-1.7%	...	+5.8%	60.5%
11/03/1976	Wirral	Con hold	+16.0%	-11.3%	-6.2%	...	+1.5%	55.5%
24/06/1976	Rotherham	Lab hold	+12.6%	-13.9%	-5.5%	...	+6.8%	46.8%
15/07/1976	Thurrock	Lab hold	+11.0%	-10.3%	-7.8%	...	+7.1%	54.1%
04/11/1976	Newcastle upon Tyne	Lab hold	+3.2%	-24.2%	+17.3%	...	+3.7%	41.0%
04/11/1976	Walsall North	Con gain from ENP	+17.3%	-27.9%	-10.2%	...	+20.8%	51.5%
04/11/1976	Workington	Con gain from Lab	+15.9%	-10.4%	-5.5%	...	...	74.2%
02/12/1976	Cambridge	Con hold	+9.8%	-10.0%	-2.8%	...	+3.0%	49.2%
24/02/1977	City of London and Westminster South	Con hold	+7.4%	-11.2%	-5.1%	...	+8.9%	39.6%
31/03/1977	Birmingham, Stetchford	Con gain from Lab	+15.6%	-19.6%	-6.6%	...	+10.6%	58.8%
28/04/1977	Ashfield	Con gain from Lab	+20.8%	-20.9%	-4.7%	...	+4.8%	59.7%
28/04/1977	Grimsby	Lab hold	+13.8%	-0.2%	-13.9%	...	+0.3%	70.2%
07/07/1977	Saffron Walden	Con hold	+12.0%	-11.4%	-5.1%	...	+4.5%	64.8%
18/08/1977	Birmingham, Ladywood	Lab hold	+6.3%	-11.4%	-8.5%	...	+13.6%	42.6%
24/11/1977	Bournemouth East	Con hold	+11.7%	-5.7%	-11.8%	...	+5.8%	42.6%
02/03/1978	Redbridge, Ilford North	Con gain from Lab	+9.4%	-4.5%	-11.6%	...	+6.7%	69.1%
13/04/1978	Glasgow, Garscadden	Lab hold	+5.6%	-5.5%	-5.0%	+1.7%	+3.2%	69.1%
20/04/1978	Lambeth Central	Lab hold	+8.2%	-10.7%	-7.2%	...	+9.7%	44.5%
27/04/1978	Epsom and Ewell	Con hold	+9.5%	-2.8%	-13.8%	...	+7.1%	54.9%
27/04/1978	Wycombe	Con hold	+13.7%	-2.3%	-12.0%	...	+0.6%	59.0%
31/05/1978	Hamilton	Lab hold	+3.5%	+3.5%	-1.4%	-5.6%	...	72.1%
13/07/1978	Manchester, Moss Side	Lab hold	+6.3%	-0.7%	-8.4%	...	+2.8%	51.6%
13/07/1978	Penistone	Lab hold	+8.9%	-8.7%	-0.2%	...	...	59.8%
26/10/1978	Pontefract and Castleford	Lab hold	+11.1%	-4.6%	-5.4%	...	-1.1%	48.9%
26/10/1978	Berwick and East Lothian	Lab hold	+2.6%	+4.1%	-2.3%	-4.4%	...	71.2%
01/03/1979	Clitheroe	Con hold	+17.0%	-2.8%	-14.2%	...	...	62.8%
01/03/1979	Knutsford	Con hold	+16.1%	-7.0%	-10.6%	...	+1.5%	57.2%
29/03/1979	Liverpool, Edge Hill	Lib gain from Lab	-11.4%	-28.1%	+36.8%	...	+2.7%	57.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1979								
27/09/1979	Manchester Central	Lab hold	-10.1%	-0.1%	+8.9%	...	+1.3%	33.6%
13/12/1979	Hertfordshire SW	Con hold	-8.8%	+0.0%	+7.4%	...	+1.4%	48.3%
13/03/1980	Southend East	Con hold	-19.3%	+6.5%	+12.0%	...	+0.8%	62.5%
26/06/1980	Glasgow Central	Lab hold	-7.6%	-11.7%	...	+15.2%	+4.1%	42.8%
16/07/1981	Warrington	Lab hold	-21.7%	-13.2%	+33.3%	...	+1.6%	67.0%
22/10/1981	Croydon NW	Lib gain from Con	-18.9%	-14.1%	+29.5%	...	+3.5%	62.8%
26/11/1981	Crosby	SDP gain from Con	-17.2%	-15.9%	+33.8%	...	-0.7%	69.3%
25/03/1982	Glasgow, Hillhead	SDP gain from Con	-14.5%	-8.5%	+19.0%	+1.2%	+2.8%	76.4%
27/05/1982	Beaconsfield	Con hold	+0.1%	-9.7%	+9.7%	...	-0.1%	53.9%

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
03/06/1982	Merton, Mitcham and Morden	Con gain from Lab	-0.5%	-20.8%	+20.5%	...	+0.8%	48.5%
24/06/1982	Coatbridge and Airdrie	Lab hold	-1.3%	-5.8%	+8.2%	-1.1%	...	56.3%
16/09/1982	Gower	Lab hold	-8.4%	-9.7%	+16.0%	+1.5%	+0.6%	65.4%
28/10/1982	Southwark, Peckham	Lab hold	-15.7%	-9.5%	+25.2%	...	+0.0%	38.0%
28/10/1982	Birmingham, Northfield	Lab gain from Con	-9.8%	-8.8%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	55.0%
02/12/1982	Glasgow, Queens's Park	Lab hold	-12.0%	-8.4%	+9.4%	+10.3%	+0.7%	47.0%
24/02/1983	Southwark, Bermondsey	Lib gain from Ind Lab	-19.4%	-37.5%	+50.9%	...	+6.0%	57.7%
24/03/1983	Darlington	Lab hold	-8.5%	-6.0%	+14.3%	...	+0.2%	80.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1983								
28/07/1983	Penrith and The Border	Con hold	-12.8%	-5.9%	+16.7%	...	+2.0%	55.7%
01/03/1984	Chesterfield	Lab hold	-17.2%	-1.6%	+15.2%	...	+3.6%	76.9%
03/05/1984	Stafford	Con hold	-10.8%	+3.7%	+7.1%	...	+0.0%	65.6%
03/05/1984	Surrey SW	Con hold	-10.4%	-1.5%	+11.3%	...	+0.6%	61.7%
03/05/1984	Cynon Valley	Lab hold	-6.8%	+2.8%	-0.7%	+1.8%	+2.9%	65.7%
14/06/1984	Portsmouth South	SDP gain from Con	-15.7%	+3.9%	+12.2%	...	-0.4%	54.5%
13/12/1984	Enfield, Southgate	Con hold	-8.5%	-5.9%	+12.2%	...	+2.2%	50.6%
04/07/1985	Brecon and Radnor	Lib gain from Con	-20.5%	+9.4%	+11.4%	-0.6%	+0.3%	79.4%
05/12/1985	Tyne Bridge	Lab hold	-14.1%	+1.3%	+11.4%	...	+1.4%	38.1%
10/04/1986	Fulham	Lab gain from Con	-11.3%	+10.4%	+0.5%	...	+0.4%	70.8%
08/05/1986	Derbyshire West	Con hold	-16.4%	+2.7%	+12.4%	...	+1.3%	71.9%
08/05/1986	Ryedale	Lib gain from Con	-17.9%	-1.9%	+19.8%	...	...	67.3%
17/07/1986	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Lab hold	-17.4%	-1.2%	+17.2%	...	+1.4%	62.2%
13/01/1986	Knowsley North	Lab hold	-13.8%	-8.2%	+19.8%	...	+2.2%	57.3%
26/02/1987	Greenwich	SDP gain from Lab	-23.6%	-4.5%	+27.9%	...	+0.2%	68.2%
12/03/1987	Truro	Lib hold	-6.5%	+2.5%	+3.1%	...	+0.9%	70.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1987								
14/07/1988	Kensington	Con hold	-5.9%	+4.9%	-6.4%	...	7.4%	51.6%
10/11/1988	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from Lab	-4.6%	-27.9%	-8.2%	+38.4%	2.3%	60.2%
15/12/1988	Epping Forest	Con hold	-21.4%	+0.3%	+6.6%	...	14.5%	49.1%
23/02/1989	Richmond (Yorks)	Con hold	-24.0%	-6.9%	-5.0%	...	35.9%	64.4%
23/02/1989	Pontypridd	Lab hold	-6.0%	-3.0%	-15.0%	+20.0%	3.9%	62.2%
04/05/1989	Vale of Glamorgan	Lab gain from Con	-10.5%	+14.2%	-12.5%	+1.7%	7.1%	70.7%
15/06/1989	Glasgow Central	Lab hold	-5.4%	-9.9%	-9.0%	+20.2%	4.1%	52.8%
15/06/1989	Vauxhall	Lab hold	-10.2%	+2.6%	-0.7%	...	8.3%	44.4%
22/03/1990	Mid Staffordshire	Lab gain from Con	-18.3%	+24.4%	-12.0%	...	6.0%	77.5%
24/05/1990	Bootle	Lab hold	-11.0%	+8.5%	-4.0%	...	6.5%	50.6%
27/09/1990	Knowsley South	Lab hold	-6.4%	+4.3%	-5.4%	...	7.5%	33.4%
18/10/1990	Eastbourne	LD gain from Con	-19.0%	-3.8%	+21.1%	...	1.7%	60.7%
08/11/1990	Bootle	Lab hold	-10.9%	+11.5%	-5.1%	...	4.5%	39.7%
08/11/1990	Bradford North	Lab hold	-22.7%	+8.9%	+7.6%	...	6.2%	53.4%
29/11/1990	Paisley North	Lab hold	-1.0%	-11.5%	-7.5%	+16.5%	3.5%	53.7%
29/11/1990	Paisley South	Lab hold	-1.3%	-10.1%	-5.3%	+13.5%	3.2%	55.0%
07/03/1991	Ribble Valley	LD gain from Con	-22.4%	-8.3%	+27.1%	...	3.6%	71.2%
04/04/1991	Neath	Lab hold	-7.5%	-11.6%	-8.3%	+17.0%	10.4%	63.7%
16/05/1991	Monmouth	Lab gain from Con	-13.5%	+11.6%	+0.8%	-0.2%	1.3%	75.8%
04/07/1991	Liverpool Walton	Lab hold	-11.5%	-11.3%	+14.8%	...	8.0%	56.7%
07/11/1991	Hemsworth	Lab hold.	-6.7%	-0.7%	+4.3%	...	3.1%	42.6%
07/11/1991	Kincardine and Deeside	LD gain from Con	-10.1%	-8.2%	+12.7%	+4.7%	0.8%	64.6%
07/11/1991	Langbaugh	Lab gain from Con	-2.6%	+4.5%	-3.8%	...	1.9%	65.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1992								
06/05/1993	Newbury	LD gain from Con	-29.0%	-4.0%	+27.8%	...	5.2%	71.3%
29/07/1993	Christchurch	LD gain from Con	-32.2%	-9.4%	+38.6%	...	3.0%	74.2%
05/05/1994	Rotherham	Lab hold	-13.9%	-8.3%	+17.4%	...	4.8%	43.7%
09/06/1994	Barking	Lab hold	-23.5%	+20.5%	-2.5%	...	5.5%	38.3%
09/06/1994	Eastleigh	LD gain from Con	-26.5%	+6.8%	+16.3%	...	3.4%	58.7%
09/06/1994	Newham North East	Lab hold	-16.0%	+16.6%	-7.0%	...	6.3%	34.8%
09/06/1994	Bradford South	Lab hold	-20.6%	+7.7%	+10.2%	...	2.7%	44.2%
09/06/1994	Dagenham	Lab hold	-26.4%	+19.7%	-3.1%	...	9.7%	37.0%
30/06/1994	Monklands East	Lab hold	-13.7%	-11.5%	-2.0%	+26.9%	0.4%	70.0%
15/12/1994	Dudley West	Lab gain from Con	-30.2%	+28.1%	-2.8%	...	5.0%	47.0%
16/02/1995	Islwyn	Lab hold	-10.9%	-5.2%	+4.9%	+8.8%	2.3%	45.1%
25/05/1995	Perth and Kinross	SNP gain from Con	-18.7%	+10.5%	+0.4%	+4.4%	3.4%	62.1%
27/07/1995	Littleborough & Saddleworth	LD gain from Con	-20.7%	+13.9%	+2.7%	...	4.1%	64.4%
01/02/1996	Hemsworth	Lab hold	-9.8%	+1.1%	-3.7%	...	12.4%	39.5%
11/04/1996	South East Staffordshire	Lab gain from Con	-22.2%	+22.0%	-4.9%	...	5.1%	59.6%
12/12/1996	Barnsley East	Lab hold	-6.9%	-0.7%	-0.3%	...	7.9%	33.6%
27/02/1997	Wirral South	Lab gain from Con	-16.5%	18.0%	-3.0%	...	1.5%	73.0%

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Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1997								
31/07/1997	Uxbridge	Con hold	+7.6%	-2.5%	-5.3%	...	0.2%	55.5%
06/11/1997	Paisley South	Lab hold	-1.7%	-13.4%	+1.6%	+9.1%	4.4%	43.1%
20/11/1997	Beckenham	Con hold	-1.2%	+4.0%	+0.2%	...	-3.0%	43.6%
20/11/1997	Winchester ⁴	LD hold	-13.6%	-8.8%	+26.0%	...	-3.6%	68.7%
10/06/1999	Leeds Central	Lab hold	-1.4%	-21.4%	+19.6%	...	3.2%	19.6%
22/07/1999	Eddisbury	Con hold	+2.3%	+0.0%	+0.6%	...	-2.9%	51.4%
23/09/1999	Hamilton South	Lab hold	-1.4%	-28.7%	-1.9%	+16.4%	15.6%	41.3%
23/09/1999	Wigan	Lab hold	+1.1%	-9.0%	+3.3%	...	4.6%	25.0%
25/11/1999	Kensington and Chelsea	Con hold	+2.8%	-5.9%	-5.9%	...	9.0%	29.7%
03/02/2000	Ceredigion	PC hold	+1.6%	-9.9%	+6.5%	+1.1%	0.7%	45.6%
04/05/2000	Romsey	LD gain from Con	-4.0%	-14.8%	+21.1%	...	-2.3%	55.5%
22/06/2000	Tottenham	Lab hold	+0.3%	-15.8%	+8.3%	...	7.2%	25.4%
23/11/2000	Glasgow, Anniesland	Lab hold	-0.6%	-9.7%	+0.8%	+3.7%	5.8%	38.4%
23/11/2000	Preston	Lab hold	+3.1%	-15.1%	+1.5%	...	10.5%	29.6%
23/11/2000	West Bromwich West ⁵	Lab win	Not Comparable					27.6%
21/12/2000	Falkirk West	Lab hold	-3.8%	-15.8%	-2.0%	+16.5%	5.1%	36.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 2001								
22/11/2001	Ipswich	Lab hold	-2.1%	-8.0%	+7.2%	...	2.9%	40.2%
14/02/2002	Ogmore	Lab hold	-3.7%	-10.1%	-4.0%	+6.8%	11.0%	35.2%
18/09/2003	Brent East	LD gain from Lab	-2.1%	-29.4%	+28.6%	...	2.9%	36.2%
15/07/2004	Birmingham Hodge Hill	Lab hold	-2.6%	-27.4%	+26.1%	...	3.9%	37.9%
15/07/2004	Leicester South	LD gain from Lab	-3.3%	-25.2%	+17.7%	...	10.8%	40.6%
30/09/2004	Hartlepool	Lab hold	-11.1%	-18.5%	+19.2%	...	10.4%	45.8%
GENERAL ELECTION 2005								
14/07/2005	Cheadle	LD hold	2.0%	-4.2%	3.3%	...	-1.1%	55.2%
29/09/2005	Livingston	Lab hold	-3.4%	-9.3%	-0.6%	11.1%	2.2%	38.6%
09/02/2006	Dunfermline & W Fife	LD gain from Lab	-2.5%	-16.8%	15.7%	2.1%	1.6%	48.7%
29/06/2006	Blaenau Gwent	Ind hold	1.4%	4.7%	1.2%	4.1%	-11.4%	51.7%
29/06/2006	Bromley & Chislehurst	Con hold	-11.1%	-15.6%	17.5%	...	9.2%	40.5%
19/07/2007	Ealing, Southall	Lab hold	0.9%	-7.3%	3.2%	...	3.2%	42.9%
19/07/2007	Sedgefield	Lab hold	0.2%	-14.1%	8.0%	...	5.9%	41.5%
22/05/2008	Crewe & Nantwich	Con gain from Lab	16.9%	-18.3%	-4.0%	...	5.4%	57.7%
26/06/2008	Henley	Con hold	3.5%	-11.7%	1.8%	...	6.4%	50.3%
10/07/2008	Haltemprice & Howden ⁶	Con hold	24.1%	...	...	...	25.4%	34.1%
24/07/2008	Glasgow East	SNP gain from Lab	-0.6%	-19.0%	-8.4%	26.1%	1.9%	42.2%
06/11/2008	Glenrothes	Lab hold	-3.3%	3.2%	-10.0%	13.1%	-3.0%	52.3%
23/07/2009	Norwich North	Con gain from Lab	6.3%	-26.7%	-2.2%	...	22.6%	45.8%
12/11/2009	Glasgow North East ⁷	Lab win	Not Comparable					33.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 2010								
13/01/2011	Oldham East and Saddleworth	Lab hold	-13.6%	10.3%	0.3%	...	3.0%	48.0%
03/02/2011	Barnsley Central	Lab hold	-9.0%	13.5%	-13.1%	...	8.6%	37.0%
05/05/2011	Leicester South	Lab hold	-6.2%	12.3%	-4.4%	...	-1.7%	43.9%
30/06/2011	Inverclyde	Lab hold	-2.1%	-2.2%	-11.1%	15.5%	-0.1%	45.4%
16/12/2011	Feltham and Heston	Lab hold	-6.3%	10.8%	-7.9%	...	3.5%	28.7%
29/03/2012	Bradford West	Respect gain from Lab	-22.8%	-20.4%	-7.1%	...	50.2%	50.8%

Notes

1. Constituency returned two MPs at 1945 General Election. When calculating the change in vote share, the total vote received by a party's candidate in the previous general election is used.
2. Votes for the National candidate in the general election are counted as Conservative votes.
3. From 1918 to 1945, two Members were returned for a Combined English Universities constituency and three Members for a Combined Scottish Universities constituency, using the Single Transferable Vote system. By-elections were conducted by First Past the Post. Therefore by-election results are not comparable with the general election results.
4. Election re-run. Original general election result annulled by election court.
5. By-election called due to resignation of Speaker Betty Boothroyd.
6. Labour and the Liberal Democrats did not contest the by-election.
7. By-election called due to resignation of Speaker Michael Martin.

Sources

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 Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
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Table 14a: Parliamentary by-elections in Northern Ireland, 1922-1974¹

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			CON	NAT ²	LAB	LIB	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1922								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1923								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1924								
29/01/1929	Londonderry*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1929								
07/03/1931	Fermanagh and Tyrone*	Nat hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1931								
27/06/1934	Fermanagh and Tyrone*		...	8.5%	38.6%	39.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1935								
10/05/1939	Down*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
08/02/1940	East Belfast	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
09/02/1943	West Belfast	NI Lab gain from Con	-29.2%	29.2%	54.8%
11/02/1943	Antrim*	Con hold	By-election uncontested					45.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1945								
06/06/1946	Down*	Con gain from Ind Con	10.9%	-10.9%	66.6%
05/03/1948	Armagh	Con hold	Previous general election was uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1950								
19/05/1951	Londonderry	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1951								
27/10/1952	North Antrim	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
15/04/1953	North Down	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
20/11/1954	Armagh	Con hold	By-election uncontested					
GENERAL ELECTION 1955								
11/08/1955	Mid-Ulster ³	SF hold	-0.5%	0.5%	89.7%
08/05/1956	Mid-Ulster ⁴	Ind Con gain from SF	...	10.9%	38.9%	88.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1959								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1964								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1966								
17/04/1969	Mid-Ulster	Unity gain from Con	-5.6%	5.6%	91.5%
GENERAL ELECTION 1970								
None								

Notes

1. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in Table 14b (1974-2012). Ulster Unionists are listed as Conservatives up to 1972 when they stopped taking the Conservative whip.

2. Irish Nationalist/Anti-Partitionist

3. Sinn Féin (SF) candidate T.J. Mitchell was elected as MP for Mid-Ulster at the 1955 General Election, but was in prison at the time of election and hence was disqualified from being an MP. No petition was lodged but a by-election writ was subsequently issued; in the 31 August 1955 by-election Mitchell again stood for Sinn Féin and topped the poll (therefore the by-election is here recorded as a Sinn Féin hold). However on this occasion a petition was lodged and since Mitchell was disqualified, the Conservative candidate was elected instead.

4. Prior to the by-election the seat was held by a Conservative (see footnote 1). Changes in vote share are as compared to the 1955 General Election.

* Constituency returned two MPs at previous general election. Change in vote share between general election and by-election is calculating using the total vote received by a party's candidate in the previous general election. However some electors will only voted for one candidate in the general election and of those who cast two votes, some will have voted for candidates from different parties. Additionally some parties will only have stood one candidate in a multimember seat.

Table 14b: Parliamentary by-elections in Northern Ireland, 1974-2012¹

Date	Constituency	Result	Change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			DUP	UUP	SF	SDLP	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (FEB)								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (OCT)								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 1979								
09/04/1981	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Anti-H Block gain from Ind Rep	...	+41.0%	...	...	+51.2%	82.4%
20/08/1981	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	Anti-H Block hold	...	-3.2%	...	...	+3.2%	87.5%
04/03/1982	Belfast South	UUP hold	+22.6%	-22.4%	...	+0.9%	+29.3%	65.7%
GENERAL ELECTION 1983²								
23/01/1986	East Antrim	UUP hold	...	+47.5%	...	...	-4.8%	58.9%
23/01/1986	North Antrim	DUP hold	+43.2%	...	...	...	...	53.5%
23/01/1986	South Antrim	UUP hold	...	+48.5%	...	...	...	52.2%
23/01/1986	Belfast East	DUP hold	+35.6%	...	...	...	-6.1%	63.6%
23/01/1986	Belfast North	UUP hold	...	+35.3%	...	...	+13.7%	54.7%
23/01/1986	Belfast South	UUP hold	...	+21.4%	...	...	+2.4%	56.6%
23/01/1986	North Down	UPU hold	...	...	...	...	+21.9%	60.5%
23/01/1986	South Down	UUP hold	...	+8.1%	-2.2%	+5.6%	-0.6%	73.8%
23/01/1986	Fermanagh and South Tyrone	UUP hold	...	+2.1%	-7.6%	+5.0%	+0.5%	80.4%
23/01/1986	Lagan Valley	UUP hold	...	+31.5%	...	...	+7.3%	81.4%
23/01/1986	East Londonderry	UUP hold	...	+56.0%	...	...	...	47.0%
23/01/1986	Mid Ulster	DUP hold	+16.1%	...	-2.6%	+3.0%	-0.1%	77.0%
23/01/1986	Newry and Armagh	SDLP gain from UUP	...	+0.2%	-7.7%	+8.7%	-1.2%	76.6%
23/01/1986	Strangford	UUP hold	...	+45.4%	...	...	...	55.1%
23/01/1986	Upper Bann	UUP hold	...	+23.9%	...	...	+13.8%	57.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1987								
17/05/1990	Upper Bann	UUP hold	...	-3.5%	-1.7%	-1.6%	-4.8%	53.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1992								
15/06/1995	North Down	UKU gain from UPU	...	...	...	...	-19.3%	38.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 1997								
21/09/2000	South Antrim	DUP gain from UUP	...	-22.2%	+3.0%	-4.7%	-5.0%	43.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 2001								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 2005								
None								
GENERAL ELECTION 2010 (up to July 2011)								
09/06/2011	Belfast West	SF hold	-1.5%	-1.4%	-0.4%	-2.9%	+6.3%	37.4%

Notes

1. The formation of new parties in the early 1970s altered the pattern of party competition at Westminster elections. The SDLP (formed 1970) and the DUP (formed 1971) are included in this table but not in Table 14a. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) took the Conservative whip at Westminster until 1972 and so in Table 14a are listed under Conservatives.

2. Multiple by-elections were held in January 1986 after fifteen unionist Members resigned their seats in protest at the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Party descriptions:

DUP	Democratic Unionist Party	SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
UUP	Ulster Unionist Party	UPU	Ulster Popular Unionist Party
SF	Sinn Fein	UKU	United Kingdom Unionist

Sources

F.W.S. Craig, *British Parliamentary Election Results 1918-1949*

F.W.S. Craig, *British Parliamentary Election Results 1950-1973*

F.W.S. Craig, *British Parliamentary Election Results 1974-1983*

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Parliamentary Election Results 1983-1997*

House of Commons Library RP01/36, *By-election results 1997-2000*; RP05/34, *By-election results 2001-05*;

RP10/50, *By-election results 2005-10*; SN05833, *By-elections since 2010 General Election*

4 European Parliament elections

Elections to the European Parliament are held every five years. Prior to the first direct elections in June 1979, members of the European Parliament had been delegates from national parliaments.

Since 1999, MEPs in England, Scotland and Wales have been elected using a regional list system of proportional representation; up to the 1994 election the electoral system in use was First Past the Post. European Parliament elections in Northern Ireland have always been conducted using the Single Transferable Vote system of proportional representation.

In 1979, the Conservatives received just over half the vote and won three-quarters of seats in Great Britain at the European Parliament elections. By 1994 the picture had been reversed and three-quarters of MEPs elected were Labour. After the change in electoral system in 1999, there was an increase in the number of MEPs from other parties. Ten Liberal Democrat MEPs were elected, compared to two in 1994, and the first MEPs were elected for UK Independence Party (UKIP), the Green Party and Plaid Cymru.

Although Labour polled more votes in 2004 than in 1999, a higher turnout meant the party's vote share fell from 36% to 23%. A huge increase in the UKIP vote meant the number of UKIP MEPs increased from three to twelve and the party polled the third highest number of first preference votes behind the Conservative and Labour. UKIP gained another seat in 2009 and received more first preference votes than Labour. The 2009 elections also saw the first MEPs elected for the British National Party (BNP).

Turnout at European Parliament elections in Great Britain has typically been lower than at General Elections; it was exceptionally low in 1999 when fewer than one in four voters turned out. In all European Parliament elections the turnout in Northern Ireland has been higher than in the rest of the UK.

Table 15a: UK MEPs elected at European Parliament elections by party, 1979-2009

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009
Great Britain							
Conservative	60	45	32	18	36	27	25
Labour	17	32	45	62	29	19	13
Liberal Democrat	0	0	0	2	10	12	11
UKIP	..	..	..	0	3	12	13
Scottish National	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Plaid Cymru	0	0	0	0	2	1	1
Green	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
BNP	..	..	..	..	0	0	2
<i>Total</i>	78	78	78	84	84	75	69
Northern Ireland							
DUP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SDLP	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
UUP	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sinn Fein	..	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Total</i>	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total UK	81	81	81	87	87	78	72

Table 15b: European Parliament election results: votes by party, 1979-2009

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009
Great Britain							
<i>Votes received</i>							
Conservative	6,508,493	5,426,821	5,331,098	4,268,539	2,803,820	4,397,087	4,198,664
Labour	4,253,207	4,865,261	6,153,661	6,753,881	3,578,203	3,718,683	2,381,760
Liberal Democrat ¹	1,691,531	2,591,635	944,861	2,557,887	1,266,549	2,452,327	2,080,613
UKIP				150,251	696,055	2,660,768	2,498,226
Scottish National	247,836	230,594	406,686	487,237	185,235	231,505	321,007
Plaid Cymru	83,399	103,031	115,062	162,478	268,528	159,888	126,702
Green ²	17,953	70,853	2,292,718	494,561	625,378	1,028,283	1,303,745
BNP					102,644	808,201	943,598
Other	71,433	24,678	117,181	417,888	475,841	1,001,861	1,282,887
Total	12,873,852	13,312,873	15,361,267	15,292,722	10,002,253	16,458,603	15,137,202
<i>% vote share received</i>							
Conservative	51%	41%	35%	28%	28%	27%	28%
Labour	33%	37%	40%	44%	36%	23%	16%
Liberal Democrat ¹	13%	19%	6%	17%	13%	15%	14%
UKIP				1%	7%	16%	17%
Scottish National	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Plaid Cymru	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Green ²	0%	1%	15%	3%	6%	6%	9%
BNP					1%	5%	6%
Other	1%	0%	1%	3%	5%	6%	8%
Turnout	32.1%	32.1%	36.5%	36.2%	23.1%	38.2%	34.3%
Northern Ireland							
<i>Votes received (first preference votes)</i>							
DUP	170,688	230,251	160,110	163,246	192,762	175,761	88,346
SDLP	140,622	151,399	136,335	161,992	190,731	87,559	78,489
UUP	125,169	147,169	118,785	133,459	119,507	91,164	82,893
Sinn Fein		91,476	48,914	55,215	117,643	144,541	126,184
Alliance	39,026	34,046	27,905	23,157	14,391		26,699
Other	96,734	30,976	42,762	22,798	43,775	50,252	81,961
Total	572,239	685,317	534,811	559,867	678,809	549,277	484,572
<i>% vote share received (first preference votes)</i>							
DUP	30%	34%	30%	29%	28%	32%	18%
SDLP	25%	22%	25%	29%	28%	16%	16%
UUP	22%	21%	22%	24%	18%	17%	17%
Sinn Fein	0%	13%	9%	10%	17%	26%	26%
Alliance	7%	5%	5%	4%	2%	0%	6%
Other	17%	5%	8%	4%	6%	9%	17%
Turnout	55.6%	64.4%	48.3%	48.7%	57.0%	51.2%	42.4%
UK-wide turnout	32.7%	32.9%	36.8%	36.5%	24.0%	38.5%	34.5%

Notes

1. Liberal Party in 1979 and SDP/Liberal Alliance in 1984. SDP votes in the 1989 election are counted under 'Other'.

2. Ecology Party in 1979 and 1984.

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

House of Commons Library Research Paper RP09/53, *European Parliament Elections 2009*

5 Elections to devolved legislatures and London elections

5.1 National Assembly for Wales

Elections to the National Assembly for Wales have been held every four years since 1999. 40 constituency Assembly Members (AMs) and 20 regional AMs are elected using the *Additional Member System*.

Labour has always been the largest party in the Assembly in terms of votes received and seats won, although it has never won a clear majority of seats. Following the 1999 elections, Labour initially formed a minority administration but entered a coalition with the Liberal Democrats in 2000. Labour governed on its own between 2003 and 2007, and in coalition with Plaid Cymru from 2007 to 2011. Since the 2011 elections, there has been a single party Labour government.

The Conservatives have steadily increased their share of the constituency and regional vote and share of seats at Assembly elections since 1999. In 2011, the party received just under a quarter of the total vote and were the second largest party in the Assembly with 14 AMs. Plaid Cymru's most successful Assembly election was in 1999, when it took almost 30% of the vote and won 17 seats. In 2011, the party received 19% of the vote and won 11 seats.

The next elections will be in May 2016, under the provisions of the *Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011*. After 2016, elections will return to a four year cycle.

Table 16a: Assembly Members elected by party, 1999-2011

	Total seats won			
	1999	2003	2007	2011
LAB	28	30	26	30
PC	17	12	15	11
CON	9	11	12	14
LD	6	6	6	5
Other	0	1	1	0
Total	60	60	60	60

Table 16b: National Assembly for Wales elections, 1999-2011

	Number of Votes				%share of votes				Seats won			
	1999	2003	2007	2011	1999	2003	2007	2011	1999	2003	2007	2011
Constituencies												
LAB	384,671	340,515	314,925	401,677	37.6%	40.0%	32.2%	42.3%	27	30	24	28
PC	290,565	180,185	219,121	182,907	28.4%	21.2%	22.4%	19.3%	9	5	7	5
CON	162,133	169,832	218,730	237,389	15.8%	20.0%	22.4%	25.0%	1	1	5	6
LD	137,657	120,250	144,410	100,259	13.5%	14.1%	14.8%	10.6%	3	3	3	1
Other	47,992	40,061	80,906	27,021	4.7%	4.7%	8.3%	2.8%	0	1	1	0
Total	1,023,018	850,843	978,092	949,253	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	40	40	40	40
Turnout	46.4%	38.2%	43.5%	41.5%								
Regional lists												
LAB	361,657	310,658	288,955	349,935	35.4%	36.6%	29.6%	36.9%	1	0	2	2
PC	312,048	167,653	204,757	169,799	30.5%	19.7%	21.0%	17.9%	8	7	8	6
CON	168,206	162,725	209,154	213,773	16.5%	19.2%	21.5%	22.5%	8	10	7	8
LD	128,008	108,013	114,500	76,349	12.5%	12.7%	11.7%	8.0%	3	3	3	4
Other	51,938	100,503	157,420	139,032	5.1%	11.8%	16.1%	14.7%	0	0	0	0
Total	1,021,857	849,552	974,786	948,888	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	20	20	20	20
Turnout	46.3%	38.1%	43.4%	41.4%								

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

Electoral Commission, *Report on the National Assembly for Wales general election 5 May 2011*

House of Commons Library Research Paper RP11/40, *National Assembly for Wales Elections: 2011*

5.2 Scottish Parliament

Elections for the 129 seats in the Scottish Parliament have been held every four years since 1999. 73 constituency Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and 56 regional MSPs are elected using the Additional Member System. Scottish Parliamentary constituencies have different boundaries to Westminster seats.

Labour won the most seats in the 1999 and 2003 elections, and on both occasions went into coalition with the Liberal Democrats. The Scottish National Party (SNP) replaced Labour as the largest party in 2007, winning 47 seats compared to Labour's 46, and formed a minority government. The SNP won an outright majority of seats (69 out of 129) in 2011.

The 2003 elections saw a large increase in votes cast for smaller parties and independent candidates despite a fall in turnout. Seven MSPs were elected for the Scottish Green Party and six for the Scottish Socialist Party. However, in 2007, the Scottish Socialist Party lost all its MSPs while the Scottish Green Party could only hold two of its seats.

The next Scottish Parliament elections will be in May 2016, as provided for by the *Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011*. After 2016, elections will return to a four year cycle.

Table 17a: Members of the Scottish Parliament elected by party, 1999-2011

	Seats won			
	1999	2003	2007	2011
SNP	35	27	47	69
LAB	56	50	46	37
CON	18	18	17	15
LD	17	17	16	5
Green	1	7	2	2
SSP ¹	1	6	0	0
Other	1	4	1	1
Total	129	129	129	129

1. Scottish Socialist Party

Table 17b: Scottish Parliament elections, 1999-2011

	Number of Votes				% Share of Vote				Seats won			
	1999	2003	2007	2011	1999	2003	2007	2011	1999	2003	2007	2011
Constituencies												
SNP	672,768	455,742	664,227	902,915	28.7%	23.8%	32.9%	45.4%	7	9	21	53
LAB	908,346	663,585	648,374	630,437	38.8%	34.6%	32.1%	31.7%	53	46	37	15
CON	364,425	318,279	334,742	276,652	15.6%	16.6%	16.6%	13.9%	0	3	4	3
LD	333,179	294,347	326,232	157,694	14.2%	15.4%	16.2%	7.9%	12	13	11	2
Other	63,770	184,641	43,402	21,534	2.7%	9.6%	2.2%	1.1%	1	2	0	0
Total	2,342,488	1,916,594	2,016,977	1,989,232	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	73	73	73	73
Turnout	58.8%	49.4%	51.7%	50.4%								
Regional list												
SNP	638,644	399,659	633,401	876,421	27.3%	20.9%	31.0%	44.0%	28	18	26	16
LAB	786,818	561,375	595,415	523,559	33.6%	29.3%	29.2%	26.3%	3	4	9	22
CON	359,109	296,929	284,005	245,967	15.4%	15.5%	13.9%	12.4%	18	15	13	12
LD	290,760	225,774	230,671	103,472	12.4%	11.8%	11.3%	5.2%	5	4	5	3
Other	263,583	432,114	298,557	241,507	11.3%	22.6%	14.6%	12.1%	2	15	3	3
Total	2,338,914	1,915,851	2,042,049	1,990,926	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	56	56	56	56
Turnout	58.7%	49.4%	52.4%	50.4%								

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

Electoral Commission, *Report on the Scottish Parliament election on 5 May 2011*

House of Commons Library Research Paper RP07/46, *Scottish Parliament Elections: 3 May 2007*

House of Commons Library Research Paper RP11/41, *Scottish Parliament Elections: 2011*

5.3 Northern Ireland Assembly

Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly have been held in 1998, 2003, 2007 and most recently in 2011, although between October 2002 and May 2007 devolution was suspended. The Assembly's 108 Members (MLAs) are elected using the Single Transferable Vote. Assembly constituencies are the same as Westminster parliamentary seats, with six MLAs elected from each constituency.

Since the first elections in 1998, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Sinn Féin have increased their vote share to establish themselves as the largest parties in the Assembly. The Ulster Unionists (UUP) and the SDLP held the most seats in the first Assembly, but both parties have seen their vote share decrease to well below 1998 levels. Turnout in Northern Ireland Assembly elections has typically been higher than at devolved elections in Scotland and Wales. In 1998, the turnout was 70%, although there was only 55% turnout in 2011.

Table 18: Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 1998-2011

	First preference votes				% first preference vote				Seats won			
	1998	2003	2007	2011	1998	2003	2007	2011	1998	2003	2007	2011
DUP	146,917	177,944	207,721	198,436	18.1%	25.3%	30.1%	30.0%	20	30	36	38
Sinn Féin	142,858	162,758	180,573	178,222	17.6%	23.2%	26.2%	26.9%	18	24	28	29
UUP	172,225	156,931	103,145	87,531	21.3%	22.3%	14.9%	13.2%	28	27	18	16
SDLP	177,963	117,547	105,164	94,286	22.0%	16.7%	15.2%	14.2%	24	18	16	14
Alliance	52,636	25,372	36,139	50,875	6.5%	3.6%	5.2%	7.7%	6	6	7	8
Other	117,646	61,697	57,571	52,384	14.5%	8.8%	8.3%	7.9%	12	3	3	3
Total	810,245	702,249	690,313	661,734	100%	100%	100%	100.0%	108	108	108	108
Turnout	70.0%	64.0%	62.3%	54.7%								

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

Electoral Office for Northern Ireland, www.eoni.org.uk

Elections were held to the Northern Ireland House of Commons (Stormont) from its creation in 1921 to its prorogation in 1972. About two-thirds of seats were held by Unionists. A significant number of Members were elected unopposed.

Table 19: Members elected at general elections to the Northern Ireland House of Commons (Stormont)

	Unionist	Other Unionists ¹	NI Labour Party	Independent Labour ²	Nationalist/Republican ³	Others	Unopposed returns	
							Total	returns
1921	40	0	0	0	12	0	52	0
1925	32	4	3	0	12	1	52	12
1929	37	3	1	0	11	0	52	22
1933	36	3	2	0	11	0	52	33
1938	39	3	1	1	8	0	52	21
1945	33	2	2	3	10	2	52	20
1949	37	2	0	2	9	2	52	20
1953	38	1	0	3	9	1	52	25
1958	37	0	4	2	8	1	52	27
1962	34	0	4	3	9	2	52	24
1965	36	0	2	2	9	3	52	23
1969 ⁴	36	3	2	2	6	3	52	7

Notes

(1) Including Independent Unionists, Progressive Unionists, Protestant Unionists and Independent O'Neill Unionists.

(2) Including Independent Labour, Commonwealth Labour, Federation of Labour, Irish Labour, Republican Labour and Socialist Republican

(3) Including Nationalists, Republicans, Sinn Féin, Fianna Fáil, Anti-Partitionists

(4) Of the 36 Unionists elected in 1969, 24 were pro-O'Neill and 12 were anti-O'Neill.

Source: Sydney Elliot, *Northern Ireland Parliamentary Election Results 1921-1972*

5.4 London Assembly

Elections for the London Assembly are held every four years, using the Additional Member System. There are 14 Constituency Members and 11 London-wide Members. In the four elections held since 2000, only Conservative and Labour Members have been elected on the constituency ballot, with other parties picking up seats from the London-wide list.

Table 20a: London Assembly seats won by party, 2000-2012

	Total seats won				Constituency seats				London-wide seats			
	2000	2004	2008	2012	2000	2004	2008	2012	2000	2004	2008	2012
CON	9	9	11	9	8	9	8	6	1		3	3
LAB	9	7	8	12	6	5	6	8	3	2	2	4
LD	4	5	3	2					4	5	3	2
Green	3	2	2	2					3	2	2	2
UKIP		2								2		
BNP			1								1	
Total	25	25	25	25	14	14	14	14	11	11	11	11

Labour's best performance in an Assembly election was in 2012 when they won twelve seats and received over 42% of the vote in the constituency ballot. The Conservatives' best result was in 2008, when they had eleven Assembly Members elected and received 37% of the vote in the constituency election. Turnout peaked in 2008 at 44.4%.

Table 20b: Votes cast in London Assembly Elections, 2000-2012

	Number of Votes				%Share of Vote				Seats won			
	2000	2004	2008	2012	2000	2004	2008	2012	2000	2004	2008	2012
Constituency ballot												
CON	526,707	562,048	900,569	722,280	33.2%	31.2%	37.4%	32.7%	8	9	8	6
LAB	501,296	444,808	673,855	933,438	31.6%	24.7%	28.0%	42.3%	6	5	6	8
LD	299,998	332,237	330,018	193,842	18.9%	18.4%	13.7%	8.8%	0	0	0	0
Green	162,457	138,243	194,059	188,623	10.2%	7.7%	8.1%	8.5%	0	0	0	0
UKIP	2,115	181,147	71,984	95,849	0.1%	10.0%	3.0%	4.3%	0	0	0	0
Other	93,497	144,688	235,804	73,645	5.9%	8.0%	9.8%	3.3%	0	0	0	0
Total	1,586,070	1,803,171	2,406,289	2,207,677	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	14	14	14	14
Turnout	31.2%	34.7%	44.3%	37.4%								
London-wide list												
CON	481,053	533,696	835,535	708,528	29.0%	28.5%	34.6%	32.0%	1	0	3	3
LAB	502,874	468,247	665,443	911,204	30.3%	25.0%	27.6%	41.1%	3	2	2	4
LD	245,555	316,218	275,272	150,447	14.8%	16.9%	11.4%	6.8%	4	5	3	2
Green	183,910	160,445	203,465	189,215	11.1%	8.6%	8.4%	8.5%	3	2	2	2
UKIP	34,054	156,780	46,617	100,040	2.1%	8.4%	1.9%	4.5%	0	2	0	0
BNP	47,670	90,365	130,714	47,024	2.9%	4.8%	5.4%	2.1%	0	0	1	0
Other	164,514	147,415	255,561	108,550	9.9%	7.9%	10.6%	4.9%	0	0	0	0
Total	1,659,630	1,873,166	2,412,607	2,215,008	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	11	11	11	11
Turnout	32.6%	36.0%	44.4%	37.5%								

Source: Greater London Authority

5.5 Mayor of London

Elections for the Mayor of London have been held every four years since 2000, using the *Supplementary Vote* system. Ken Livingstone won the first Mayoral election as an independent and was re-elected in 2004 standing for Labour. He was replaced by Conservative candidate Boris Johnson in 2008. Johnson won a second term in May 2012.

Table 21: London Mayoral Elections, 2000-2012

Name	Party	1st preference		2nd preference ¹		Total ²	
		Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
4 May 2000							
Ken Livingstone	Independent	667,877	39.0	144,206	11.0	776,427	57.9
Steve Norris	Conservative	464,434	27.1	162,767	12.4	564,137	42.1
Frank Dobson	Labour	223,884	13.1	200,509	15.2	...	...
Susan Kramer	Liberal Democrat	203,452	11.9	397,148	30.2	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	42,060	2.5	53,657	4.1	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	38,121	2.2	191,226	14.5	...	...
Michael Newland	British National Party	33,569	2.0	42,803	3.3	...	...
Damian Hockney	UK Independence Party	16,324	1.0	42,987	3.3	...	...
Geoffrey Ben-Nathan	Pro-Motorist Small Shop	9,956	0.6	22,214	1.7	...	...
Ashwin Kumar Tanna	Independent	9,015	0.5	41,237	3.1	...	...
Geoffrey Clements	Natural Law Party	5,470	0.3	17,738	1.3	...	...
Total		1,714,162		1,316,492		1,340,564	
Turnout		33.7%					
10 June 2004							
Ken Livingstone	Labour	685,548	36.8	186,371	12.9	828,390	55.4
Steve Norris	Conservative	542,423	29.1	185,148	12.8	667,180	44.6
Simon Hughes	Liberal Democrat	284,647	15.3	450,732	31.1	...	...
Frank Maloney	UK Independence Party	115,666	6.2	187,559	13.0	...	...
Lindsey German	Respect	61,731	3.3	54,075	3.7	...	...
Julian Leppert	British National Party	58,407	3.1	65,926	4.6	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	57,332	3.1	205,614	14.2	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	41,698	2.2	53,300	3.7	...	...
Lorna Reid	Indep. Working Class Assoc.	9,542	0.5	39,333	2.7	...	...
Tammy Nagalingam	Independent	6,692	0.4	19,868	1.4	...	...
Total		1,863,686		1,447,926		1,495,570	
Turnout		35.9%					
1 May 2008							
Boris Johnson	Conservative	1,044,067	43.2	210,312	11.3	1,169,046	53.2
Ken Livingstone	Labour	894,317	37.0	214,279	11.5	1,029,406	46.8
Brian Paddick	Liberal Democrat	236,752	9.8	641,412	34.6	...	...
Siân Berry	Green	77,396	3.2	329,665	17.8	...	...
Richard Barnbrook	British National Party	69,753	2.9	124,093	6.7	...	...
Alan Craig	Christian Peoples Alliance	39,266	1.6	77,373	4.2	...	...
Gerard Batten	UK Independence Party	22,435	0.9	112,765	6.1	...	...
Lindsey German	Left List	16,803	0.7	34,276	1.8	...	...
Matt O'Connor	English Democrats	10,700	0.4	73,538	4.0	...	...
Winston McKenzie	Independent	5,396	0.2	38,602	2.1	...	...
Total		2,416,885		1,856,315		2,198,452	
Turnout		44.5%					
3 May 2012							
Boris Johnson	Conservative	971,931	44.0	187,997	12.1	1,054,811	51.5
Ken Livingstone	Labour	889,918	40.3	199,538	12.9	992,273	48.5
Jenny Jones	Green	98,913	4.5	360,381	23.3	...	...
Brian Paddick	Liberal Democrat	91,774	4.2	360,104	23.2	...	...
Siobhan Benita	Independent	83,914	3.8	210,761	13.6	...	...
Lawrence James Webb	UK Independence Party	43,274	2.0	159,618	10.3	...	...
Carlos Cortiglia	British National Party	28,751	1.3	71,139	4.6	...	...
Total		2,208,475		1,549,538		2,047,084	
Turnout		37.4%					

1. Excluding votes where the second preference was the same as the first preference.

2. If no candidate receives more than half of first preference votes, the two candidates who received the most first preference votes then receive second preferences from the other candidates.

Source: Greater London Authority

5.6 Women's representation in devolved assemblies and the European Parliament

At the most recent European Parliament elections in 2009, one third of MEPs elected for the UK were women. Following the first elections in 1979 only one in seven UK MEPs were women.

Table 22: Women elected as UK MEPs at European Parliament elections, 1979-2009

	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total
<i>Number of female MEPs</i>					
1979	6	4	..	1	11
1984	6	5	..	1	12
1989	4	7	..	1	12
1994	2	13	0	1	16
1999	3	10	5	3	21
2004	2	7	6	4	19
2009	6	5	6	7	24
<i>Percentage of party's MEPs</i>					
1979	10%	24%	..	25%	14%
1984	13%	16%	..	25%	15%
1989	13%	16%	..	25%	15%
1994	11%	21%	0%	20%	18%
1999	8%	34%	50%	25%	24%
2004	7%	37%	50%	20%	24%
2009	24%	38%	55%	30%	33%

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*
House of Commons Library, RP09/53 *European Parliament Elections 2009*

Women have always won at least 30% of seats in elections to the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and London Assembly. In 2003, an equal number of male and female Members were elected to the National Assembly for Wales. Fewer than 20% of seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly are held by women, although the number of female Members has increased since the first elections in 1998.

Table 23: Women elected at elections to devolved parliaments and London Assembly, 1998-2012

	Wales			Scotland			Northern Ireland			London Assembly		
	Women	Total	%	Women	Total	%	Women	Total	%	Women	Total	%
1998							14	108	13%			
1999	24	60	40%	48	129	37%				10	25	40%
2000												
2001												
2002												
2003	30	60	50%	51	129	40%	18	108	17%			
2004										9	25	36%
2005												
2006												
2007	28	60	47%	43	129	33%	18	108	17%			
2008										8	25	32%
2009												
2010												
2011	24	60	40%	45	129	35%	20	108	19%			
2012										8	25	32%

Sources

House of Commons Library, SN05170 *Women in Public Life, the Professions and the Boardroom*
Greater London Authority

6 Local Elections

6.1 Council Elections

Councillors are elected for four year terms using the First Past the Post electoral system. Some authorities, including London boroughs and county councils, hold elections every four years and elect all their councillors at the same time. Other councils elect a third of councillors every year (except in years when there are county council elections). A small number of councils hold elections every two years and elect half of the councillors at a time.

Although the areas holding elections change from year to year, it is possible to calculate a *national equivalent share of the vote* which estimates the vote share which each party would have received had elections been held across all authorities in Great Britain.

Table 24: Estimated national equivalent share of vote at local elections: Great Britain, 1979-2012

	CON	LAB	LD	Others
1979	45%	38%	14%	3%
1980	40%	42%	13%	5%
1981	38%	41%	17%	4%
1982	40%	29%	27%	4%
1983	39%	36%	20%	5%
1984	38%	37%	21%	4%
1985	32%	39%	26%	3%
1986	34%	37%	26%	3%
1987	38%	32%	27%	3%
1988	39%	38%	18%	5%
1989	36%	42%	19%	3%
1990	33%	44%	17%	6%
1991	35%	38%	22%	5%
1992	46%	30%	20%	4%
1993	31%	39%	25%	5%
1994	28%	40%	27%	5%
1995	25%	47%	23%	5%
1996	29%	43%	24%	4%
1997	31%	44%	17%	8%
1998	33%	37%	25%	5%
1999	34%	36%	25%	5%
2000	38%	30%	26%	6%
2001	33%	42%	19%	6%
2002	34%	33%	25%	8%
2003	35%	30%	27%	8%
2004	37%	26%	27%	10%
2005	33%	36%	23%	8%
2006	39%	26%	25%	10%
2007	40%	26%	24%	10%
2008	43%	24%	23%	10%
2009	35%	22%	25%	18%
2010	37%	30%	24%	10%
2011	38%	37%	16%	9%
2012	33%	39%	15%	13%

Note: Local elections were held on the same day as a general election in 1979, 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2010. For these years, general election results are shown (in bold).

Sources

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British electoral facts 1832-2006*

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *Local elections handbook*, various
The Sunday Times

After the 1973 reorganisation of local government, Conservative councillor numbers peaked at over 12,600 in 1978, when half of all councillors were Conservative. The number decreased during the party's time in government from 1979, but climbed again when the party entered opposition in 1997.

The increase in the number of Conservative councillors prior to 1979 corresponded to a sharp fall in Labour councillors. Labour made gains between 1979 and 1981 having left government, but their councillor numbers then remained fairly constant up to the mid-1990s. Labour held 10,900 council seats in 1996 prior to winning the 1997 General Election, but the number of Labour councillors fell steadily while the party was in government to a low of 4,400 in 2009.

The number of seats held by the Liberal/SDP alliance (and then the Liberal Democrats) climbed through the 1980s and the early 1990s to peak at 5,100 in 1996. Following the 2012 local elections the Liberal Democrats had 2,700 councillors, their lowest ever number since the party was created in 1988.

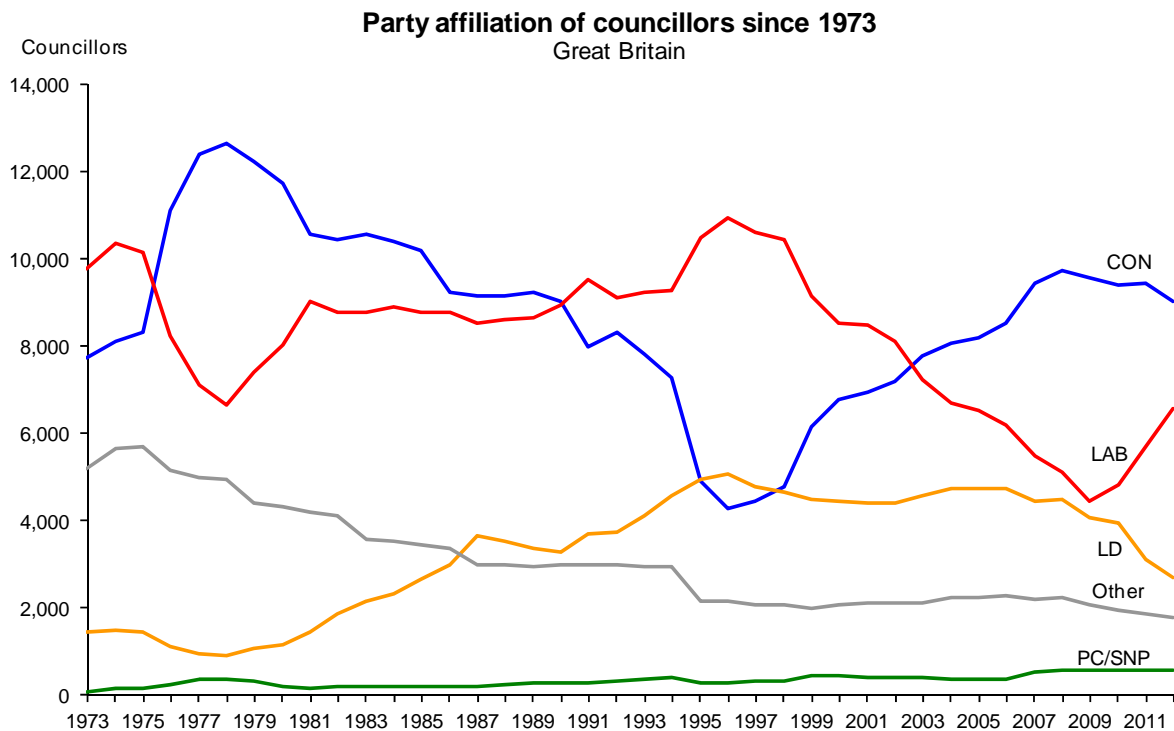


Table 25: Party affiliation of councillors 1973-2012

Great Britain

	Number					Total	% total				
	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others		CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others
1973	7,709	9,781	1,427	65	5,183	24,165	32%	40%	6%	0%	21%
1974	8,102	10,325	1,474	145	5,664	25,710	32%	40%	6%	1%	22%
1975	8,301	10,117	1,462	145	5,685	25,710	32%	39%	6%	1%	22%
1976	11,077	8,213	1,113	223	5,132	25,758	43%	32%	4%	1%	20%
1977	12,370	7,115	950	349	4,965	25,749	48%	28%	4%	1%	19%
1978	12,645	6,644	923	349	4,920	25,481	50%	26%	4%	1%	19%
1979	12,222	7,410	1,059	301	4,388	25,380	48%	29%	4%	1%	17%
1980	11,738	8,011	1,149	186	4,325	25,409	46%	32%	5%	1%	17%
1981	10,545	8,999	1,455	172	4,208	25,379	42%	35%	6%	1%	17%
1982	10,447	8,774	1,850	177	4,099	25,347	41%	35%	7%	1%	16%
1983	10,557	8,782	2,171	175	3,570	25,255	42%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1984	10,393	8,870	2,331	179	3,515	25,288	41%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1985	10,191	8,746	2,633	177	3,432	25,179	40%	35%	10%	1%	14%
1986	9,216	8,759	2,971	191	3,364	24,501	38%	36%	12%	1%	14%
1987	9,141	8,525	3,640	203	2,974	24,483	37%	35%	15%	1%	12%
1988	9,150	8,601	3,518	254	2,968	24,491	37%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1989	9,242	8,636	3,343	258	2,958	24,437	38%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1990	9,020	8,920	3,265	264	2,968	24,437	37%	37%	13%	1%	12%
1991	7,985	9,504	3,672	292	2,997	24,450	33%	39%	15%	1%	12%
1992	8,288	9,102	3,728	334	2,977	24,429	34%	37%	15%	1%	12%
1993	7,802	9,213	4,123	358	2,948	24,444	32%	38%	17%	1%	12%
1994	7,286	9,257	4,551	392	2,941	24,427	30%	38%	19%	2%	12%
1995	4,883	10,461	4,942	294	2,157	22,737	21%	46%	22%	1%	9%
1996	4,276	10,929	5,078	298	2,157	22,738	19%	48%	22%	1%	9%
1997	4,449	10,608	4,754	301	2,076	22,188	20%	48%	21%	1%	9%
1998	4,772	10,411	4,629	304	2,083	22,199	21%	47%	21%	1%	9%
1999	6,144	9,134	4,485	444	1,973	22,180	28%	41%	20%	2%	9%
2000	6,785	8,529	4,457	447	2,071	22,289	30%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2001	6,941	8,487	4,382	418	2,091	22,319	31%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2002	7,178	8,117	4,379	415	2,094	22,183	32%	37%	20%	2%	9%
2003	7,768	7,207	4,551	388	2,125	22,039	35%	33%	21%	2%	10%
2004	8,038	6,669	4,714	355	2,213	21,989	37%	30%	21%	2%	10%
2005	8,193	6,518	4,743	357	2,233	22,044	37%	30%	22%	2%	10%
2006	8,495	6,176	4,723	364	2,273	22,031	39%	28%	21%	2%	10%
2007	9,431	5,483	4,420	537	2,173	22,044	43%	25%	20%	2%	10%
2008	9,721	5,122	4,467	569	2,225	22,104	44%	23%	20%	3%	10%
2009	9,553	4,436	4,083	570	2,060	20,702	46%	21%	20%	3%	10%
2010	9,406	4,831	3,944	568	1,962	20,711	45%	23%	19%	3%	9%
2011	9,445	5,707	3,104	568	1,855	20,679	46%	28%	15%	3%	9%
2012	9,004	6,559	2,711	584	1,787	20,645	44%	32%	13%	3%	9%

Note: Liberal Democrat councillor figures include predecessor parties

Sources:

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British electoral facts 1832-2006*

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *Local elections handbook*, various

House of Commons Library, RP12/27 *Local Elections 2012*

6.2 Elected Mayors

50 councils have held referendums on elected mayors since new council leadership arrangements were introduced by the *Local Government Act 2000*. 15 councils have voted in favour and 35 against. Leicester and Liverpool city councils both resolved to adopt a mayoral system without holding a referendum. Ten cities held referendums on elected mayors on 3 May 2012 under the provisions of the *Localism Act 2011*, but only Bristol voted in favour.

The first councils to adopt elected mayors have now held three mayoral elections and elected mayors currently hold office in fifteen local authorities. There are six Labour mayors, four Independents, two Liberal Democrats, two Conservatives and one English Democrat. Excluding referendums that coincided with general elections, the highest turnout was 42% in West Devon. The lowest turnout was 10% in Ealing.

Table 26: Mayoral referendum results

Council	Result	Date	For	Against	Turnout ¹
Berwick-upon-Tweed	No	7 Jun 2001 #	3,617	10,212	63.8%
Cheltenham	No	28 Jun 2001	8,083	16,602	31.0%
Gloucester	No	28 Jun 2001	7,731	16,317	30.8%
Watford	Yes	12 Jul 2001	7,636	7,140	24.5%
Doncaster ²	Yes	20 Sep 2001	35,453	19,398	25.0%
Kirklees	No	4 Oct 2001	10,169	27,977	13.0%
Sunderland	No	11 Oct 2001	9,593	12,209	10.0%
Hartlepool	Yes	18 Oct 2001	10,667	10,294	31.0%
Lewisham	Yes	18 Oct 2001	16,822	15,914	18.0%
North Tyneside	Yes	18 Oct 2001	30,262	22,296	36.0%
Sedgefield	No	18 Oct 2001	10,628	11,869	33.3%
Middlesbrough	Yes	18 Oct 2001	29,067	5,422	34.0%
Brighton and Hove	No	18 Oct 2001	22,724	37,214	31.6%
Redditch	No	8 Nov 2001	7,250	9,198	28.3%
Durham City	No	20 Nov 2001	8,327	11,974	28.5%
Harrow	No	7 Dec 2001	17,502	23,554	26.0%
Harlow	No	24 Jan 2001	5,296	15,490	36.4%
Plymouth	No	24 Jan 2001	29,559	42,811	39.8%
Southwark	No	31 Jan 2002	6,054	13,217	11.2%
Newham	Yes	31 Jan 2002	27,263	12,687	25.9%
West Devon	No	31 Jan 2002	3,555	12,190	41.8%
Shepway	No	31 Jan 2002	11,357	14,435	36.3%
Bedford	Yes	21 Feb 2002	11,316	5,537	15.5%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	No	2 May 2002	12,912	16,468	31.5%
Oxford	No	2 May 2002	14,692	18,686	33.8%
Hackney	Yes	3 May 2002	24,697	10,547	31.9%
Stoke-on-Trent ³	Yes	3 May 2002	28,601	20,578	27.8%
Mansfield	Yes	3 May 2002	8,973	7,350	21.0%
Corby	No	26 Sep 2002	5,351	6,239	30.9%
Ealing	No	11 Dec 2002	9,454	11,655	9.8%
Ceredigion	No	20 May 2004	5,308	14,013	36.3%
Isle of Wight	No	5 May 2005 #	28,786	37,097	62.4%
Torbay	Yes	14 Jul 2005	18,074	14,682	32.1%
Fenland	No	14 Jul 2005	5,509	17,296	33.6%
Crewe and Nantwich	No	4 May 2006	11,808	18,768	35.3%
Darlington	No	27 Sep 2007	7,981	11,226	24.7%
Bury	No	3 Jul 2008	10,338	15,425	18.3%
Tower Hamlets	Yes	6 May 2010 #	60,758	39,857	62.1%
Great Yarmouth	No	5 May 2011	10,051	15,595	36.0%
Salford	Yes	26 Jan 2012	17,344	13,653	18.1%
Birmingham	No	3 May 2012	88,085	120,611	27.7%
Bradford	No	3 May 2012	53,949	66,283	35.2%
Bristol	Yes	3 May 2012	41,032	35,880	24.1%
Coventry	No	3 May 2012	22,619	39,483	26.2%
Leeds	No	3 May 2012	62,440	107,910	30.3%
Manchester	No	3 May 2012	42,677	48,593	24.7%
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne	No	3 May 2012	24,630	40,089	32.0%
Nottingham	No	3 May 2012	20,943	28,320	23.8%
Sheffield	No	3 May 2012	44,571	82,890	32.1%
Wakefield	No	3 May 2012	27,610	45,357	28.3%

Notes

1. Turnout as reported by local authority

2. A referendum on whether to end the mayoral system was held in Doncaster in May 2012. The referendum decided in favour of retaining the mayoral system.

3. A subsequent referendum in Stoke-on-Trent in October 2008 decided in favour of ending the mayoral system and using a leader and cabinet system instead.

Same day as General Election

Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*; local authority websites; House of Commons Library, RP12/27 *Local Elect*

Table 27: Mayoral Elections

Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
02 May 2002								
Doncaster	Martin Winter	LAB	21,494	36.8	4,213	57.1	25,707	67.9
Turnout 28.4%	Andrew Burden	CON	9,000	15.4	3,170	42.9	12,170	32.1
	Jessie Credland	CG	8,469	14.5				
	Michael Maye	IND	7,502	12.8				
	Graham Newman	LD	5,150	8.8				
	Terry Wilcox	IND	4,036	6.9				
	Shafiq Khan	IND	2,836	4.8				
			58,487	100.0	7,383	100.0	37,877	100.0
Hartlepool	Stuart Drummond	-	5,696	29.1	1,699	55.7	7,395	52.1
Turnout 30.1%	Leo Gillen	LAB	5,438	27.8	1,354	44.3	6,792	47.9
	Ian Cameron	IND	5,174	26.5				
	Arthur Preece	LD	1,675	8.6				
	Stephen Close	CON	1,561	8.0				
			19,544	100.0	3,053	100.0	14,187	100.0
Lewisham	Steve Bullock	LAB	20,011	45.0	4,509	70.9	24,520	71.3
Turnout 25.5%	Derek Stone	CON	8,004	18.0	1,851	29.1	9,855	28.7
	Alex Feakes	LD	7,276	16.3				
	Sinna Mani	GRN	5,517	12.4				
	Marie-Louise Irvine	LEAP	3,710	8.3				
			44,518	100.0	6,360	100.0	34,375	100.0
Middlesborough	Raymond Mallon	-	26,362	62.8				
Turnout 41.3%	Sylvia Connolly	LAB	9,653	23.0				
	Joe Michna	LD	3,820	9.1				
	Ronald Darby	CON	1,510	3.6				
	Jeffrey Fowler	SA	352	0.8				
	Rod Jones	IND	297	0.7				
			41,994	100.0				
Newham	Robin Wales	LAB	20,384	50.8				
Turnout 27.6%	Tawfique Choudhury	IND	5,907	14.7				
	Graham Postles	CON	4,635	11.5				
	Alan Craig	CPA	3,649	9.1				
	Michael Davidson	BNP	2,881	7.2				
	Gabrielle Rolfe	GRN	2,691	6.7				
			40,147	100.0				
North Tyneside	Christopher Morgan	CON	21,829	35.9	4,254	46.3	26,083	51.5
Turnout 42.5%	Eddie Darke	LAB	19,601	32.2	4,930	53.7	24,531	48.5
	Michael Huscroft	LD	12,323	20.2				
	Allan Pond	IND	4,993	8.2				
	Michael Elliott	SA	2,119	3.5				
			60,865	100.0	9,184	100.0	50,614	100.0
Watford	Dorothy Thornhill	LD	10,954	49.4	2,519	87.2	13,473	71.9
Turnout 37.4%	Vince Muspratt	LAB	4,899	22.1	370	12.8	5,269	28.1
	Gary Ling	CON	4,746	21.4				
	Stephen Rackett	GRN	851	3.8				
	Paul Woodward	SA	390	1.8				
	Tristram Cooke	FC	330	1.5				
			22,170	100.0	2,889	100.0	18,742	100.0
17 Oct 2002								
Bedford	Frank Branston	BBI	9,557	34.5	2,522	52.8	12,079	63.4
Turnout 25.3%	Christine McHugh	LD	4,711	17.0	2,253	47.2	6,964	36.6
	Charles Rose	CON	4,661	16.8				
	Apu Bagchi	LAB	4,114	14.8				
	Ian Clifton	IND	1,893	6.8				
	Arthur Foster	IND	1,826	6.6				
	Mark Powell	GRN	735	2.6				
	Gurminder Singh Dosanjh	IND	218	0.8				
			27,715	100.0	4,775	100.0	19,043	100.0

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Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total		
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	
Hackney Turnout 25.2%	Jules Pipe	LAB	13,813	42.0	2,421	68.2	16,234	74.3	
	Andrew Boff	CON	4,502	13.7	1,127	31.8	5,629	25.7	
	Paul Foot	SA	4,187	12.7					
	Ian Sharer	LD	4,185	12.7					
	Crospin Truman	GRN	3,002	9.1					
	Bruce Spenser	IND	1,543	4.7					
	Terry Edwards	IND	1,253	3.8					
	Errol Carr	IND	441	1.3					
				32,926	100.0	3,548	100.0	21,863	100.0
	Mansfield Turnout 18.5%	Tony Egginton	IND	4,150	29.6	1,801	75.3	5,951	52.6
Lorna Carter		LAB	4,773	34.0	590	24.7	5,363	47.4	
Kathryn Allsop		CON	3,351	23.9					
Phillip Smith		LD	958	6.8					
Michael Comerford		GRN	811	5.8					
				14,043	100.0	2,391	100.0	11,314	100.0
Stoke-on-Trent Turnout 24.0%	Mike Wolfe	M4S	9,356	21.3	3,337	56.0	12,693	50.6	
	George Stevenson	LAB	9,752	22.2	2,627	44.0	12,379	49.4	
	Steven Batkin	BNP	8,213	18.7					
	Roger Ibbs	CON	4,417	10.0					
	Geoffrey Snow	-	3,975	9.0					
	Fred Morrow	LD	2,408	5.5					
	Paul Breeze	-	1,349	3.0					
	Patricia Whitehouse	IND	1,280	2.9					
	Graham Wilkes	IND	1,157	2.6					
	David Chatton	IND	926	2.1					
	Adrian Knapper	AKIP	708	1.6					
	Harry Chesters	-	453	1.0					
				43,994	100.0	5,964	100.0	25,072	100.0
12 June 2003									
North Tyneside (by-election) Turnout 31.4%	Linda Arkley	CON	18,478	43.1	2,810	45.6	21,288	56.4	
	Gordon Adam	LAB	13,070	30.5	3,357	54.4	16,427	43.6	
	Michael Huscroft	LD	8,404	19.6					
	Robert Batten	NF	2,554	6.0					
	Louise van der Hoeven	SA	400	0.9					
				42,906	100.0	6,167	100.0	37,715	100.0
05 May 2005									
Hartlepool Turnout 51.1%	Stuart Drummond	IND	14,227	42.1%	2,685	69.5%	16,912	71.6%	
	Carl Richardson	LAB	5,527	16.4%	1,180	30.5%	6,707	28.4%	
	Ian John Henry Cameron	IND	4,272	12.6%					
	Stephen Allison	LLH	3,765	11.1%					
	Stan Kaiser	IND	2,701	8.0%					
	John Lauderdale	IND	1,821	5.4%					
	Brenda Pearson	CON	1,482	4.4%					
				33,795	100.0	3,865	100.0	23,619	100.0
Stoke-on-Trent Turnout 50.8%	Mark Joseph Meredith	LAB	27,253	32.9%	9,708	58.4%	36,961	61.5%	
	Roger Michael Ibbs	CON	16,211	19.5%	6,919	41.6%	23,130	38.5%	
	Mike Wolfe	SGS	15,882	19.1%					
	Steven Reginald Batkin	BNP	15,776	19.0%					
	Gary Chevin	IND	4,505	5.4%					
	Justin Harvey	IND	1,955	2.4%					
	Gary Falconer	IND	1,368	1.6%					
				82,950	100.0	16,627	100.0	60,091	100.0
Doncaster Turnout 54.5%	Martin Winter	LAB	40,015	36.7%	5,727	36.4%	45,742	55.1%	
	Michael Maye	IND	27,304	25.1%	10,004	63.6%	37,308	44.9%	
	Raymond Bartlett	CON	12,533	11.5%					
	Jessie Credland	CG	10,263	9.4%					
	Michael Cooper	IND	7,773	7.1%					
	David Owen	BNP	6,128	5.6%					
	Richard Rolt	GRN	4,930	4.5%					
			108,946	100.0	15,731	100.0	83,050	100.0	

Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total		
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	
North Tyneside Turnout 61.4%	John Harrison	LAB	34,053	40.2%	6,407	61.6%	40,460	50.6%	
	Linda Arkely	CON	35,467	41.8%	3,991	38.4%	39,458	49.4%	
	Dr Joan Harvey	LD	12,761	15.1%					
	Robert Batten	NF	2,470	2.9%					
				84,751	100.0	10,398	100.0	79,918	100.0
20 Oct 2005									
Torbay Turnout 23.5%	Nicholas Bye	CON	5,283	21.9%	1,813	56.7%	7,096	57.7%	
	Nicholas Pannell	LD	3,811	15.8%	1,386	43.3%	5,197	42.3%	
	Gordon Oliver	IND	3,516	14.6%					
	Susan Colley	IND	2,871	11.9%					
	Percy Brewis	IND	2,015	8.4%					
	Robert Crawford	IND	1,161	4.8%					
	Marshall Richie	IND	1,152	4.8%					
	Peter Middleton	IND	1,030	4.3%					
	Beverley Brennan	IND	881	3.7%					
	David Pedrick-Friend	LAB	767	3.2%					
	James O'Dwyer	IND	647	2.7%					
	Julien Parrott	IND	526	2.2%					
	Beverley Oxley	IND	322	1.3%					
	James Grimble	IND	143	0.6%					
			24,125	100.0%	3,199	100.0%	12,293	100.0%	
04 May 2006									
Hackney Turnout 32.9%	Jules Pipe	LAB	20,830	46.9%	3,403	71.9%	24,233	73.4%	
	Andrew Boff	CON	7,454	16.8%	1,331	28.1%	8,785	26.6%	
	Matthew Penhaligon	LD	4,882	11.0%					
	Mima Bone	GRN	4,683	10.5%					
	Hettie Peters	IND	2,907	6.5%					
	Dean Ryan	RES	2,800	6.3%					
	Monty Goldman	CP	896	2.0%					
				44,452	100.0%	4,734	100.0%	33,018	100.0%
	Lewisham Turnout 33.0%	Steve Bullock	LAB	22,155	37.7%	2,974	31.4%	25,129	57.1%
		Christopher Maines	LD	12,398	21.1%	6,491	68.6%	18,889	42.9%
James Cleverley		CON	10,790	18.4%					
Michael Keogh		GRN	7,168	12.2%					
John Hamilton		IND	4,823	8.2%					
Sinna Mani		LPA	1,366	2.3%					
				58,700	100.0%	9,465	100.0%	44,018	100.0%
Newham Turnout 34.5%	Robin Wales	LAB	28,655	47.9%	5,406	64.4%	34,061	68.2%	
	Akhtar Jafar	RES	12,898	21.6%	2,983	35.6%	15,881	31.8%	
	Reza Choudhury	CON	8,822	14.7%					
	Alan Craig	CPA	6,559	11.0%					
	Anwar Hussain	LD	2,886	4.8%					
				59,820	100.0%	8,389	100.0%	49,942	100.0%
Watford Turnout 38.1%	Dorothy Thornhill	LD	11,963	51.2%					
	Stephen O'Brien	CON	4,838	20.7%					
	Ruth Ellis	LAB	4,062	17.4%					
	Stephen Rackett	GRN	2,522	10.8%					
				23,385	100.0%				
03 May 2007									
Bedford Turnout 40.1%	Frank Branston	IND	15,966	36.7%	3,732	58.9%	19,698	59.7%	
	Nicky Attenborough	CON	10,710	24.6%	2,603	41.1%	13,313	40.3%	
	Christine McHugh	LD	10,553	24.2%					
	Randolph Charles	LAB	4,758	10.9%					
	Justina McLennan	GRN	1,538	3.5%					
				43,525	100.0	6,335	100.0	33,011	100.0
Mansfield Turnout 34.2%	Tony Egginton	IND	12,051	45.7%	1,705	72.2%	13,756	61.0%	
	Alan Meale	LAB	8,129	30.8%	645	27.4%	8,774	39.0%	
	Aaron Beattie	CON	2,770	10.5%					
	Philip Burman	LD	1,944	7.4%					
	Mary Button	GRN	1,489	5.6%					
				26,383	100.0	2,350	100.0	22,530	100.0

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Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Middlesborough Turnout 38.8%	Ray Mallon	IND	17,455	58.7%				
	Joe Michna	GRN	7,026	23.6%				
	Charles Rooney	LAB	3,529	11.9%				
	Dorothy Smith	CON	1,733	5.8%				
				29,743	100.0			
04 June 2009								
Doncaster Turnout 38.1%	Peter Davies	ED	16,961	25.3%	8,383	51.7%	25,344	50.4%
	Michael Maye	IND	17,150	25.6%	7,840	48.3%	24,990	49.6%
	Sandra Holland	LAB	16,549	24.7%				
	Jonathan Wood	CON	12,198	18.2%				
	Stuart Exelby	CG	2,152	3.2%				
	Michael Felse	IND	2,051	3.1%				
			67,061	100.0%	16,223	100.0%	50,334	100.0%
Hartlepool Turnout 31.9%	Stuart Drummond	IND	5,268	24.5%	1,599	47.8%	6,867	53.3%
	Ian Cameron	IND	4,280	19.9%	1,743	52.2%	6,023	46.7%
	Chris Simmons	LAB	2,921	13.6%				
	Martyn Aiken	UKIP	1,844	8.6%				
	Tony Morrell	IND	1,457	6.8%				
	Cheryl Dunn	BNP	1,352	6.3%				
	David Young	CON	1,092	5.1%				
	Jim Gillespie	IND	986	4.6%				
	Iris Ryder	IND	594	2.8%				
	Allison Willetts	IND	564	2.6%				
	Lynne Gillam	LD	464	2.2%				
	Barbara Jackson	IND	461	2.1%				
	Christine Blakey	IND	204	0.9%				
				21,487	100.0%	3,342	100.0%	12,890	100.0%
North Tyneside Turnout 38.4%	Linda Arkley	CON	24,784	42.4%	2,299	45.0%	27,083	54.5%
	John Harrison	LAB	19,823	33.9%	2,811	55.0%	22,634	45.5%
	Nigel John Yuscroft	LD	7,343	12.6%				
	John Burrows	BNP	3,398	5.8%				
	Martin Collins	GRN	1,995	3.4%				
	Robert Nigel Batten	NF	1,086	1.9%				
				58,429	100.0%	5,110	100.0%	49,717	100.0%
Bedford (by-election) Turnout 30.2%	Dave Hodgson	LD	9,428	26.8%	4,127	62.9%	13,555	54.0%
	Parvez Akhtar	CON	9,105	25.9%	2,438	37.1%	11,543	46.0%
	Apu Bagchi	IND	7,631	21.7%				
	Tony Hare	IND	4,316	12.3%				
	James Valentine	LAB	3,482	9.9%				
	Eve Robinson-Morley	GRN	1,183	3.4%				
			35,145	100.0%	6,565	100.0%	25,098	100.0%
06 May 2010								
Hackney Turnout 58.0%	Jules Pipe	LAB	48,363	53.9%				
	Adrian John Gee-Turner	LD	15,818	17.6%				
	Andrew Boff	CON	12,405	13.8%				
	Mischa Borris	GRN	10,100	11.2%				
	Monty Goldman	CPB	2,033	2.3%				
	William Thompson	CP	1,084	1.2%				
			89,803	100.0%				
Lewisham Turnout 58.4%	Steve Bullock	LAB	47,861	44.5%	4,670	31.8%	52,531	59.0%
	Chris Maines	LD	26,445	24.6%	10,001	68.2%	36,446	41.0%
	Simon John Nundy	CON	16,276	15.1%				
	Dean Maurice Walton	GRN	6,560	6.1%				
	John Nicholas Hamilton	UKIP	5,964	5.5%				
	Tess Culnane	BNP	2,904	2.7%				
	Graham Trevor Dare	ED	1,559	1.4%				
			107,569	100.0%	14,671	100.0%	88,977	100.0%

Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Newham Turnout 50.4%	Sir Robin Wales	LAB	64,748	68.0%				
	Maria Joy Allen	CON	15,330	16.1%				
	Kamran Malik	KMCWP	6,607	6.9%				
	Alan Craig	CP	6,503	6.8%				
	Chikwe Nkemnacho	IND	2,006	2.1%				
			95,194	100.0%				
Watford Turnout 65.2%	Dorothy Thornhill	LD	19,153	45.9%	4,276	79.5%	23,429	67.1%
	Stephen Johnson	CON	10,403	24.9%	1,105	20.5%	11,508	32.9%
	Nigel Bell	LAB	10,029	24.0%				
	Alex MacGregor Mason	GRN	2,173	5.2%				
			41,758	100.0%	5,381	100.0%	34,937	100.0%
21 Oct 2010								
Tower Hamlets Turnout 25.6%	Lutfur Rahman	IND	23,283	53.9%				
	Helal Uddin Abbas	LAB	11,254	17.6%				
	Neil King	CON	5,348	13.8%				
	John Griffiths	LD	2,800	11.2%				
	John Duffell	GRN	2,300	2.3%				
			44,985	100.0%				
05 May 2011								
Torbay Turnout 41.2%	Gordon Malcolm Oliver	CON	10,630	25.7%	2,086	55.9%	12,716	56.9%
	Nick Bye	IND	7,983	19.3%	1,648	44.1%	9,631	43.1%
	Dennis Raymond Brewer	LD	6,905	16.7%				
	Patrick Canavan	LAB/Coop	3,793	9.2%				
	Susie Colley	IND	3,559	8.6%				
	Paul Clifford	IND	2,414	5.8%				
	Martin Robert Brook	IND	2,090	5.1%				
	Fiona McPhail	V4T	2,084	5.0%				
	Sam Moss	GRN	1,918	4.6%				
				41,376	100.0%	3,734	100.0%	22,347	100.0%
Bedford Turnout 47.0%	Dave Hodgson	LD	19,966	37.7%	4,325	70.3%	24,291	55.7%
	John Guthrie	CON	17,501	33.0%	1,824	29.7%	19,325	44.3%
	Michelle Harris	LAB	11,197	21.1%				
	Tony Hare	IND	3,133	5.9%				
	Greg Paszynski	GRN	1,211	2.3%				
			53,008	100.0%	6,149	100.0%	43,616	100.0%
Leicester Turnout 40.7%	Sir Peter Soulsby	LAB	46,948	55.1%				
	Ross Ian Grant	CON	9,688	11.4%				
	Rick Moore	IND	7,635	9.0%				
	Gary Glen Hunt	LD	6,029	7.1%				
	Geoff Forse	GRN	3,452	4.1%				
	Nima Patel	IND	3,358	3.9%				
	Regine Amanda Anderson	UKIP	2,195	2.6%				
	Mohinder Farma	UPS	1,944	2.3%				
	David John Bowley	IND	1,784	2.1%				
	Mu-hamid Pathan	IND	1,465	1.7%				
	Lee Alan Sowden	IND	631	0.7%				
			85,129	100.0%				
Mansfield Turnout 37.4%	Tony Eggington	IND	10,901	37.6%	1,779	66.9%	12,680	50.1%
	Stephen Yemm	LAB	11,732	40.4%	881	33.1%	12,613	49.9%
	David Hamilton	UKIP	2,390	8.2%				
	Vic Bobo	CON	2,192	7.6%				
	Anna Marie Ellis	LD	1,813	6.2%				
			29,028	100.0%	2,660	100.0%	25,293	100.0%
Middlesbrough Turnout 36.6%	Raymond Thomas Mallon	IND	17,917	50.4%				
	Michael John Carr	LAB	11,405	32.1%				
	Chris Foote-Wood	LD	3,256	9.2%				
	Christopher L Cole-Nolan	CON	3,001	8.4%				
			35,579	100.0%				

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Authority/Turnout ¹	Candidate	Party	1st preference		2nd preference		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
03 May 2012								
Liverpool	Joe Anderson	LAB	58,448	59.3%				
Turnout 31.7%	Liam Fogarty	IND	8,292	8.4%				
	Richard Kemp	LD	6,238	6.3%				
	John Coyne	GRN	5,175	5.3%				
	Tony Mulhearn	TUSC	4,792	4.9%				
	Steve Radford	LIB	4,442	4.5%				
	Tony Caldeira	CON	4,425	4.5%				
	Adam Heatherington	UKIP	2,352	2.4%				
	Paul Duane Rimmer	ED	1,400	1.4%				
	Jeffrey Berman	LIP	1,362	1.4%				
	Mike Whitby	BNP	1,015	1.0%				
	Peter Tierney	NF	566	0.6%				
			98,507	100.0%				
Salford	Ian Stewart	LAB	20,663	46.0%	2,796	58.1%	23,459	70.0%
Turnout 26.1%	Karen Margaret Garrido	CON	8,055	18.0%	2,016	41.9%	10,071	30.0%
	Bernard Gill	UKIP	3,368	7.5%				
	Pat Ward	IND	2,665	5.9%				
	Norman Owen	LD	2,148	4.8%				
	Eddy O'Sullivan	BNP	2,026	4.5%				
	Paul Massey	IND	1,995	4.4%				
	Mike Felse	ED	1,616	3.6%				
	Joe O'Neill	GRN	1,273	2.8%				
	Michael Moulding	CAP	1,065	2.4%				
			44,874	100.0%	4,812	100.0%	33,530	100.0%

Notes

1. Turnout is as reported by local authority and may include spoilt ballots

Party descriptions:

BBI	Better Bedford Independent	LIP	Liverpool Independent Party
CAP	Community Action Party - Exposing Political Fraudsters	LPA	Lewisham People's Alliance
CG	Community Group	M4S	Mayor 4 Stoke
CPA	Christian People's Alliance	NF	National Front
CPB	Communist Party of Britain	SA	Socialist Alliance
ED	English Democrats	SGS	Supporting Green Shoots
FCP	Fat Cat Party	TUSC	Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition
KMCWP	KM Communities Welfare Party	UPS	Unity For Peace and Socialism
LEAP	Local Education Action by Parents	V4T	Voice 4 Torbay
LLH	Local Man, Local Issues, Hartlepool First		

Sources

House of Commons Library, Local Elections research papers, various years

BBC Political Research

Local authority websites

Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *Local Elections Handbook*, various years

7 Referendums

7.1 Scotland (1979 and 1997)

A referendum on devolution in Scotland was held on 1 March 1979 and again on 11 September 1997. The 1997 referendum asked two questions, one on establishing a Scottish Parliament and one on whether the Parliament should have tax-varying powers.

In the 1979 referendum, 51.6% of votes were cast in favour of devolution. However for devolution to be introduced, at least 40% of electors had to vote 'Yes', as stipulated in the Scotland Act 1978. A turnout of 63.6% meant that the proportion of electors voting 'Yes' was only 32.8%.

In the 1997 referendum the proportion of voters favouring devolution was much larger. 74.3% of voters supported the establishment of a Scottish parliament and 63.5% were in favour of the Parliament having tax-varying powers. Turnout was 60.2%. There was no threshold for the number of electors voting 'Yes' in the 1997 referendum.

Table 28: Change in voting for/against devolution in Scotland, 1 March 1979 and 11 September 1997

1979 counting areas	% Yes vote		% No vote		Change in Yes vote % points
	1979	1997	1979	1997	
Borders	40.3	62.8	59.7	37.2	+22.5
Central	54.7	76.3	45.3	23.7	+21.7
Dumfries and Galloway	40.3	60.7	59.7	39.3	+20.4
Fife	53.7	76.1	46.3	23.9	+22.4
Grampian	48.3	67.6	51.7	32.4	+19.3
Highland	51.0	72.6	49.0	27.4	+21.6
Lothian	50.1	74.5	49.9	25.5	+24.4
Orkney	27.9	57.3	72.1	42.7	+29.4
Shetland	27.0	62.4	73.0	37.6	+35.4
Strathclyde	54.0	78.1	46.0	21.9	+24.1
Tayside	49.5	67.6	50.5	32.4	+18.1
Western Isles	55.8	79.4	44.2	20.6	+23.6
Scotland	51.6	74.3	48.4	25.7	+22.7

Note: 1997 results fitted to 1979 counting areas as follows:

Borders: Borders

Central: Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling

Dumfries & Galloway: Dumfries & Galloway

Fife: Fife

Grampian: City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray

Highland: Highland

Lothian: City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian

Orkney: Orkney

Shetland: Shetland Islands

Strathclyde: Argyle & Bute, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire

Tayside: Angus, City of Dundee, Perthshire & Kinross

Western Isles: Western Isles

Source: House of Commons Library RP97/113, *Results of Devolution Referendums (1979 & 1997)*

7.2 Wales (1979 and 1997)

Referendums on devolution for Wales were held on 1 March 1979 and 18 September 1997. There was little support for devolution in the 1979 referendum, with only 20.3% of voters in favour. The 1997 referendum on the other hand produced a slim majority in favour of a Welsh Assembly; 50.3% of voters voted 'Yes' to an Assembly while 49.7% were opposed. Unlike in Scotland, the 1997 referendum did not ask whether the Assembly should have tax-varying powers. Turnout was 58.6% in 1979 and 50.1% in 1997.

Table 29: Voting for/against devolution in Wales, 1 March 1979 and 18 September 1997

1979 counting areas	% Yes vote		% No vote		Change in
	1979	1997	1979	1997	Yes vote % points
Clwyd & Gwynedd	27.1	47.4	72.9	52.6	+20.3
Dyfed	28.1	57.2	71.9	42.8	+29.1
Powys	18.5	42.7	81.5	57.3	+24.2
Gwent & Mid Glamorgan	16.7	51.3	83.3	48.7	+34.6
South Glamorgan	13.1	42.0	86.9	58.0	+28.8
West Glamorgan	18.7	57.8	81.3	42.2	+39.1
Wales	20.3	50.3	79.7	49.7	+30.0

1997 results fitted to 1979 areas as follows:

Clwyd & Gwynedd: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham. 1997 area excludes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA).

Dyfed: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire

Powys: Powys. 1997 area includes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Gwent & Mid Glamorgan: Bridgend, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen. 1997 area excludes communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and excludes community of Pentrych (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA).

South Glamorgan: Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff. 1997 area includes communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and includes community of Pentrych (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

West Glamorgan: Neath & Port Talbot, Swansea

Source: House of Commons Library RP97/113, *Results of Devolution Referendums (1979 & 1997)*

On 3 March 2011, a referendum was held on extending the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales. Voters were asked, "Do you want the Assembly now to be able to make laws on all the matters in the 20 subject areas it has powers for?" The question related to Schedule 5 of the *Government of Wales Act 2006* which lists twenty subject areas which the Assembly can legislate in. 63.5% of voters were in favour while 36.5% were opposed. The 'Yes' vote was in the majority in all local authorities with the exception of Monmouthshire, where there was a narrow majority against the change. Turnout across Wales was 35.6%.

Table 30: Results of referendum on extending the law-making powers of the National Assembly for Wales, 3 March 2011

Local authority	Yes		No		Total votes	% turnout
	Votes	% vote	Votes	% vote		
Blaenau Gwent	11,869	68.9%	5,366	31.1%	17,235	32.4%
Bridgend	25,063	68.1%	11,736	31.9%	36,799	35.6%
Caerphilly	28,431	64.3%	15,751	35.7%	44,182	34.5%
Cardiff	53,427	61.4%	33,606	38.6%	87,033	35.1%
Carmarthenshire	42,979	70.8%	17,712	29.2%	60,691	44.3%
Ceredigion	16,505	66.2%	8,412	33.8%	24,917	44.0%
Conwy	18,368	59.7%	12,390	40.3%	30,758	33.7%
Denbighshire	15,793	61.8%	9,742	38.2%	25,535	34.4%
Flintshire	21,119	62.1%	12,913	37.9%	34,032	29.4%
Gwynedd	28,200	76.0%	8,891	24.0%	37,091	43.4%
Isle of Anglesey	14,011	64.8%	7,620	35.2%	21,631	43.8%
Merthyr Tydfil	9,136	68.9%	4,132	31.1%	13,268	30.1%
Monmouthshire	12,381	49.4%	12,701	50.6%	25,082	35.8%
Neath Port Talbot	29,957	73.0%	11,079	27.0%	41,036	37.9%
Newport	15,983	54.8%	13,204	45.2%	29,187	27.9%
Pembrokeshire	19,600	55.0%	16,050	45.0%	35,650	38.7%
Powys	21,072	51.6%	19,730	48.4%	40,802	39.6%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	43,051	70.7%	17,834	29.3%	60,885	34.6%
Swansea	38,496	63.2%	22,409	36.8%	60,905	32.9%
Torfaen	14,655	62.8%	8,688	37.2%	23,343	33.8%
Vale of Glamorgan	19,430	52.5%	17,551	47.5%	36,981	40.1%
Wrexham	17,606	64.1%	9,863	35.9%	27,469	27.0%
Wales	517,132	63.5%	297,380	36.5%	814,512	35.6%

Source: Electoral Commission

7.3 Northern Ireland (1973 and 1998)

A referendum was held in Northern Ireland on 8 March 1973, on whether it should remain in the UK. Unionist parties, Alliance and the Northern Ireland Labour Party campaigned for a vote in support of remaining in the UK but Nationalist parties boycotted the vote. 98.9% of votes were in favour of staying in the UK. Turnout was 58.7%, compared to 72.0% in the previous general election.¹⁰

On 22 May 1998 voters were asked in a referendum whether they supported the Good Friday Agreement (the Belfast Agreement). 71.1% of voters supported the Agreement. The turnout was 81.1%, compared to 67.1% in the 1997 General Election the year before.¹¹

7.4 London (May 1998)

Voters in London were asked in a referendum on 7 May 1998 about the establishment of a Greater London Authority: "Are you in favour of the Government's proposals for a Greater London Authority made up of an elected Mayor and separately elected authority?"

72.0% of voters were in favour. The 'Yes' vote was in the majority in all 32 London boroughs and the City of London. Turnout was 34.1%.¹²

¹⁰ Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

7.5 North East England (November 2004)

On 4 November 2004, voters in the North East were asked, “Should there be an elected regional assembly for the North East region?” The proposal was rejected, with 77.9% of voters voting “No”. Turnout was 47.2%.

Over 70% of voters opposed a regional assembly in all of the region’s 23 local authorities (as they existed then).¹³

7.6 Europe (June 1975)

On 5 June 1975 a referendum was held on UK membership of the European Community. Voters were asked, “Do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (The Common Market)?”

67.2% of voters were in favour of remaining part of the European Community, compared to 32.8% who thought the UK should leave. The UK-wide turnout was 64.0%, although in Northern Ireland it fell to 47.5%.

Table 31: Referendum on membership of the European Community, 5 June 1975

	Yes		No		Total vote	% turnout ¹
	Votes	% vote	Votes	% vote		
England	14,918,009	68.7%	6,812,052	31.3%	21,730,061	64.5%
Wales	869,135	64.8%	472,071	35.2%	1,341,206	66.5%
Scotland	1,332,186	58.4%	948,039	41.6%	2,280,225	61.6%
Northern Ireland	259,251	52.1%	237,911	47.9%	497,162	47.3%
UK	17,378,581	67.2%	8,470,073	32.8%	25,848,654	63.9%

1. Civilian turnout only. Special arrangements were made to allow members of the armed forces and their spouses to vote regardless of whether they were included on the electoral register as service voters.

Source: Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*

7.7 Alternative Vote (May 2011)

A referendum was held on 5 May 2011 on whether the UK should adopt the Alternative Vote system (AV) for voting in Westminster parliamentary elections. Voters were asked, “At present, the UK uses the ‘first past the post’ system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the ‘alternative vote’ system be used instead?” The change to AV was rejected; 67.9% of voters were opposed compared to 32.1% in favour. The turnout was 42.0%.

Table 32: Results of the referendum on the Alternative Vote, 5 May 2011

	Yes		No		Total vote	Turnout
	Votes	% vote	Votes	% vote		
England	4,824,357	30.9%	10,774,735	69.1%	15,599,092	40.7%
Wales	325,349	34.6%	616,307	65.4%	941,656	41.5%
Scotland	713,813	36.4%	1,249,375	63.6%	1,963,188	50.4%
Northern Ireland	289,088	43.7%	372,706	56.3%	661,794	55.2%
UK Total	6,152,607	32.1%	13,013,123	67.9%	19,165,730	42.0%

Source: House of Commons Library RP11/44, *Alternative Vote Referendum 2011*

¹³ Ibid

Appendix A: Voting systems and electoral geographies used in UK elections

General Elections

Currently there are 650 Westminster parliamentary constituencies. Each constituency elects a single Member to the House of Commons using the First Past the Post system (FPTP). Voters select their preferred candidate and the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. The number of constituencies may be altered following boundary reviews.

Local government elections

England and Wales

Voters in local authority wards elect councillors using First Past the Post. Some wards elect multiple councillors at a time, in which case electors can vote for more than one candidate (including candidates from different parties); the candidates who receive the highest numbers of votes are elected.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

Councillors are elected using Single Transferable Vote, so that multiple councillors will be elected per local authority ward. Voters rank candidates according to preference. In order to be elected, candidates must obtain above a certain threshold of votes; if a candidate achieves the threshold then their surplus votes are redistributed based on voters' next preferred candidates. If no candidate achieves the threshold, then the candidate with fewest votes is eliminated and their votes redistributed to voters' next preferred candidate. The process is repeated until the required number of members are elected.

European Parliament Elections

Members are elected to the European Parliament from twelve UK regions, comprising Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the nine English regions.

In Great Britain, MEPs are elected from each region using a closed Party List system: electors vote for their preferred party and cannot specify a preferred candidate. Parties receive seats in proportion to votes won and determine the order in which their candidates are elected. Prior to 1999, MEPs in Great Britain were elected by First Past the Post, from constituencies formed by aggregating several Westminster parliamentary seats. In Northern Ireland, MEPs are elected using the Single Transferable Vote.

Elections to devolved assemblies

Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly are conducted using the Single Transferable Vote. Assembly constituencies are the same as Westminster Parliamentary constituencies. Currently there are eighteen constituencies, each returning six Members.

Elections to the Scottish Parliament, National Assembly for Wales and London Assembly use the Additional Member System. In each institution there are a set number of constituency members and a set number of regional members. The regional seats are intended to align the distribution of seats more closely to the distribution of votes. Voters are given two ballots. One ballot is used to vote for a constituency member, elected using First Past the Post. The other (regional) ballot is used to vote for a closed party list of candidates. Once the constituency members are elected, the regional seats are allocated between parties based on their vote share in the regional ballot and the number of constituency seats they won in the region.

There are 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies, across eight Scottish Parliament regions. Each region returns seven Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) so there are 56

regional MSPs alongside the 73 constituency MSPs. Scottish Parliament constituencies are not the same as Westminster parliamentary constituencies.

Members of the National Assembly for Wales are elected from 40 constituencies across five regions. Four regional Assembly Members (AMs) are elected for each region, so there are 20 regional AMs in addition to the 40 constituency AMs. Currently Assembly constituencies are the same as Westminster parliamentary constituencies, but the *Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011* removed the automatic link between the two sets of boundaries.¹⁴

The London Assembly elects fourteen constituency Members and eleven regional Members using a single London-wide region.

Mayoral elections

The Mayor of London and other local authority mayors in England are elected using the Supplementary Vote system. Voters choose their first and second preference candidates. If a candidate receives a majority of first preference votes, then he or she is elected; if not, the two candidates who received the most first preference votes go through to a second round. The other candidates are eliminated, and any second preference votes for the two remaining candidates are distributed accordingly. The candidate who receives the most votes at the end of this process is elected.

¹⁴ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/1/pdfs/ukpga_20110001_en.pdf#page=18

Appendix B: Further information

Results of individual elections can be found in relevant House of Commons Library research papers. Analyses of results from the most recent elections to various institutions can be found in the following papers:

- General Election 2010
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP10-36
- European Parliament elections 2009
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP09-53
- National Assembly for Wales elections: 2011
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP11-40
- Scottish Parliament elections: 2011
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP11-41
- Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 2011
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP11-42
- Local elections 2012
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP12-27
- London elections 2012
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/RP12-28

Further information on elected mayors, voting systems used for different UK elections, and characteristics of Members elected to the House of Commons and other institutions can be found in the following Library standard notes:

- Directly-elected mayors
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05000
- Voting systems in the UK
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN04458
- Social background of Members of Parliament
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01528
- Women in politics and government
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01250
- Women in public life, the professions and the boardroom
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN05170
- Ethnic minorities in politics and government
www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN01156