



Local Election Results in England 7 May 2026

Summary

Party	Total No. Councils	Change	Total No. Councillors	Change
Labour	28	-38	1068	-1469
Liberal Democrat	15	+1	844	+155
Reform UK	14	+14	1453	+1451
Conservative	9	-6	801	-563
Green	5	+5	587	+441
No overall control	64	+23		
Others including independents / resident associations, Aspire only in Tower Hamlets	1	1	248	+12

There were elections in 126 council areas. Not every seat in every council area where elections took place was contested, so it was inevitable that some councils would not change hands. This was the case for some district councils and metropolitan boroughs. London boroughs and county councils had all seats contested.

Labour lost control of 38 councils. The other large change was 23 councils moving to no overall control – with a total of 64 councils out of 126 with elections this time, now without a governing party with a majority. Many more areas, even where there is a clear majority party, now have a larger number of political parties elected to the council, including independent or equivalent candidates.

Reform UK have taken control of 14 new councils from both the Conservatives and Labour; they are also the largest party in 14 others with no overall control [see lists below]. In this situation they are likely to either govern in formal coalition with the Conservatives or with a confidence and supply agreement. In other places where the Conservatives are the largest party they may also choose to govern with the support of Reform UK. Reform UK have also gained smaller numbers of seats [2-10] in areas that have previously been considered more moderate, such as in council areas held by Liberal Democrats, as well as in more affluent suburban and rural areas. Reform UK now lead 28 councils [14 from 2025 elections], with likely another 14 as minority administrations, a total of 42 councils out of the current 317 councils in England.

The fragmentation of the political system following these elections is reflected in some council areas with no overall control, where three or more parties will need to work together to pass business [this includes residents associations and other independents]. This means that a lot of councils may face inertia with an inability to pass resolutions, make decisions or allocate spending, given the increasing animosity between the different parties. This could lead to

difficulties in service provision, agreement on contracts, funding allocations, delays in decision making etc., especially on comparatively small sums for VCFSE organisations, or discretionary spending such as local infrastructure. This will be compounded in areas also going through local government reorganisation, particularly where an incoming party leadership is against the proposed changes.

The Greens now control five councils and have two directly elected mayors of London boroughs. Overall, Green votes did not turn into the expected number of council seats, but they still saw significant gains in councillor numbers usually at the expense of Labour.

There were gains in councillor numbers for the Liberal Democrats. Elections to the two new unitary councils in Surrey [East Surrey and West Surrey] both returned Liberal Democrat majorities.

Full election results and state of play for each council at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2026/england/councils>

Six Elections to Mayor all in London and the South East:

- Croydon – Jason Perry [Conservative hold]
- Hackey – Zoe Garbett [Green win from Labour]
- Lewisham – Liam Shrivastava [Green win from Labour]
- Newham – Forhad Hussain [Labour hold]
- Tower Hamlets – Lutfur Rahman [Aspire hold]
- Watford – Peter Taylor [Liberal Democrat hold]

Council Results

Labour Run

- Adur
- Barking & Dagenham
- Bury
- Camden
- Chorley
- Crawley
- Ealing
- Greenwich
- Halton
- Hammersmith & Fulham
- Hounslow
- Ipswich
- Islington
- Knowsley
- Lincoln
- Manchester
- Merton
- North Tyneside

- Plymouth
- Reading
- Redbridge
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Sefton
- Stevenage
- Trafford
- Wigan
- Wolverhampton

Conservative Run

- Bexley
- Bromley
- Broxbourne
- Fareham
- Harlow
- Harrow
- Hillingdon
- Kensington & Chelsea
- Westminster

Liberal Democrat Run

- Cheltenham
- Eastleigh
- Kingston-upon-Thames
- Portsmouth
- Richmond-upon-Thames
- South Cambridgeshire
- St Albans
- Stockport
- Sutton
- Tunbridge Wells
- Watford
- Winchester
- Wokingham
- East Surrey
- West Surrey

Reform UK

- Barnsley
- Calderdale
- Essex
- Gateshead

- Havering
- Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Sandwell
- South Tyneside
- St Helens
- Suffolk
- Sunderland
- Thurrock
- Wakefield
- Walsall

Green

- Hackney
- Lewisham
- Hastings
- Norwich
- Waltham Forest

Aspire

- Tower Hamlets

No Overall Control

- Barnet
- Basingstoke & Deane
- Birmingham
- Blackburn with Darwen
- Bolton
- Bradford [Reform UK largest party]
- Brent
- Brentwood
- Burnley [Reform UK largest party]
- Cambridge
- Cannock Chase [Reform UK largest party]
- Cherwell
- Colchester
- Coventry
- Croydon
- Dudley
- East Sussex [Reform UK largest party]
- Enfield
- Epping Forest
- Exeter
- Gosport
- Hampshire

- Haringey [Green largest party]
- Hart
- Hartlepool [Reform UK and Labour largest parties]
- Havant [Reform UK largest party]
- Huntingdonshire
- Hull
- Hyndburn
- Isle of Wight [Reform UK largest party]
- Kirklees [Reform UK largest party]
- Lambeth [Green largest party]
- Leeds
- Milton Keynes
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne [Liberal Democrats, Green, Reform UK]
- Newham
- Norfolk [Reform UK largest party]
- North East Lincolnshire [Reform UK largest party]
- Nuneaton & Bedworth [Reform UK largest party]
- Oldham
- Oxford
- Pendle
- Peterborough
- Preston
- Redditch
- Rochford [Reform UK largest party]
- Rugby [Conservatives largest party]
- Rushmoor
- Sheffield
- Solihull
- Southampton
- Southend-on-Sea
- Southwark
- Swindon [Conservatives largest party]
- Tameside
- Tamworth
- Three Rivers
- Tameside
- Tamworth
- Wandsworth
- Welwyn Hatfield
- West Lancashire
- West Oxfordshire
- West Sussex [Liberal Democrats and Reform UK equal]
- Worthing