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# London Mayoral and GLA elections

## Results & Analysis

# Summary

Voters in parts of England elected councillors, mayors, and police & crime commissioners on Thursday 2 May. Elections took place in 107 local authorities across England. Voters also voted for the Mayor of London, London Assembly members, and 10 mayors outside the capital. A parliamentary by-election also took place in Blackpool South, following the resignation of former Conservative MP Scott Benton. These were the last local elections before the next general election.

Mayor Sadiq Khan achieved a historic third term, with an increased vote share of 43.8%, marking significant support across both inner and outer London. His victory by an 11.1 percentage point margin over Conservative candidate Susan Hall, who garnered 32.7% of the vote, was notably strong despite predictions of a closer race.

The elections also witnessed a number of firsts, including the first use of hand-counted votes and the first election coordinated from the new City Hall. The shift to a first-past-the-post voting system did not favour the Conservatives as expected; instead, it allowed Khan to effectively consolidate Green and Liberal Democrat votes.

Assembly elections reflected a mixed success for various parties, with the Conservatives losing seats and the Liberal Democrats making notable gains, capturing their first-ever Assembly seat in South West London. Labour maintained a robust presence on the London Assembly.

Internally, the Conservative campaign faced criticism for its effectiveness and candidate selection, with notable figures within the party openly criticising the lack of support for Hall from higher echelons, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Policy-wise, Khan's victory speech emphasised continued commitment to making London "fairer, safer, and greener," with pledges including free school meals, a freeze on transport fares, increased housing, and environmental initiatives. These commitments are set against a backdrop of national political dynamics, with potential implications for the upcoming General Election where Labour hopes to consolidate its strong performance in London.

Overall, the election not only solidifies Khan's leadership and vision for London but also sets the stage for the forthcoming General Election.

Across England Labour secured major victories, assuming control of almost all Metro Mayor positions with the exception of Tees Valley and succeeding in pivotal council areas such as Redditch, Milton

# Summary

Keynes, and Nuneaton & Bedworth. These wins suggest positive momentum for Labour as it gears up for the upcoming General Election. Despite these successes, concerns have emerged regarding Labour's support within Muslim communities, highlighted by the party's loss in Oldham, which has been attributed to its stance on Gaza.

Labour's Richard Parker won by a whisker in the West Midlands, with incumbent Tory Andy Street defeated - Street's ability to hold on was widely seen as key for the overall Tory narrative of these elections.

Overall, the Conservatives experienced widespread losses, losing numerous council seats (474) to other parties and independents, and several Police & Crime Commissioner roles to Labour, who made significant gains in regions like Avon & Somerset and Bedfordshire.

In a particularly impactful parliamentary by-election, Labour reclaimed the Blackpool South seat, overturning a previous Conservative majority with a remarkable 26.3% swing. This victory in Blackpool South, a crucial seat Labour held from 1997 to 2019, underscores a substantial voter shift towards Labour.

# Key Information

- The Conservatives suffered a set of local election results which point to an uphill battle to remain in Downing Street. The party lost 474 councillors and control of 10 councils. It had one big consolation in the Tees Valley mayor win - albeit with a nearly 19 point swing away from the Tories.
- Labour are celebrating after picking up 186 new councillors, gaining control of eight councils and winning in 10 out of 11 mayoral races. Established mayors in places like Manchester, London and Liverpool cruised to victory and they won in Sunak's North Yorkshire backyard. Labour ended a run of big wins by defeating Andy Street in West Yorkshire after a knife edge mayoral race
- The Liberal Democrats came second ahead of the Tories, which the party says is a sign their strategy of targeting the governing party in areas where they've won previously is bearing fruit. They picked up 104 new councillors and won control of two councils. The Greens also made gains by getting 74 new councillors elected.
- Rishi Sunak looks to be safe from an imminent leadership challenge but there is disquiet among some Tories concerned the party is heading for a heavy defeat in the general election.
- Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer says the results show the country is ready for a change of government.

## **Sadiq Khan's Re-election:**

- Labour's Sadiq Khan secured a third term as London Mayor, winning with 44% of the vote, an increase of nearly four points from the previous election.
- His primary opponent, Conservative Susan Hall, trailed with 33% of the vote.
- Khan won nine out of 14 London constituencies, with Labour gaining South West and West Central from the Conservatives, which had previously been Tory strongholds.
- These gains demonstrate a shift in voter sentiment within the city, potentially indicating broader changes in the political landscape of London.

## **Impact of Mayoral Leadership:**

- Khan's continued leadership in London underlines a strong approval of his policies and leadership style.

## **London Assembly Results:**

- Alongside the mayoral election, the results for the London Assembly reflected a similar trend with Labour maintaining a strong presence.
- The assembly elections are crucial as they provide the support or opposition Khan will encounter when implementing his policies.

# Key Information

## Labour Advances:

- Gained over 180 council seats and took control of eight councils, including key general election bellwether areas like Milton Keynes and Nuneaton.
- Increased vote share by 3% compared to 2021 in key wards
- Won a significant by-election in Blackpool South with a 26% swing from the Tories, aligning with positive national opinion polls.
- Claimed victory in the West Midlands mayoral race with Richard Parker defeating incumbent Tory Andy Street, described by Sir Keir Starmer as a "phenomenal result."

## Conservative Setbacks:

- Lost over 470 councillors and control of 10 councils, including historically symbolic Basildon.
- Returned only 515 councillors, fewer than the Liberal Democrats.
- Maintained control in Tees Valley with Ben Houchen re-elected as regional mayor.

## Regional Mayors:

- Labour won all newly-created regional mayor roles, marking a significant presence in anticipated general election battlegrounds such as the East Midlands and York & North Yorkshire.

## Impact of Labour's Gaza Stance:

- Suffered losses in wards with a high percentage of Muslim voters, potentially due to its stance on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

## Smaller Parties' Performance:

- The Liberal Democrats and Greens made gains, with the Lib Dems taking control of councils like Tunbridge Wells and Dorset.
- The Greens gained over 70 seats, significantly strengthening their position in areas like Bristol.

## Mixed Results for Reform UK:

- Achieved around 11% of the vote where they stood, marking their best performance in a Westminster by-election in Blackpool South.
- Won two council seats in Havant.

# London Election Results

## London Mayoral Election

Sadiq Khan has been re-elected as the Mayor of London for a historic third term, garnering 1,088,225 votes (43.8%), comfortably ahead of his Conservative opponent Susan Hall, who received 812,397 votes (32.7%). The race for third was tight, with the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party nearly tied; Rob Blackie of the Liberal Democrats narrowly edged out with 145,184 votes (5.8%) against Zoe Garbett of the Greens who secured 145,114 votes (5.8%).

Party	Candidate	Votes	Vote Share	Difference
Labour	Sadiq Khan	1,088,225	43.8%	+3.8
Conservative	Susan Hall	812,397	32.7%	-2.6
Liberal Democrats	Rob Blackie	145,184	5.8%	+1.4
Green	Zoe Garbett	145,114	5.8%	-2.0
Reform	Howard Cox	78,865	3.2%	N/A
Others	N/A	214,647	8.7%	-3.3

**Majority:** 275,828

**Total:** 2,484,432

**Turnout:** 40.5%

Constituency	2021 Result	2024 Result	Swing
Barnet & Camden	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	3.6% to Labour
Bexley & Bromley	Shaun Bailey	Susan Hall	0.0% No Change
Brent & Harrow	Shaun Bailey	Susan Hall	1.2% to Conservative
City & East	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	7.6% to Labour
Croydon & Sutton	Shaun Bailey	Susan Hall	0.45% to Labour
Ealing & Hillingdon	Shaun Bailey	Susan Hall	0.65% to Labour
Enfield & Haringey	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	4.3% to Labour
Greenwich & Lewisham	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	4.45% to Labour
Havering & Redbridge	Shaun Bailey	Susan Hall	1.65% to Labour
Lambeth & Southwark	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	7.55% to Labour
Merton & Wandsworth	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	4.75% to Labour
North East	Sadiq Khan	Sadiq Khan	6.25% to Labour
South West	Shaun Bailey	Sadiq Khan	2.75% to Labour
West Central	Shaun Bailey	Sadiq Khan	5.25% to Labour

# London Assembly Results

Voters in the capital also elected 25 members of the London Assembly. Overall, the Conservatives lost one seat, Reform UK gained one, leaving the new London Assembly as: **Labour 11, Conservatives 8, Green 3, Lib Dem 2 and Reform UK 1.**

GLA Constituency	Elected	Party
Barnet & Camden	Anne Clarke	Labour
Bexley & Bromley	Thomas Turrell	Conservative
Brent & Harrow	Krupesh Hirani	Labour
City & East	Unmesh Desai	Labour
Croydon & Sutton	Neil Garratt	Conservative
Ealing & Hillingdon	Bassam Mahfouz	Labour
Enfield & Haringey	Joanne McCartney	Labour
Greenwich & Lewisham	Len Duvall	Labour
Havering & Redbridge	Keith Prince	Conservative
Lambeth & Southwark	Marina Ahmad	Labour
Merton & Wandsworth	Leonie Cooper	Labour
North East	Sem Moema	Labour
South West	Gareth Roberts	Liberal Democrat
West Central	James Small-Edwards	Labour

Elected	Party
Sian Berry	Green
Susan Hall	Conservative
Alex Wilson	Reform
Caroline Russell	Green
Lord Shaun Bailey	Conservative
Emma Best	Conservative
Hina Bokhari	Liberal Democrat
Zack Polanski	Green
Andrew Boff	Conservative
Elly Baker	Labour
Alessandro Georgiou	Conservative

James Small-Edwards was elected as the first Labour Member to represent West Central and Gareth Roberts was elected as the first Liberal Democrat member of the South West. The Conservatives offset their loss of two constituency seats by gaining an additional member through the Londonwide list system. Susan Hall, although defeated in the mayoral race, returns to the Assembly, signaling continued robust debates with Khan. Additionally, Reform UK secured enough votes to elect their first Assembly member.

# What next?

## Expectations for Sadiq Khan's Third Term as Mayor of London

As Sadiq Khan embarks on an unprecedented third term as Mayor of London, his immediate post-election period will involve key reappointments within his team, including Deputy Mayors. This term, he has committed to changes aimed at making London fairer, safer, and greener.

His agenda includes making free school meals universal, freezing Transport for London fares until 2025, and launching a significant housing initiative with plans to build 40,000 new council homes and develop rent-controlled homes targeted at key workers.

Khan's policies emphasise environmental sustainability and economic growth, with a focus on improving social housing conditions through interventions. His administration plans to continue tackling air pollution and rolling out a comprehensive London Growth Plan to create over 150,000 new jobs by 2028. The renewed mandate suggests a robust approach to housing and urban development, utilising Development Corporations and an expanded City Hall developer to deliver growth.

Looking ahead, the relationship between Khan and Labour leader Keir Starmer could prove crucial if Labour secures a national victory. However, disagreements on key policy areas like Brexit and rent controls suggest that while their cooperation may be generally harmonious, it won't be without its challenges.

The general political climate suggests a complex scenario in the upcoming General Election, with potential implications for both London's governance and broader national policies. The latest electoral results indicate a challenging landscape for the Conservatives, particularly in London, with Labour poised to capitalise on current momentum.