

# There's a problem with the 2022 London Borough Council Elections...

## Something's wrong with our voting system...

Bad things happen when you sign away your democratic rights with an X!



This circular is being distributed by [supervote.org.uk](http://supervote.org.uk) to draw attention to the consequences of the continued use of the antiquated First-past-the-post voting system in London's Borough Council Elections.

Alongside is a table summarizing the results of the last round of London Borough Council Elections in 2018. As can be seen, there was no London Borough where the seats awarded matched votes cast and the most outrageous disparities are highlighted in yellow. A ten-year-old could see that the maths isn't correct.

For example, how is it right that in Lewisham, Labour took all the seats for just 52% of the vote, with no opposition to hold it to account?

Continued use of this Victorian museum piece makes about as much sense as using Stephenson's Rocket to haul trains on the HS2. We need to change the way we vote so that seats won match votes cast. The case for fair votes is summarized below and on my campaign website [supervote.org.uk](http://supervote.org.uk)

**DON'T JUST SIT THERE! Forward this email to local journalists and friends. This is part of a larger campaign for fair votes in London being led by the Electoral Reform Society. Sign their petition and join the Society via their website [www.electoral-reform.org.uk](http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk) Persuade your friends to do likewise!**

Summary of London Borough Council Election Results in 2018	Winning Party...	... which has been in power since	Vote %	Seats %
Barking/Dagenham	Labour	1964	74	100
Barnet	Tories	2002	44	60
Bexley	Tories	2006	50	75
Brent	Labour	2010	57	95
Bromley	Tories	2002	44	83
Camden	Labour	2010	47	80
Croydon	Labour	2014	44	58
Ealing	Labour	2010	51	83
Enfield	Labour	2010	49	73
Greenwich	Labour	1971	52	82
Hackney	Labour	2002	61	91
Hamm'smith/Fulham	Labour	2014	53	76
Haringey	Labour	1971	56	74
Harrow	Labour	2014	44	55
Havering	Tories	Hung	34	46
Hillingdon	Tories	2006	52	68
Hounslow	Labour	2010	52	85
Islington	Labour	2010	57	98
Kensington/Chelsea	Tories	1964	48	72
Kingston 'on Thames	LibDems	2018	49	81
Lambeth	Labour	2006	51	90
Lewisham	Labour	2010	52	100
Merton	Labour	2014	44	57
Newham	Labour	1964	67	100
Redbridge	Labour	2014	55	81
Richmond ' Thames	LibDems	2018	45	72
Southwark	Labour	2010	52	78
Sutton	LibDems	1990	38	61
Tower Hamlets	Labour	2018	42	93
Waltham Forest	Labour	2010	51	77
Wandsworth	Tories	1978	38	55
Westminster	Tories	1964	42	68

## Victorian Voting: It's old fashioned, undemocratic and stifles choice.

To elect all London's Borough councillors, a Victorian voting system known as First-past-the-post is used. This antiquated system wastes many of the votes cast, and produces a distorted result with the remainder. For example, these are the vote totals for Islington Borough in 2018:-

Islington 2018	Consolidated Vote	%	Seats	%
Labour	35,332	57%	47	98%
Green	11,228	18%	1	2%
Liberal Democrat	7,819	13%	0	0%
Conservative	5,904	9%	0	0%
Other	1,658	3%	0	0%

Labour took every single seat in every ward in Islington with the exception of one in Highbury East. Labour's total consolidated vote in the Borough represented 57% of the votes cast, so they should rightly have a majority of councillors, but the 43% who voted for other parties should have representation as well and there should be an effective opposition to hold the majority Labour administration to account, not just one solitary Green Councillor!

In addition to providing undemocratic representation, this old-fashioned system discourages voter participation in local politics generally because in many communities, the result is a foregone conclusion. There are councils in England where one party can rule forever without effective opposition to hold the administration to account, breeding complacency, inefficiency and corruption.

## STV is the "Supervote", the most powerful proportional vote on the Planet.

Proportional representation describes voting systems which apportion seats according to votes. So, if Labour polled 6 out of 10 votes, they would be awarded 6 out of 10 seats. Our current outdated Victorian voting system does not do this.

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is the British system of proportional representation. STV allows voters to cast preferences for candidates in multi-member wards, which gives them more choice within and across parties. In the counting, the votes are distributed among the candidates according to the expressed preferences of each individual voter, allowing votes for a no-hoper or those surplus to a candidate's requirements to be recycled. The way the votes are counted ensures that the corporate will of the ward's voters is reflected in the result and that seats are awarded in proportion to votes cast. STV is the most powerful vote on the planet and has justifiably been described as "**the Supervote**".

STV is used in many parts of the World and a large number of professional bodies and trades unions in the UK use STV for their internal elections. Conservative & Labour Governments have supported its use in Northern Ireland for local council, Assembly and European elections over a 40 year period. In 2007, STV was successfully introduced for local elections in Scotland, and the Welsh Senedd has recently passed legislation that allows local councils in Wales to use it.

### So, why can't Londoners use the Supervote?

While Victorian Voting distorted representation in Islington in 2018 with **47 Labour Councillors and 1 Green Councillor**, it is estimated that STV would have given residents a more democratic result with **28 Labour, 6 LibDem, 3 Tory, 1 Women's Alliance & 10 Green Councillors**.

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