

IS LABOUR SET TO TAKE 7 OUT OF 10 SEATS WITH JUST 4 OUT OF 10 VOTES?

Forget talk of hung Parliaments based on simplistic analysis of last week's local election results. Consider instead the Blackpool South by-election result and then take a look at the latest General Election Prediction Poll published on 27th April by Electoral Calculus* on their website at www.electoralcalculus.co.uk together with the highlighted "Predicted Seats %" figures we have added:-

Party	Predicted Vote %	Predicted Seats	Predicted Seats %
Labour	43%	472	74%
Conservative	23%	85	13%
Liberal Democrat	10%	50	8%
Reform UK	12%	0	0%
Green	6%	2	1%
SNP	3%	19	3%
Plaid Cymru	1%	4	1%
Other	2%	0	0%

If the Electoral Calculus prediction is correct,-

- The Labour Party would take 74% of the seats with just 43% of the GB Poll; Labour's majority in the House of Commons would be unprecedented for a party that did not enjoy the support of the majority of voters;
- The Conservatives would not be adequately represented, with just 13% of the seats to show for 23% of the vote; there would be no credible opposition in the House of Commons to hold an over-represented Labour administration to account;
- The Liberal Democrats would take 50 seats with 10% of the vote, while the Reform UK Party, polling more votes than the LibDems, would win no seats at all;
- The Green Party would have just 2 seats to show for their 6% of the poll.

Such results would make us the laughing stock of the Free World for which our outdated voting system would be supremely responsible.

Our current Victorian "First-past-the-post" voting system is an outdated and inefficient apparatus which wastes most of the votes fed into it, while producing a distorted result with the remainder, courtesy of X voting in 650 single member constituencies, which allows a candidate to win with a minority of the vote. In extremis, First-past-the-post could enable one party to take all the seats in the House of Commons on a minority of the vote.

It has to be said that, while the 31% disparity between seats taken and votes won predicted above is bad enough for a Westminster election, such electoral injustices are commonplace in local government; for example. in 2022, Labour took all the seats in the London Borough of Lewisham with just 52% of the vote, a 48% disparity.

In any event, First-past-the-post is knackered. Continued use of this Victorian museum piece makes about as much sense as using Stephenson's Rocket to haul trains on the HS2 and, if the projection outlined above is correct, our voting system is about to malfunction quite spectacularly, catapulting a party out of political obscurity into an unassailable position of power, even though they do not enjoy the support of a majority of voters.

Such attention that has been given to the detail of election results by the media has tended to concentrate on seats taken by parties, without any attempt to compare seats taken with votes cast, so the case for reform has little profile.

Accordingly, I can do no more than ask that you give far more coverage to this issue in the run-up to the general election. It is vital that we all ensure that this is the last election to use Victorian Voting and that next time, we use a system of proportional representation to ensure that the Labour Party cannot take 7 out of 10 seats unless it has won 7 out of 10 votes.

More information about the deficiencies of First-past-the-post is available at www.supervote.org.uk together with details of the Single Transferable Voting system we reformers want British voters to use instead.

With every good wish,

Yours faithfully,

David Green,

Organiser of the Supervote Project, a small campaign which, in the company of others, seeks to reform our voting system.

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** Note: According to their website at www.electoralcalculus.co.uk Electoral Calculus made the most accurate pre-poll prediction of the result of the December 2019 General Election, predicting the Conservatives would win 351 seats, which was closer to the actual result of 365 seats than any other final pre-poll prediction.*

Other current predictions based on last week's local election results fail to take into account that some communities did not have elections, that far fewer people participate in local elections than in general elections and that those who do tend to vote differently. Moreover, the Reform UK Party did not field candidates for many of the local seats, masking their true level of popularity.

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