

4th July 2024: Our dodgy Victorian Voting System strikes again!

LABOUR TAKES 6 OUT OF 10 SEATS WITH 3 OUT OF 10 VOTES

The following are vote and seat share figures for the 2024 General Election based on those published by the BBC:-

Party	Votes Won %	Seats Taken %
Labour	33.7%	63.4%
Conservative	23.7%	18.6%
Reform UK	14.3%	0.8%
Liberal Democrats	12.2%	11.1%
Green	6.7%	0.6%
SNP	2.5%	1.3%
Plaid Cymru	0.7%	0.6%
Others	6.2%	3.6%

A child of 10 could see that the figures in the second column do not tally with those in the first column

Thanks to our undemocratic voting system, British voters have been lumbered with a Labour Party Government that two thirds of voters did not vote for.

Specifically:

- The Labour Party has taken 63.4% of the seats even though they have won only 33.7% of the vote;
- The Conservatives are slightly under-represented, with 18.6% of the seats to show for 23.7% of the vote;
- Reform UK are third in terms of votes won but have only 0.8% of the seats to show for their 14.3% of the vote; the Liberal Democrats polled fewer votes than Reform UK but took far more seats;
- The Green Party have just 0.6% of the seats to show for their 6.7% of the poll.

Our current Victorian “First-past-the-post” voting system is an undemocratic 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 a seat with a minority of the vote. It would therefore be possible for First-past-the-post to enable one party to take every single seat in the House of Commons on a minority of the vote.

It has to be said that, while the 30% disparity between seats taken and votes won 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 this time, our voting system has malfunctioned quite spectacularly, catapulting a party out of political obscurity into an unassailable position of power, even though they do not enjoy the support of two thirds of those who voted.

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 a party cannot take 6 out of 10 seats unless it has won 6 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 voters to use instead.

Please do what you can to highlight this important issue.

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.