



2026 Local Elections

An Overview
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PUBLIC SECTOR INTELLIGENCE & ENGAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

OSCAR

Annual Local Elections - Introduction

An important part of the Oscar world is our political data. Namely our live database of all national, regional and locally elected representatives, their roles and responsibilities and the organisations and areas they represent. Each year sees a proportion of council seats facing election as well as periodical Mayoral and PCC elections. This document provides an annual record and analysis of the level of changes and the election outcomes.

Sections:

[Annual Update Methodology and Processes](#)

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Stage 1 - April:

Identifying and updating the database with all the ward and electoral division changes in anticipation of the elections.

Stage 2 - May:

The day after the election is held we begin updating all the postholders. Linking them to the correct wards, adding gender and political affiliation and adding the next election dates to each elected member. The completion of this stage typically takes 3 weeks, though can be quicker in quieter election years. The result is a complete set of newly and re-elected members.

Stage 3 - June - August:

Following the Council AGM's we then make the following updates:

- Identification of Leaders (and any related Council Control Changes)
- Update and addition of all Cabinet and Committee Responsibilities as well as other leadership categories.
- Following official publication, updating the geographical ward and electoral division codes following the boundary changes.

Stage 4 - August - May:

Following the update to the election councils, we then request updates and confirmation for all the postholders across non election councils. Beyond which we are constantly monitoring - and receiving updates ahead of time from some of our Government partners - for resignations and structural changes and update / reflect by-elections as they happen.

Annual Local Elections - Summary of Elections and Changes for 2023

Summary:

This was a significant year in the 4 / 5 year local election cycle. The results also include the election of members to the two new shadow Authorities in East and West Surrey. The following details the scope of the elections for 2026:

Number of Seats by Region:

Region	Count of Seats
East Midlands	23
Eastern	639
London	1805
North East	290
North West	470
South East	783
South West	121
West Midlands	479
Yorkshire and Humber	434
Total	5045

Election Councils by Type:

Type of Council	Council Count
London Borough	32
English Non-Metropolitan District	48
English Unitary Authority	18
Metropolitan Council (England)	32
English County Council	6
Total	136

Boundary/Ward Changes:

21 Councils have Boundary Changes

Ward Changes	Count
Deleted	190
Updated	367
New	298
Total	1491

Other Local Elections :

This year Mayor elections also happened in the following:

Organisations having Mayoral Elections
Croydon
Hackney
Lewisham
Newham
Tower Hamlets
Watford

Annual Local Elections - Results Analysis

Political Change across Election Seats for Main Parties*

Party	Seats Pre-Election	Seats Post Election	% Change
Conservative	3359	2296	-41.28%
Labour	2138	2675	-58.38%
Liberal Democrats	1221	1628	22.50%
Reform	0	1454	NEW
GreenParty	240	481	310.49%
Independent	954	865	19.66%

Effect of Local Election outcomes on Gender across all Local Govt seats

Gender	Seats Pre-Election	Seats Post Election	% Change
Male	12009	12431	3.51%
Female	7070	6799	-3.84%

Level of Churn/Postholder Change

Re-Elected	Newly Elected	% of New Councillors
1964	3081	61.07%

Political Landscape Post elections 2026 vs 2025

(note: this represents total seat change over 12 months - May 25-26 - so includes by-elections between elections)

Party	Post 2026 Elections	Post 2025 Elections	Change
Conservative	3866	4380	-514
Green Party	1348	903	445
Independent	2053	2068	-15
Labour	4016	5366	-1350
Liberal Democrat	3354	3197	157
Reform	2347	814	1533
Residents Association/Ratepayer	188	219	-31
Labour and Co-operative	645	766	-121

Number of Councils by Control Post 2026 Elections

Council Control	Council Count
No Overall Control Council	234
Labour Council	69
Conservative Council	68
Liberal Democrat Council	46
Reform Council	24
Green Control Council	6
Independent Council	5
Plaid Cymru	3
Residents Assoc/Ratepayer Council	2
Non Political Council	2
Sinn Fein	1
Scottish National Party	1
PIP Control Council	1
Aspire Council	1

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