

# Latest State of the Race for Polling Day, Thursday May 6

May 6 2010

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## Update on Poll Information and MPs projections for 8:30pm on Polling Day, Thursday 6 May

We have now slightly updated our projections to take account of the final poll of the campaign, published today.

### National Votes Shares

There are 8 final opinion polls published this morning and our median score measure below is based on all of them. There is a high measure of agreement that

- the Conservatives are on 35 to 37 per cent,
- Labour are on 27 to 28 per cent,
- the Liberal Democrats are on 26 to 28 per cent, and
- the Other parties are on 7 to 12 per cent.

	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	Con Lead over Lab
Populus	37	28	28	7	+ 9
ComRes	37	28	28	7	+ 9
Ipsos Mori	36	29	27	9	+ 7
ICM	36	28	26	10	+ 8
Median Scores	36	28	27	9	+ 8
Austin Reed	36	24	29	11	+ 12
Harris	35	29	27	9	+ 6
YouGov	35	28	28	9	+ 7
Opinium	35	27	26	12	+ 8
TNS/BMRB	33	27	26	14	+ 6

### GB Change of Votes 2005 – 2010

Votes for the top three parties (and Others)	Labour	Conservatives	Liberal Democrats	Other	Con lead over Lab
2005	36	33	23	8	- 3
2010 Nationally	28	36	27	9	+ 8

Change	- 8	+ 3	+ 4	+ 1
Change in marginal seats	- 11	+ 3	+ 6	+ 2

## Projected MPs

1. On a uniform national swing basis, from our votes shares the Conservatives are narrowly the largest party but a Labour + Liberal Democrat coalition is still feasible.

2. If tactical voting by Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters operates this year (as in the last three elections), Labour could gain over 20 more seats and be the largest party. But the Liberal Democrats would see little extra benefit. Both Conservative/Liberal Democrat and Labour/Liberal Democrat coalition governments are viable.

3. If Labour loses more support in its marginal seats than nationwide (see above), the Conservatives would soar ahead in winning MPs, putting Cameron in sight almost of an overall majority. The Liberal Democrats' seats tally would also grow a lot at Labour's expense. Labour's parliamentary representation would reduce by nearly 140 MPs. Hence only a Conservative minority government or a Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition are feasible outcomes.

Projected MPs	LSE seats Projection <i>with Lab/Lib tactical voting</i>	LSE seats Projection Uniform swing	LSE seats Projection add Con lead in marginal seats	BBC Seats Model
Conservatives	277	288	310	284
Labour	255	246	211	257
Liberal Democrats	89	84	97	80
Other Parties	14	14	14	11
Northern Ireland	18	18	18	18
Majority Shortfall (for Cons from 326)	52	38	16	42
Viable coalitions	Con + Lib Lab + Lib	Con + Lib Lab + Lib	Con + Lib only	Con + Lib Lab + Lib

**Technical note:** Our poll tracking methodology is described [here](#). For seats projections we use a uniform national swing from the 2005 adjusted results, with some small tweaks for tactical voting. The working majority level is 326 for Labour, but only 318 for the Conservatives, who can rely on Unionist MPs from Northern Ireland to support them.

4. These differences dramatize how much the electoral system can now behave in a very volatile way in response to very small variations in the balance of parties' support.