

Recent History of Second Preferences

If the voting paper had required you to give two votes, in order of preference, which party would you have put as your second choice?

(2001: If the voting paper required you to give two votes, in order of preference, which party would you put as your second choice?)

Con voters	Con	Lab	LD	Nat/Oth	None
1983	-	5	76	1	17
1987	-	8	71	2	19
1992	-	8	69	6	17
1997	-	25	54	11	11
2001	-	21	47	12	20
2005	-	21	54	15	10

Lab voters	Con	Lab	LD	Nat/Oth	None
1983	14	-	60	7	20
1987	17	-	59	8	15
1992	14	-	58	13	16
1997	11	-	65	15	10
2001	15	-	57	13	15
2005	22	-	59	11	8

LD/Alliance voters	Con	Lab	LD	Nat/Oth	None
1983	43	36	-	3	18
1987	52	32	-	4	12
1992	42	36	-	7	15
1997	22	64	-	7	7
2001	19	53	-	11	18
2005	26	54	-	10	8

Sources: 1983-1997 British Election Study (post-election); 2001/5: ICM/BBC (pre-election)

Rough Estimates of the Impact of these patterns of preferences on seat outcomes

	Con		Lab		LD	
1983	391	-6	190	-19	48	+25
1987	381	+5	202	-27	44	+22
1992	328	-8	268	-3	31	+11
1997	70	-95	445	+26	115	+69
2001	140	-26	423	+10	68	+16
2005	171	-27	377	+21	68	+6

Note: Estimates assume no net effect on Nationalists and Others.

Votes and Seats

% UK totals

	Con			Lab			LD		
	Votes	FPP	AV	Votes	FPP	AV	Votes	FPP	AV
1983	42.4	61.1	60.2	27.6	32.2	29.2	25.4	3.5	7.4
1987	42.3	57.8	58.6	30.8	35.2	31.1	22.6	3.4	6.8
1992	41.9	51.6	50.4	34.4	41.6	41.2	17.8	3.1	4.8
1997	30.7	25.0	10.6	43.2	63.4	67.5	16.8	7.0	17.5
2001	31.7	25.2	21.2	40.8	62.7	64.2	18.3	7.9	10.3
2005	32.3	30.7	26.5	35.3	55.2	26.5	22.1	9.6	10.3

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Tories Leap Ahead

	% vote	Change since Jan.	Seats Projection
Con	43	+6	349
Lab	32	0	242
Lib Dem	18	-3	30
Others	7	-2	29

An Alternative View

	Second Preference of those who would vote		
	Con	Lab	LD
Con	-	22	28
Lab	26	-	45
LD	55	56	-
Other	6	9	13
None	12	14	14

If Second Preferences Counted

	Seats	Difference from Current System
Con	325	-24
Lab	255	+13
LD	41	+11
Others	29	0

John Curtice
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