

YouGov / Vote For A Change Survey Results

Sample Size: 2035 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 18th - 19th February 2010

	Voting intention			Gender		Age			Social Grade		Region				
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample 2035				977	1058	618	718	699	1119	916	260	661	435	501	177
Unweighted Sample 2035	703	466	242	1017	1018	494	698	843	1121	914	336	643	393	474	189
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

There is currently a lot of debate over whether or not Britain should change its system of electing Members of Parliament.

At present we elect MPs by 'first-past-the-post'. The method of achieving this is for the voter to mark an 'X' by the name of one candidate. The candidate who receives the biggest number of votes is elected, even if s/he obtains fewer than half of all votes cast. Some people argue that there is no need to change this system as it is easy to understand and traditional, while others suggest we should change our voting system and move towards the 'Alternative Vote', whereby MPs still represent individual constituencies, but would need the support of at least half the voters to be elected.

The method of achieving this is having voters rank the candidates by writing '1' by their favourite candidate, '2' by their second favourite and so on. When votes are counted, if nobody has a majority of the vote the least popular candidates are eliminated, and their supporters' second choice votes are counted. This process continues until one candidate achieves an overall majority and is elected. It is argued that this is fairer because it means that each MP has some support from a majority of their local voters.

On Tuesday the House of Commons passed a government amendment to have a referendum, after the next election, on whether we should change the system for electing MPs from 'first-past-the-post' to 'Alternative Vote'. The Conservatives voted against the amendment.

Does Labour's position in favour of having a referendum on the Alternative Vote make you more or less likely to vote Labour?

Much more likely to vote Labour	6	1	18	6	8	5	6	6	7	6	7	8	6	5	7	6
Somewhat more likely to vote Labour	14	5	17	28	16	13	19	13	11	17	11	15	16	12	12	19
TOTAL MORE LIKELY	20	5	34	34	23	18	25	19	18	23	17	22	22	17	19	25
Somewhat less likely Labour	4	5	5	3	4	4	6	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	3
A lot less likely to vote Labour	7	14	1	5	10	4	5	6	9	6	8	8	7	9	5	4
TOTAL LESS LIKELY	11	19	5	7	14	8	11	10	11	10	11	11	11	14	10	7
Not applicable, I will vote Labour anyway	15	1	54	3	15	16	12	20	14	15	16	11	13	15	20	19
Not applicable, I will NOT vote Labour anyway	40	69	1	45	39	41	33	37	49	42	37	42	45	38	36	34
Don't know	14	5	5	11	9	18	20	13	9	10	18	14	10	16	16	15

Now the referendum amendment has passed, some people say the Conservatives should continue to oppose it by preventing it from passing in the House of Lords, or repealing it if they win the election. Other people say that the Conservatives should let the referendum happen.

In your opinion, should the Conservative party...?

Try and prevent the referendum going ahead	16	32	8	8	18	15	12	16	21	16	17	13	18	19	16	12
Allow the referendum to go ahead	59	45	74	77	65	52	56	60	59	63	53	58	62	52	57	68
Don't know	25	23	18	15	16	33	33	24	19	21	30	29	20	29	28	21

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There is currently disagreement amongst the political parties concerning their position on hereditary peers in the House of Lords. Whilst both parties agree that there should be full reform in the future, they disagree over what should happen with hereditary peers in the meantime. At present, a maximum 92 members of the House of Lords are chosen by, and from, people with aristocratic titles they have inherited.

The Conservatives say that some peers should still be chosen in this way until there is a thorough reform of the House of Lords whilst the Labour party says current hereditary peers can continue but no more hereditary peers should be chosen to sit in the Lords.

Which position is closer to your own opinion?

There should continue to be new hereditary peers in the House of Lords to maintain their number at 92	23	42	13	21	26	22	21	21	29	25	22	23	28	23	20	17
There should be no more new hereditary peers in the House of Lords	61	46	77	68	64	58	57	64	61	63	58	60	56	62	63	69
Don't know	16	12	10	11	10	21	22	16	10	12	20	17	15	15	17	14