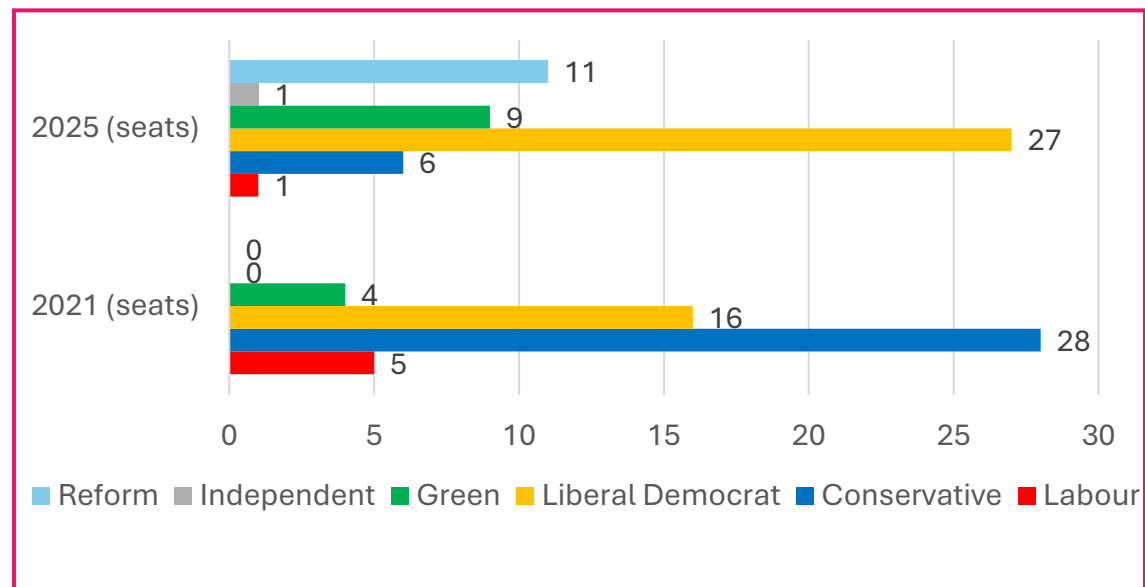


Turnout figures:  
Gloucester – 31.4%  
Cheltenham – 35.99%  
Cotswold – 39%  
Other TBC.



### The end of the two-party state (in Gloucestershire)

For decades, Conservative and Labour have constituted most Council seats, whatever the political weather. Now, a plurality of Liberal Democrats, Reform UK and Greens hold together more than 8 in 10 seats. Britain's major political party's took a kicking from the left and the right.

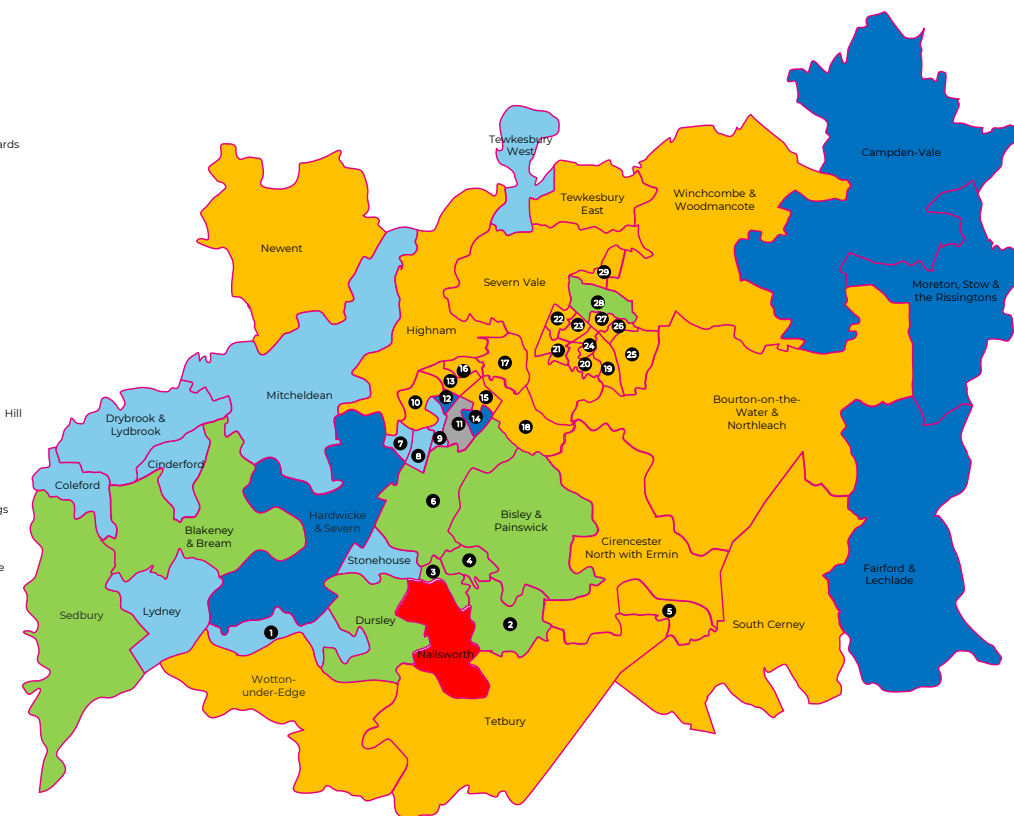
### Lib-Dems fall one short of an overall majority

The future of the political administration is in the balance. No outright majority, but the Lib-Dems may argue they have the right to form a sole minority administration by just falling short. Alternatively, they may follow the lead in Stroud and establish a progressive alliance.

### Labour's national dominance = One councillor

Who says that all politics is local? Here, we have a definitive national/ local split. Labour hold half the parliamentary constituencies in the County, but just a single County Council seat.

- 1 Cam Valley
- 2 Minchinhampton
- 3 Rodborough
- 4 Stroud Central
- 5 Cirencester Park
- 6 Haresfield & Upton St Leonards
- 7 Quedgeley
- 8 Grange & Kingsway
- 9 Tuffley & Moreland
- 10 Hempsted & Westgate
- 11 Coney Hill & Matson
- 12 Barton & Tredworth
- 13 Kingsholm & Wotton
- 14 Abbey
- 15 Barnwood & Hucclecote
- 16 Longlevens
- 17 Churchdown
- 18 Brockworth
- 19 Charlton Park & College
- 20 Leckhampton with Warden Hill
- 21 Benhall & Up Hatherley
- 22 Hesters Way & Springbank
- 23 St Mark's & St Peter's
- 24 Lansdown & Park
- 25 Battledown & Charlton Kings
- 26 All Saints & Oakley
- 27 Pittville & St Paul's
- 28 Prestbury & Swindon Village
- 29 Bishop's Cleeve



HOLD:  
NO OVERALL CONTROL



# Gloucestershire becomes a battleground

## Lib-Dems, Reform, and the Tory retreat

Fresh from victory in the Runcorn and Helsby by-election, Nigel Farage made a pointed prediction: the Conservatives were about to be attacked from both flanks: squeezed from the left by the Lib Dems and from the right by Reform. 'You'll see this in places like Gloucestershire,' he warned. He wasn't wrong. In the 2025 County Council elections, Reform and the Lib Dems took eleven seats between them, while the Conservatives lost 22, an electoral rout by any standard.

True, 2021 had been a high-water mark for the Tories. But this result was something else: a collapse of the party's local ground game in a county where they'd already been wiped out at Westminster in 2024, clinging to just one parliamentary seat.

Reform's breakthrough might be no one-off. They've carved out a stronghold along the A48 in the Forest of Dean, sweeping through four connected divisions from Coleford to Mitcheldean. Add in surprise wins in Cam Valley and Stonehouse, and the pattern is clear. Bar a single gain in Tewkesbury West, Farage's advance stopped short of the gentler pastures of the Cotswolds and Tewkesbury, where the Lib Dems ran the table.

The Lib Dems, meanwhile, came within touching distance of overall control – just one seat short. Or more painfully still, 23 votes short. The margin by which they lost to the Greens in Prestbury and Swindon Village. That near miss will sting.

But their dominance in central Gloucestershire – Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Tewkesbury – speaks volumes. In the Forest and Stroud, their historic weakness remains, but elsewhere their appeal seems to be growing without limit.

Now, attention turns to what happens next. The next Council Leader inherits a political chessboard in flux. Gloucestershire is edging toward unitary status, but the path is anything but clear. Should it be one council? Should it be two?

No one can agree, least of all within the likely new administration. If the Lib Dems lead it, they'll be split: some want a single authority, others favour dividing the county. That indecision could see Whitehall stepping in to break the stalemate. In Gloucestershire, the old lines are being redrawn. And the battle for what comes next is only just beginning.

## JBP Political Analysis Team.

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