

TUSC AGAINST CUTS

Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition ELECTION SUCCESS FOR ANTI-CUTS CANDIDATES

The mainstream media's reporting of the local elections has concentrated almost exclusively on the increase in Ukip's vote.

Ukip gained votes by posing as an anti-establishment party when, in reality, it has received wall-to-wall coverage in the mainstream media, and is a party led by bankers and millionaires which is to the right of the Tory Party. Ukip stands for £77 billion 'extra' cuts on top of the misery the government is already imposing on us.

But there was another important local election story that the media has refused to cover. The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) stood 560 candidates, the biggest left-of-Labour challenge in 60 years. This was the beginning of building an alternative to the parties of austerity.

TUSC candidates were anti-cuts activists, community campaigners and trade unionists. TUSC was co-founded by the late Bob Crow, and is backed by the transport workers' union – the RMT, along with other leading trade unionists and socialists.

Its candidates stood on simple demands such as:

- **Stop the cuts!**
- **Stop rip off landlords! For rent controls and council house building**
- **Axe the bedroom tax**
- **For a minimum wage you can live on - £10 an hour now!**

'Rebel councillor' re-elected in Southampton

At the time of writing most of the council results have not yet been collated, but TUSC made a number of important steps forward. In Southampton 'rebel councillor' and TUSC national steering committee member Keith Morrell was re-elected to his council seat in Coxford, in a vindication of the bold stand that he, and fellow rebel councillor Don Thomas, made against the Labour council's cuts.

Keith has been decisively re-elected with 1,654 votes, a 43% share of the vote. Labour dropped to third with 724 votes (19%), as UKIP came in second with 796 votes. The Tories polled 500 votes, and the Lib Dems 168.

Keith said:

"This result is a victory for the people of Coxford who fought to save local services and won an important victory to re-open our local swimming pool. It shows what is possible. Other significant results across the city for TUSC candidates show the potential that exists for a new party that stands up for working people, campaigns for jobs and housing, and tackles the growing poverty that affects so many families in the city."

In **Coventry** TUSC's national chairperson Dave Nellist polled a very good 974 votes, coming second with a 29.7% share. Another solid result was Rob McArdle's 248 votes in Lower Stoke ward, a 6.2% share. Overall, TUSC candidates polled 2,592 votes across the city.

In **Waltham Forest** TUSC scored an excellent 5,482 votes across 33 seats. In **Haringey** over 4,000 voted for TUSC's anti-cuts programme. In **Birmingham** TUSC's 12 candidates polled 1,766 votes. In **Salford** 2,125 voters supported TUSC with one candidate, Terry Simmons, coming second with 460 votes.

**For updates on our election results go to
www.tusc.org.uk**



Join us!

This was just the beginning of building a new electoral voice that stands in the interests of working class people. If you want candidates that stand for the 99% not the 1% get involved.

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