



A directory of the elections taking place in May 2027

The council elections on Thursday 6th May 2027 will be the biggest set of local contests that have taken place since the 2024 general election, with nearly 10,000 councillors being elected in England, Scotland and Wales.

This wasn't always going to be the case until a U-turn made by government in September that put a pause on its local government re-organisation legislation. This is the plan to merge district and county councils into unitary authorities, larger and more remote – and less democratically accountable – than the district councils that they aim to abolish, to make it easier to push through the austerity agenda shared by all the capitalist establishment parties.

The U-turn was not the result, however, of a change of heart by the incoming Andy Burnham administration. The 'new' Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government who announced the pause was the same Angela Rayner who had introduced the re-organisation proposals back in 2024, before she was forced to resign for underpaying stamp tax on one of the three properties she was then living in. Local democracy will still need to be defended, including in the May elections. But faced with a legal challenge the plan to cancel the polls in 150 district councils had to be abandoned and it is now possible to draw a clear picture of where elections will be taking place in May 2027.

So on May 6th next year all 32 Scottish councils, and all the 22 councils in Wales, will have elections for, respectively, 1,226 and 1,233 councillors, every council seat in Scotland and Wales. While in England 7,375 councillors will be elected in 214 local authorities, with directly-elected mayoral contests also taking place in Bedford, Leicester, Mansfield and Middlesbrough.

This directory has been a regular annual autumn publication of TUSC since 2012, listing the number of seats up for election in each council in the following spring, and the council's political leadership, produced as an aid for local trade unionist and socialist campaigners to begin their election planning. We hope it can play that role again this year.

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The 2027 elections:

The English Council contests

This is a breakdown by region of the English councils that will be contested in May 2027, with the number of seats up for election and the current political control of the council listed.

Eastern

There are 43 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 1,409.

Babergh (32 seats, no overall control)
Basildon (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Bedford (all 46 seats plus a Mayoral contest, no overall control)
Braintree (49 seats, Conservative)
Breckland (49 seats, Conservative)
Brentwood (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Broadland (47 seats, no overall control)
Broxbourne (10 seats – a third of seats up for election – Conservative)
Cambridge (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Central Bedfordshire (all 63 seats, no overall control)
Chelmsford (57 seats, Lib Dem)
Colchester (51 seats, no overall control)
Dacorum (51 seats, no overall control)
East Cambridgeshire (all 28 seats, Conservative)
East Hertfordshire (50 seats, no overall control)
East Suffolk (55 seats, no overall control)
Epping Forest (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Fenland (all 43 seats, Conservative)
Great Yarmouth (39 seats, no overall control)
Harlow (11 seats – a third of seats up for election – Conservative)
Hertsmere (39 seats, no overall control)
Ipswich (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
King's Lynn and West Norfolk (55 seats, no overall control)
Luton (all 48 seats, no overall control)
Maldon (31 seats, no overall control)
Mid Suffolk (34 seats, Green)
Milton Keynes (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
North Hertfordshire (50 seats, no overall control)
North Norfolk (40 seats, Lib Dem)
Norwich (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – Green)
Peterborough (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

Rochford (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
St Albans (18 seats, Lib Dem)
South Norfolk (46 seats, no overall control)
Southend-on-Sea (17 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Stevenage (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
Tendring (48 seats, no overall control)
Three Rivers (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Thurrock (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)
Uttlesford (39 seats, no overall control)
Watford (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – Lib Dem)
West Suffolk (64 seats, no overall control)
Welwyn Hatfield (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

East Midlands

There are 33 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 1,324.

Amber Valley (42 seats, no overall control)
Ashfield (35 seats, Independent)
Bassetlaw (48 seats, Labour)
Blaby (36 seats, no overall control)
Bolsover (37 seats, Labour)
Boston (30 seats, Independent)
Broxtowe (44 seats, Independent)
Charnwood (52 seats, no overall control)
Chesterfield (40 seats, Labour)
Derby (51 seats, no overall control)
Derbyshire Dales (34 seats, no overall control)
East Lindsey (55 seats, no overall control)
Erewash (47 seats, Labour)
Gedling (41 seats, Labour)
Harborough (34 seats, no overall control)
High Peak (43 seats, Labour)
Hinckley and Bosworth (34 seats, Lib Dem)
Leicester (all 55 seats plus a mayoral contest, Labour)
Lincoln (11 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
Mansfield (all 37 seats plus a mayoral contest, Labour)
Melton (28 seats, no overall control)
Newark & Sherwood (39 seats, no overall control)
North East Derbyshire (53 seats, Labour)
North Kesteven (43 seats, Conservative)
North West Leicestershire (38 seats, no overall control)
Nottingham (55 seats, Labour)
Oadby & Wigston (26 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Rushcliffe (44 seats, Conservative)
Rutland (27 seats, no overall control)
South Derbyshire (36 seats, Labour)
South Holland (37 seats, no overall control)
South Kesteven (56 seats, no overall control)
West Lindsey (36 seats, no overall control)

Northern

There are ten local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 336.

- Darlington** (all 50 seats, no overall control)
- Gateshead** (22 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)
- Hartlepool** (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Middlesbrough** (all 48 seats plus a mayoral contest, Labour)
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne** (26 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- North Tyneside** (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Redcar & Cleveland** (all 59 seats, no overall control)
- South Tyneside** (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)
- Stockton-on-Tees** (all 56 seats, no overall control)
- Sunderland** (25 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)

North West

There are 30 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 961.

- Blackburn with Darwen** (17 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Blackpool** (42 seats, Labour)
- Bolton** (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Burnley** (15 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Bury** (17 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Cheshire East** (all 82 seats, no overall control)
- Cheshire West & Chester** (all 70 seats, no overall control)
- Chorley** (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Fylde** (37 seats, Conservative)
- Halton** (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Hyndburn** (11 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Knowsley** (15 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Lancaster** (61 seats, no overall control)
- Liverpool** (all 85 seats, Labour)
- Manchester** (32 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Oldham** (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Pendle** (11 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Preston** (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Ribble Valley** (40 seats, no overall control)
- Rossendale** (30 seats, Labour)
- Salford** (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Sefton** (22 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- South Ribble** (50 seats, Labour)
- Stockport** (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
- Tameside** (19 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Trafford** (21 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- West Lancashire** (15 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
- Wigan** (25 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
- Wirral** (all 66 seats, no overall control)
- Wyre** (50 seats, Conservative)

South East

There are 45 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 1,471.

Arun (54 seats, no overall control)
Ashford (47 seats, no overall control)
Basingstoke and Deane (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Bracknell Forest (all 41 seats, no overall control)
Brighton & Hove (54 seats, Labour)
Canterbury (39 seats, no overall control)
Cherwell (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Chichester (36 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Crawley (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
Dartford (42 seats, Conservative)
Dover (32 seats, no overall control)
East Hampshire (43 seats, no overall control)
Eastbourne (27 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Eastleigh (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
Folkestone and Hythe (30 seats, no overall control)
Gravesham (39 seats, Labour)
Hart (11 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Havant (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Horsham (48 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Lewes (41 seats, no overall control)
Medway (59 seats, Labour)
Mid Sussex (48 seats, no overall control)
New Forest (48 seats, no overall control)
Portsmouth (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
Reading (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
Rother (38 seats, no overall control)
Rushmoor (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Sevenoaks (54 seats, no overall control)
Slough (all 42 seats, no overall control)
South Oxfordshire (36 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Southampton (17 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Swale (47 seats, no overall control)
Test Valley (43 seats, Conservative)
Thanet (56 seats, Labour)
Tonbridge and Malling (44 seats, no overall control)
Tunbridge Wells (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
Vale of White Horse (38 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Wealden (45 seats, no overall control)
West Berkshire (43 seats, Liberal Democrat)
West Oxfordshire (16 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Winchester (15 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
Windsor & Maidenhead (all 41 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Wokingham (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – Liberal Democrat)
Worthing (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

South West

There are 17 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 713.

Bath and North East Somerset (all 59 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (all 76 seats, no overall control)
Cotswold (34 seats, Liberal Democrat)
East Devon (60 seats, no overall control)
Exeter (13 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Forest of Dean (38 seats, no overall control)
Mid Devon (42 seats, Liberal Democrat)
North Devon (42 seats, Liberal Democrat)
North Somerset (all 50 seats, no overall control)
Plymouth (19 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
South Gloucestershire (all 61 seats, no overall control)
South Hams (31 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Teignbridge (47 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Tewkesbury (38 seats, no overall control)
Torbay (36 seats, no overall control)
Torridge (36 seats, no overall control)
West Devon (31 seats, no overall control)

West Midlands

There are 25 local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 818.

Bromsgrove (31 seats, no overall control)
Cannock Chase (12 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Coventry (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Dudley (24 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
East Staffordshire (37 seats, Labour)
Herefordshire (all 53 seats, no overall control)
Lichfield (47 seats, no overall control)
Malvern Hills (30 seats, no overall control)
North Warwickshire (35 seats, no overall control)
Redditch (9 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Rugby (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
Sandwell (24 seats – a third of seats up for election – reform)
Solihull (17 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)
South Staffordshire (42 seats, Conservative)
Stafford (40 seats, no overall control)
Staffordshire Moorlands (56 seats, no overall control)
Stoke-on-Trent (44 seats, Labour)
Stratford-on-Avon (41 seats, Liberal Democrat)
Tamworth (30 seats, no overall control)
Telford & the Wrekin (all 54 seats, Labour)
Walsall (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)
Warwick (44 seats, no overall control)
Wolverhampton (20 seats – a third of seats up for election – Labour)
Wychavon (43 seats, Conservative)
Wyre Forest (33 seats, Conservative)

Yorkshire

There are eleven local authorities in this region with elections in May 2027, with the total number of seats contested being 343.

Bradford (30 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

Calderdale (18 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)

East Riding of Yorkshire (all 67 seats, no overall control)

Hull (19 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

Kirklees (23 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

Leeds (33 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

North East Lincolnshire (14 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

North Lincolnshire (all 43 seats, Conservative)

Sheffield (28 seats – a third of seats up for election – no overall control)

Wakefield (21 seats – a third of seats up for election – Reform)

York (all 47 seats, Labour)



The 2027 elections: The Scottish Council contests

Below is a breakdown of the Scottish unitary authorities, all of which are being contested in May 2027 in all-up elections, with the number of seats up for election in each. There are currently no details published for the Scottish government's plans for local government reorganisation.

Scottish elections use the single transferable vote (STV) system form of proportional representation in multi-seat wards, making it harder for one party to win every seat in the ward or to achieve an overall majority on the council, so the current political leadership is listed in terms of who leads the minority administration. There are 32 councils with elections this year, electing 1,226 councillors in 355 wards.

Aberdeen

SNP/Lib Dem led – 45 seats in 13 wards

Aberdeenshire

Con/Lib Dem/Ind led – 70 seats in 19 wards

Angus

Con/Lab/Ind led – 28 seats in 8 wards

Argyll & Bute

SNP/Lib Dem led – 36 seats in 11 wards

Clackmannanshire

SNP led – 18 seats in 5 wards

Dumfries & Galloway

SNP led – 43 seats in 12 wards

Dundee

SNP – 29 seats in 8 wards

East Ayrshire

SNP led – 32 seats in 9 wards

East Dunbartonshire

SNP led – 22 seats in 7 wards

East Lothian

Labour led – 22 seats in 6 wards

East Renfrewshire

Labour led – 18 seats in 5 wards

Edinburgh

Labour led – 63 seats in 17 wards

Falkirk

No overall control – 30 seats in 9 wards

Fife

Lab/Lib Dem/Con led – 75 seats in 22 wards

Glasgow

SNP led – 85 seats in 23 wards

Highland

SNP-Independent led – 74 seats in 21 wards

Inverclyde

Lab led – 22 seats in 7 wards

Midlothian

SNP led – 18 seats in 6 wards

Moray

Conservative led – 26 seats in 8 wards

Na h-Eilean Siar (Outer Hebrides)

Independent controlled – 29 seats in 11 wards

North Ayrshire

SNP led – 33 seats in 9 wards

North Lanarkshire

Lab led – 77 seats in 21 wards

Orkney Islands

Independent-controlled – 21 seats in 6 wards

Perth & Kinross

SNP led – 40 seats in 12 wards

Renfrewshire

SNP led – 43 seats in 12 wards

Scottish Borders

Con led – 34 seats in 11 wards

Shetland Islands

Independent-controlled – 23 seats in 7 wards

South Ayrshire

No overall control – 28 seats in 8 wards

South Lanarkshire

Lab/Lib Dem/Ind led – 64 seats in 20 wards

Stirling

SNP led – 23 seats in 7 wards

West Dunbartonshire

Labour led – 22 seats in 6 wards

West Lothian

Lab led – 33 seats in 9 wards



The 2027 elections: The battlegrounds in Wales

Below is a breakdown of the Welsh unitary authorities being contested in May in all-up elections, with the number of seats up for election in each and the current political leadership of the council. There are currently no plans for local government reorganisation in Wales.

There are 22 councils with elections this year, electing 1,233 councillors in 766 wards.

Blaenau Gwent

Labour-controlled – 33 seats in 14 wards

Bridgend

Labour-controlled – 51 seats in 28 wards

Caerphilly

Labour-controlled – 69 seats in 30 wards

Cardiff

Labour-controlled – 79 seats in 28 wards

Carmarthenshire

Plaid Cymru-led – 75 seats in 51 wards

Ceredigion

Plaid Cymru-controlled – 38 seats in 34 wards

Conwy

No overall control – 55 seats in 30 wards

Denbighshire

Labour/Plaid led – 48 seats in 29 wards

Flintshire

Labour/Ind-led – 67 seats in 45 wards

Gwynedd

Plaid Cymru-controlled – 69 seats in 65 wards

Isle of Anglesey

Plaid Cymru-controlled – 34 seats in 14 wards

Merthyr Tydfil

Labour-led – 30 seats in 11 wards

Monmouthshire

Labour-led – 46 seats in 42 wards

Neath Port Talbot

Plaid/Independent led – 60 seats in 34 wards

Newport

Labour-controlled – 51 seats in 21 wards

Pembrokeshire

No overall control – 60 seats in 59 wards

Powys

Lib Dem/Lab led – 68 seats in 60 wards

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Labour-controlled – 75 seats in 46 wards

Swansea

Labour-controlled – 75 seats in 32 wards

Torfaen

Labour-controlled – 40 seats in 20 wards

Vale of Glamorgan

Labour led – 54 seats in 24 wards

Wrexham

Ind/Con led – 56 seats in 49 wards