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The Greens, Your Party and Labour's left challenge

With Labour's drop in the polls, the creation of Your Party and the Greens' soaring popularity, the left vote is fragmenting. Laura Serra and Jenevieve Treadwell trace the movement of voters to the left, and argue that especially in London, and especially among the young country-wide, Labour is facing a more serious challenge on its left than on its right.

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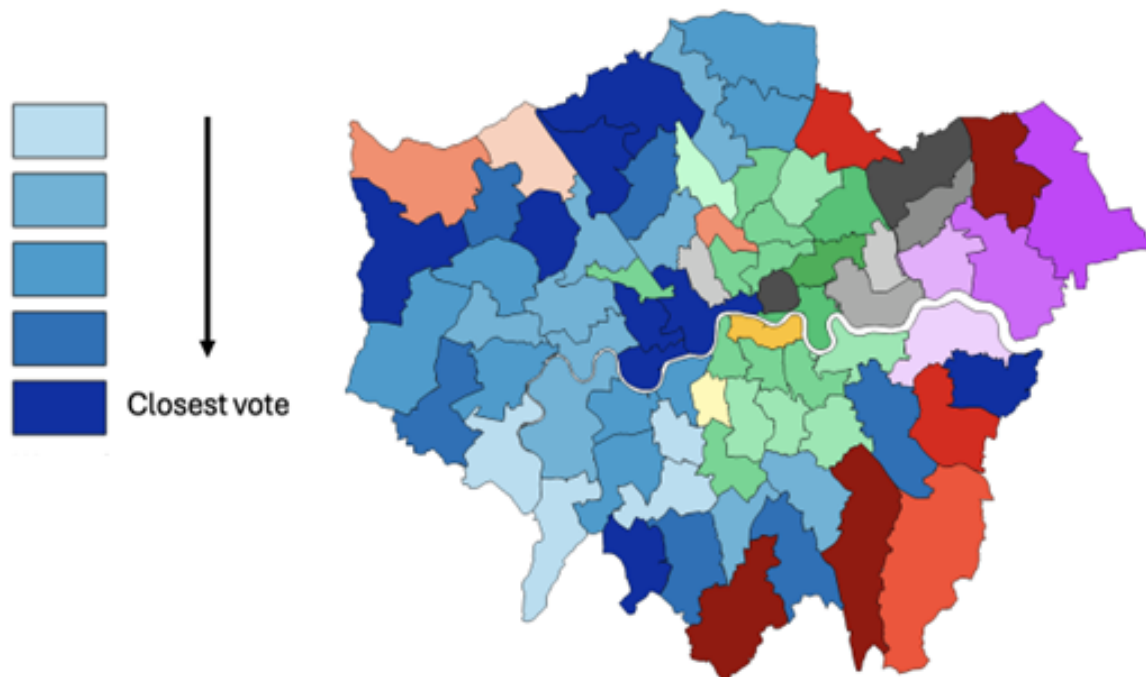
Public debate about [shifting voting intentions](#) in the UK has [centred heavily](#) on the rise of Reform, with many [headlines framing](#) it as the dominant story of [electoral change](#). But focusing solely on this trend risks overlooking "quieter", yet significant, movements elsewhere in the demographic and geographical landscape.

The rise of progressive left parties in the shape of the Green Party and Your Party, alongside the social conservative Reform Party, suggests that the political landscape is becoming more fractured. But these developments are not happening equally across the country.

London as the outlier

At the last general election, Labour won 411 seats across the country. But they also performed extremely well in London, winning around four-fifths of seats, with neither Reform UK nor the Greens securing a single victory. However, both parties were competitive: Reform came second in four seats in outer East London, while the Greens were runners-up in several parts of inner London. All of these contests were against Labour, rather than the Conservatives, reflecting the near-total dominance of Labour in London.

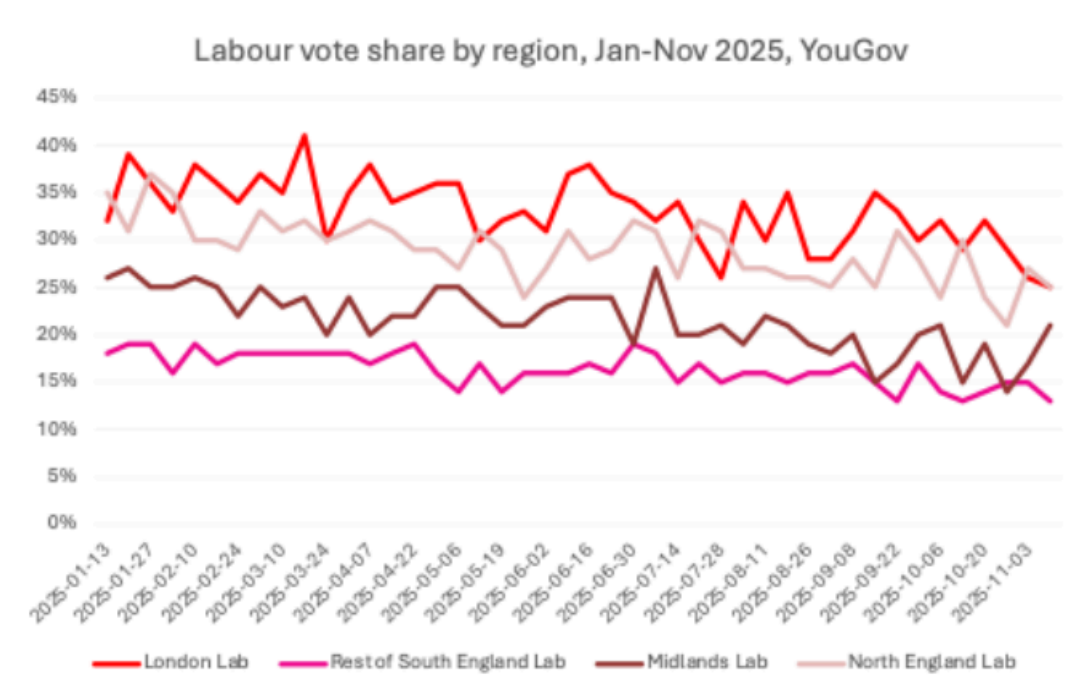
Figure 1



Who came second, and by how much? Unlike in west London, where Labour's opponents are the Conservatives, in the east and centre of London, the primary challengers to Labour are the Green party and Reform. The relative strength of that opposition is shown in gradient of the second party.

That dominance is still clearly present but now looks slightly less secure. **Labour's support in London has fallen** from 32 per cent in January 2025 to 25 per cent by November – a drop of 7 percentage points. This decline is less severe than Labour has seen nationally, allowing the party's grip on London to remain relatively strong.

Figure 2



Partly, this is a function of Labour's immense success in the city, winning in areas where residents typically lean right as well as their left-wing heartlands. This diverse coalition is challenging to hold

together and means that Labour has the furthest to fall, losing support to both sides of the political spectrum.



In London, the Greens have made significant gains, polling at 23 per cent, just shy of Labour’s 25 per cent.



But what is driving Labour’s decline in London is not the same as the rest of the country. In London, the Greens have made significant gains, polling at 23 per cent, just shy of Labour’s 25 per cent. Outside London, the surge of support for the Greens is far less pronounced. **Reform UK** shows the opposite pattern: nationally, excluding London, they party is polling at around 29 per cent, but in London, this is only 13 per cent.

Figure 3

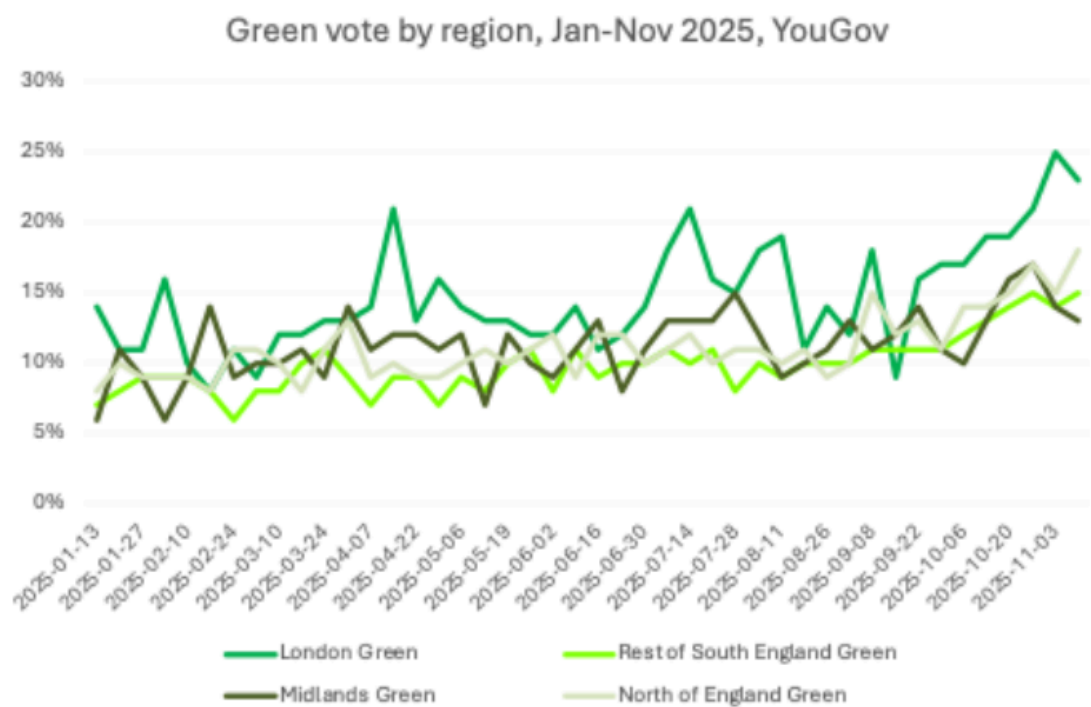


Figure 4

Implications for voters and parties in London

The prospect of a more fractured political landscape is particularly interesting in London, a city that has been **majority Labour** for decades. That is because, despite its voting history, London is not a monolith. Voters in different parts of the city will hold very different values and, consequently, the competition against Labour does not look the same in every seat.

Politically, it resembles a doughnut: inner boroughs lean left – socially and economically – while outer boroughs tend to be more right-leaning. This is reflected in who came second at the 2024 General Election. The Greens, with more left-wing social and economic messaging, are strongest in inner London. Reform, with its socially conservative message and mixed economic position, is strongest in outer boroughs. They rarely compete directly, though Barking is an exception, where both tied for second place behind Labour.

This state of affairs is complicated, specifically on the Left, by the arrival of the yet unnamed “Your Party”.

Youth realignments across the UK

Geography is not the only test for Labour. Across the UK more broadly, recent **YouGov polling** also shows a striking generational realignment: among 18- to 24-year-olds, the Greens have now overtaken Labour to become the largest party.

Recent polling (reported in Figure 4) shows Green support climbing to 34 per cent, while Labour has dropped to just 23 per cent – a reversal few would have predicted even a year ago. This surge is not confined to the youngest voters. Among the 25–49 age group, the Greens have caught up with both Labour and Reform, narrowing what was once a daunting gap (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Overall, the geographic and demographic momentum reflects a broader dissatisfaction with the two main parties, particularly Labour. Since taking up office, the party has begun to **disconnect** from substantial parts of its traditional **voter base**.

A possible explanation for voter movement is down to the sheer breadth of Labour's voting coalition at the last election. Satisfying the wider electorate has proven challenging. Recent decisions on social policy have upset those who reject Labour's attempts to reform the welfare system. At the same time, Labour's increasingly strict stance on immigration has alienated more progressive, younger voters, many of whom live in London. These voters are now seeing the Greens as a clearer vehicle for left-of-centre priorities.

The implications are substantial. If younger cohorts continue shifting toward the Greens, Labour risks losing not only an age group but an entire future electorate. This is a fate that seems to be currently befalling the **Conservative party**. Meanwhile, the Greens – long treated as peripheral – are developing a wide system of support. These trends hint at a party system far more fluid, competitive, and generationally divided than ever.

Your Party vs the Greens: chasing the youth vote

Corbyn and Sultana's *Your Party* is also positioning itself as a credible contender for Labour's young and progressive voters. The recent surge of the Green Party among young voters complicates the potential trajectory of Your Party. August 2025 [Ipsos polling](#) suggested that about one-third of 16–34-year-olds might consider the new left-wing alternative, with some overlap from Green supporters.



Depending on the ability of Your Party to hold itself together until the next election, this further fragmentation of the Left means more choice and more complexity.



Yet, in the months since, while the Greens have strengthened their appeal, particularly on climate and social justice issues, *Your Party* has struggled with [scandals](#) and the [shedding of its MPs](#).

Despite this, the literal and potential appeal of more progressive parties among younger generations suggests a real problem for mainstream Labour under Keir Starmer. Young voters increasingly prioritise systemic change – ranging from wealth redistribution to environmental action – a space that both the Greens and Your Party aim to occupy.

Depending on the ability of Your Party to hold itself together until the next election, this further fragmentation of the Left means more choice and more complexity. Tactical voting could become a defining feature of the next election, as progressives weigh Labour versus the Greens versus Your Party.

Successfully consolidating younger, radical Labour supporters under either of these parties could signal a realignment on the British left, establishing a newly defined political force that reshapes the post-Corbyn landscape.

Labour needs to take the challenge from the left more seriously

Labour is under pressure from all sides, but despite the headline focus on Reform, it is the left where there is the greatest plurality of challengers. Even in London, Labour is becoming increasingly vulnerable. Demographics go some way to explaining this, as younger voters are drawn to parties offering an alternative, more obviously progressive approach to politics.

Whether this left-realignment solidifies will depend on how effectively these emerging challengers convert polling strength into electoral power. The next phase may see intensified tactical voting, new alliances, or further fragmentation on the left. Either way, the shift away from two-party dominance now looks less like a blip and more like the beginning of a longer-term transformation.

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Laura Serra is a Postdoctoral Research Officer at the Electoral Psychology Observatory, a research unit within the LSE Department of Government. Her research explores how voters' characteristics, particularly age, and parties' programmatic outlooks influence political attitudes and behaviours. Laura's PhD research on the widening voting age gap in British partisanship was awarded the 2024 McDougall Trust Prize for the best dissertation in the field of elections, electoral systems, and representation by the Political Studies Association.

Jenevieve Treadwell

Jenevieve Treadwell is the London Policy Fellow at LSE. She is focused on creating new research about the Capital, and helping to connect LSE research to policymakers and stakeholders in London. She was previously a Senior Researcher at the thinktank Onward, specialising using geospatial analysis to create custom policy solutions to the challenges facing the UK.

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