

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: sbwhoep [redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 5, 2010 6:30 PM
To: H
Subject: H: UK election being called. Sid

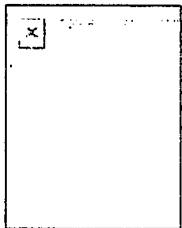
B6

Gordon is going to call the election tomorrow for May 6. I'm going to go over for that week. Sid

Labour could win most seats at general election, poll shows

Guardian/ICM poll reveals gap between two main parties at four points – the closest in an ICM poll for almost two years

- [Julian Glover](#)
- [guardian.co.uk](#), Monday 5 April 2010 19.02 BST
- [Article history](#)



Labour still has a fighting chance of winning the most seats in the general election, according to a Guardian/ICM poll published today.

The findings suggest Tory hopes of a defining breakthrough have been overplayed, with the gap between the two main parties now at just four points – the closest in an ICM poll for almost two years.

Labour support has climbed four points to 33% since an ICM poll carried out for the Guardian last week. Conservative backing has dropped one since then to 37% – Labour's best ICM rating since December 2008 and the Tories' worst since February.

On a uniform national swing, these figures could leave Labour 30 seats short of an overall majority. Even if the Tories perform better than average in marginal seats – as most people expect – David Cameron would struggle to establish a secure parliamentary basis for power.

Either party could be left dependent on the [Liberal Democrats](#), who are on 21% in the poll – down two from last week. Despite that decline, the Lib Dems will be pleased by the strength of their position going into the election. The party has been at or above 20% in seven of this year's 11 ICM polls.

Meanwhile support for other parties, which peaked last spring in the European elections, has fallen again to just 9%. At the start of an election campaign likely to see more polling than ever before in British politics, today's figures will be treated with caution unless confirmed by other surveys.

Some polls late last week suggested the Conservative lead had grown rather than shrunk, and research may have been affected by the Easter holidays, when some voters would have been away from home. Yet the results suggest that Labour's chances should not be written off, and events such as the leaders' debates could prove decisive in the coming weeks.

Today's poll suggests 60% of people are planning to watch at least one debate, with 29% saying they plan to watch all three. Only 39% of voters said they would not watch any of them.

The ICM survey also asked voters whether they might switch away from their first choice party and, if so, who they might back instead.

Labour and Tory support is now equally solid. Overall, 71% of Labour supporters say they will definitely back Labour while 71% of Tories also say they will stick with their first choice party.

Lib Dems, however, are less loyal – only 52% are sure they will end up giving Nick Clegg their vote. That leaves just over a quarter of each main party's supporters considering backing another party.

The proportion of Lib Dems and Conservatives saying they might vote Labour instead has doubled since ICM last asked this question earlier in the year. The ICM figures suggest the maximum potential vote for Labour and the Conservatives – all their definite supporters, plus all potential switchers – is running neck and neck at 42%. The Lib Dem maximum is 28%. Realistically, Labour is unlikely to beat its 2005 share of 36% and even today's poll suggesting it has shed only three points since then will surprise many. Nonetheless, there is all to play for as the contest begins now.

• *ICM Research interviewed a random sample of 1,001 adults aged 18 and over by telephone on 1-3 April 2010. Interviews were conducted across the country, and the results weighted to the profile of all adults. ICM is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.*