

# BBC Sunday Politics: Liberal Democrat Candidates Survey

## METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 64 Liberal Democrat candidates online from 1st August and 16th September. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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To commission a voting intention poll or a public opinion survey please contact Andrew Hawkins: [andrew.hawkins@comres.co.uk](mailto:andrew.hawkins@comres.co.uk)

To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: [pollwatch@comres.co.uk](mailto:pollwatch@comres.co.uk)

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about televised leaders' debates.**

**Televised leaders' debates should not happen in the run up to the 2015 General Election because of the effect they had on the 2010 campaign**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Disagree	63 98%	42 98%	21 100%
Don't know	- -	- -	- -

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about televised leaders' debates.**

**There should be televised leaders' debates in the run up to the 2015 General Election**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	62 97%	42 98%	20 95%
Disagree	- -	- -	- -
Don't know	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about televised leaders' debates.**

**Ed Miliband and David Cameron should have a one-on-one televised debate in the run up to the 2015 General Election**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	7 11%	5 12%	2 10%
Disagree	56 88%	37 86%	19 90%
Don't know	1 2%	1 2%	- -

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q1. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about televised leaders' debates.**

**If televised leaders' debates happen in 2015 Nigel Farage should be allowed to take part in at least one of them**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	26 41%	19 44%	7 33%
Disagree	33 52%	20 47%	13 62%
Don't know	5 8%	4 9%	1 5%

### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q2. The Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats have all promised greater powers for the Scottish Government in the event of a "No" vote in September's referendum. If Scotland remains in the United Kingdom but is given greater powers would you support or oppose each of the following?**

#### Reducing the number of MPs from Scottish constituencies in the House of Commons

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Support	18 28%	13 30%	5 24%
Oppose	30 47%	20 47%	10 48%
Don't know	14 22%	8 19%	6 29%
Not Stated	2 3%	2 5%	- -

### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q2. The Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats have all promised greater powers for the Scottish Government in the event of a "No" vote in September's referendum. If Scotland remains in the United Kingdom but is given greater powers would you support or oppose each of the following?**

#### **Not allowing MPs from Scottish constituencies to vote on issues that do not affect Scotland**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Support	30 47%	19 44%	11 52%
Oppose	26 41%	18 42%	8 38%
Don't know	8 13%	6 14%	2 10%

**Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)****Q3. If a referendum were held tomorrow on whether or not the UK should stay in or leave the European Union (EU), how would you vote?**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Remain in the EU	63 98%	42 98%	21 100%
Leave the EU	- -	- -	- -
Don't know	1 2%	1 2%	- -



### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

#### Q4. Which of these views about climate change is closest to your own?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Climate change is happening and is mainly caused by human activity	61 95%	41 95%	20 95%
Climate change is happening but human activity is not mainly responsible for it	3 5%	2 5%	1 5%
Climate change is not happening	-	-	-
Don't know	-	-	-

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### On the whole, immigration from inside the EU is a good thing for Britain

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	57 89%	37 86%	20 95%
Disagree	2 3%	2 5%	- -
Don't know	5 8%	4 9%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## On the whole, immigration from outside the EU is a good thing for Britain

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	50 78%	32 74%	18 86%
Disagree	5 8%	5 12%	- -
Don't know	7 11%	5 12%	2 10%
Not Stated	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## Britain is too generous to immigrants

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	14 22%	11 26%	3 14%
Disagree	45 70%	28 65%	17 81%
Don't know	3 5%	2 5%	1 5%
Not Stated	2 3%	2 5%	- -

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**As long as they pay taxes in Britain, people from other countries should be able to access public services such as the NHS for free**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	55 86%	35 81%	20 95%
Disagree	4 6%	4 9%	- -
Don't know	4 6%	3 7%	1 5%
Not Stated	1 2%	1 2%	- -

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## The level of immigration is too high in Britain

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	19 30%	14 33%	5 24%
Disagree	35 55%	23 53%	12 57%
Don't know	9 14%	5 12%	4 19%
Not Stated	1 2%	1 2%	- -

### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

#### Q6. Which TWO of the following senior figures would you most like to have canvassing with you on the doorstep in your constituency?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Paddy Ashdown	40 63%	29 67%	11 52%
Vince Cable	27 42%	19 44%	8 38%
Charles Kennedy	26 41%	19 44%	7 33%
Nick Clegg	14 22%	8 19%	6 29%
Danny Alexander	7 11%	3 7%	4 19%
Ed Davey	5 8%	1 2%	4 19%
David Laws	2 3%	2 5%	- -
None of the above	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q7. Who would you most like to see as the next leader of the Liberal Democrat Party?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Tim Farron	26 41%	22 51%	4 19%
Danny Alexander	4 6%	2 5%	2 10%
Jo Swinson	4 6%	1 2%	3 14%
Charles Kennedy	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Nick Clegg	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Vince Cable	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Ed Davey	2 3%	2 5%	- -
Steve Webb	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
A woman	2 3%	- -	2 10%
David Laws	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Alistair Carmichael	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Simon Hughes	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Adrian Saunders	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Graham Watson	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Don't know/not sure yet	5 8%	3 7%	2 10%
Not Stated	8 13%	4 9%	4 19%



### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q8. If the General Election next year results in a Hung Parliament where the Conservatives and Labour have a similar number of seats, which party would you prefer the Liberal Democrats to form a Coalition with?**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Form a Coalition with the Labour Party	28 44%	18 42%	10 48%
Form a Coalition with the Conservative Party	9 14%	8 19%	1 5%
Neither	11 17%	8 19%	3 14%
Don't know	15 23%	8 19%	7 33%
Not Stated	1 2%	1 2%	- -

### Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q9. After four years of Coalition between the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives, has your opinion of the Conservative Party improved, stayed the same or got worse?**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Improved	3 5%	2 5%	1 5%
Stayed the same	42 66%	31 72%	11 52%
Got worse	19 30%	10 23%	9 43%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### It was a mistake for the Liberal Democrats to go into Coalition with the Conservatives in 2010

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Disagree	58 91%	39 91%	19 90%
Don't know	4 6%	3 7%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### The Liberal Democrats were right to go into Coalition with the Conservatives in 2010

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	61 95%	41 95%	20 95%
Disagree	1 2%	1 2%	- -
Don't know	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**The Conservatives have been a good Coalition partner**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	18 28%	14 33%	4 19%
Disagree	39 61%	25 58%	14 67%
Don't know	7 11%	4 9%	3 14%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### Breaking the pledge to not increase tuition fees has broken the trust voters had in the Liberal Democrats

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	48 75%	36 84%	12 57%
Disagree	10 16%	5 12%	5 24%
Don't know	6 9%	2 5%	4 19%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### Forming a Coalition with the Conservative Party has lost the Liberal Democrats some voters for ever

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	46 72%	31 72%	15 71%
Disagree	12 19%	9 21%	3 14%
Don't know	6 9%	3 7%	3 14%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## Nick Clegg is most to blame for making the Liberal Democrats unpopular

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	12 19%	10 23%	2 10%
Disagree	42 66%	27 63%	15 71%
Don't know	9 14%	6 14%	3 14%
Not Stated	1 2%	- -	1 5%



## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

**I am happy to use photos of Nick Clegg in my election literature because it will help my campaign**

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	23 36%	16 37%	7 33%
Disagree	24 38%	19 44%	5 24%
Don't know	17 27%	8 19%	9 43%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## Nick Clegg is an electoral asset for the Liberal Democrats

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	17 27%	9 21%	8 38%
Disagree	29 45%	24 56%	5 24%
Don't know	17 27%	10 23%	7 33%
Not Stated	1 2%	-	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

## Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

## Nick Clegg is an electoral liability for the Liberal Democrats

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	22 34%	17 40%	5 24%
Disagree	26 41%	17 40%	9 43%
Don't know	15 23%	9 21%	6 29%
Not Stated	1 2%	-	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

### Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

#### The Liberal Democrats would be in a better position in the polls if Nick Clegg was not Leader

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Agree	25 39%	18 42%	7 33%
Disagree	24 38%	15 35%	9 43%
Don't know	14 22%	10 23%	4 19%
Not Stated	1 2%	- -	1 5%

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q12. In any potential coalition negotiations after the General Election next year, which of the following do you think should be the greatest priority the Liberal Democrats should insist upon before agreeing to form a Coalition?**

### Top priority

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Raising the income tax threshold further	32 50%	21 49%	11 52%
A Mansion Tax on homes valued at more than £2m	10 16%	6 14%	4 19%
Referendum on changing the voting system	9 14%	5 12%	4 19%
Reducing tuition fees	6 9%	5 12%	1 5%
House of Lords reform	4 6%	4 9%	- -
Don't know	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Not Stated	1 2%	1 2%	- -

## Prospective Parliamentary Candidates Survey (Liberal Democrat)

**Q12. In any potential coalition negotiations after the General Election next year, which of the following do you think should be the greatest priority the Liberal Democrats should insist upon before agreeing to form a Coalition?**

### Top two priorities

Base: All respondents

	Gender		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	64 100%	43 100%	21 100%
Raising the income tax threshold further	45 70%	29 67%	16 76%
A Mansion Tax on homes valued at more than £2m	26 41%	19 44%	7 33%
Reducing tuition fees	18 28%	13 30%	5 24%
House of Lords reform	11 17%	11 26%	- -
Referendum on changing the voting system	11 17%	6 14%	5 24%
Don't know	2 3%	1 2%	1 5%
Not Stated	1 2%	1 2%	- -