



Labour members launch Only Stand to Win campaign to make Keir Starmer PM – with Clive Lewis, Jon Cruddas, Beth Winter

Labour members are campaigning for the party to change its rules to allow local members to decide whether to stand a candidate in a constituency – or stand aside and avoid splitting the non-Tory vote.

The initiative, called **Only Stand to Win**, is spear-headed by cross-party pressure group Compass and supported by Labour MPs including Clive Lewis, Beth Winter and Jon Cruddas.

The campaign targets seats where Labour cannot win but the Conservatives can still lose. **The Liberal Democrats are second in 80 seats where Labour has little chance of winning** – places like Winchester, Esher and Walton, and Cheltenham.

Under the proposed rule change, local **Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs) would decide whether to stand a candidate** – or whether to focus resources elsewhere, in a seat Labour can win. Labour can thus avoid splitting the non-Tory vote and encourage reciprocation by the Lib Dems.

There are only a tiny handful of seats where Labour and the Lib Dems are in direct competition with each other: Sheffield Hallam, and some three-way marginals like the Cities of London and Westminster.

Both parties are heading in the direction of not fighting each other. ‘I will focus my party on ... target seats, on the places where we can win and we know we have to win,’ Keir Starmer [said last month](#), with Ed Davey [saying](#): ‘They will campaign in areas where they think they can win and we’ll campaign in areas that we think we can win.’

Labour needs to win 124 seats for a majority of one; a uniform swing greater than 1997 and 1945. Even with the Conservatives’ recent fall in the polls, it is still on track to be short under forthcoming boundary changes, strengthening the case for cross-party cooperation.



Labour MP for Cynon Valley Beth Winter said:

'I fully support this important initiative which aims to improve opportunities for Labour success in forming a government in future general elections.

'It is a way of uniting the anti-Tory vote and in the interests of the people of the UK that must now be a priority. The current situation is undemocratic and the proposal in this initiative seeks to strengthen grassroots democratic rights.

'Welsh Labour working with Plaid Cymru shows that it is possible for parties to work together to pursue progressive policies for change.'

Labour MP for Dagenham and Rainham Jon Cruddas said:

'There are a number of seats Labour cannot win but the Tories can lose – and how Labour as a party responds to this reality could be significant in getting rid of the Tories. That is fundamental to the future political character of this country.'

Labour MP for Norwich South Clive Lewis said:

'Only Stand to Win is about extending democracy to the grassroots, so that local people decide where to stand. It's really difficult for us to talk about a more democratic country, about enhancing our democracy, when we don't have those democratic principles on show within our own party.'

Director of Compass Neal Lawson said:

'There are 80 seats where the Lib Dems, not Labour, are second to the Tories. By standing aside in some of these seats, Labour helps defeat the Tories – and concentrates its resources where it can win.'

Contact:

Gabriel Everington, 07565802875, gabriel@compassonline.org.uk

Neal Lawson, 07976292522, neal@compassonline.org.uk

Notes:

- All electoral data is from the Compass report [We Divide, They Conquer](#).
- Further details on Only Stand to Win can be found [here](#).

ENDS