

The Labour Party Leadership Contest



The candidates



Rebecca Long-Bailey

- MP since 2015 (Salford and Eccles).
- The Shadow Business Secretary is the preferred candidate of the current leadership and has been part of Corbyn's inner circle.
- Union backers include Unite, the UK's second biggest union
- Notable supporters: John McDonnell MP, Diane Abbott MP and deputy leadership frontrunner Angela Rayner MP.



Keir Starmer

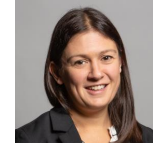
- MP since 2015 (Holborn and St Pancras).
- Starmer, the Shadow Brexit Secretary was the first to qualify for the ballot with overwhelming support across the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) and Constituency Labour Parties (CLP)
- Union backers include the TSSA and Unison
- Notable supporters: Sadiq Khan, Ed Miliband



Lisa Nandy

- MP since 2010 (Wigan).
- Second candidate to qualify and one of a group of Shadow Ministers who resigned from Corbyn's frontbench in 2016.
- Backed by the GMB and NUM trade unions.
- Notable supporters: Jon Ashworth, Lord Kinnock and Andy Burnham.

Where do the candidates stand on the key issues?



The pitch	Aspirational socialism – a pitch to take power back from the ‘gentleman’s club’ of Westminster and build a socialist vision of the future.	To unite the Labour movement and rebuild the party quickly to fight the Tories on poverty, inequality and injustice.	Nandy wants Labour to win back the trust of voters in its former strongholds and has urged the party to ‘change course’ or else face extinction.
Brexit	Labelled the party’s offer of a second people’s vote as a ‘disastrous position’ and wants a deal that protects jobs.	Wants a close trade deal with the EU emphasising the need for protection of workers’ rights, jobs, consumer standards, and the environment.	Wants the party to make the positive case for freedom of movement but has reiterated the need to listen to those who feel left behind.
Notable policy pledges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Green Industrial Revolution to bring green jobs to every community• A council house ‘building boom’• Replacing the House of Lords with an elected Senate, exploring Proportional Representation and further devolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase income tax for the top 5% earners.• Develop a set of ‘wellbeing indicators’.• A new Clean Air Act to tackle air pollution.• Common ownership of public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrap tuition fees, bring back the Education Maintenance Allowance and abolish academies and free schools.• A ‘green new deal’ ensuring buses emit zero emissions by 2025.• Giving local councillors more say on Labour policy.

How the new leader will be elected

The prior electoral college system, whereby MPs, party members and trade unions each had a third of the votes, was abolished by Ed Miliband in 2014. Instead, voting is now done on a one-person-one-vote basis.

There are three categories of eligible voters – Labour party members, affiliated supporters (such as trade unions) and registered supporters (people who pay a one-off fee to give themselves voting rights in the leadership and deputy leadership contests).

Voting will be undertaken by preferential vote. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote in the first round, the lowest scoring candidate will be eliminated and their votes will be redistributed until a candidate meets that threshold.

The ballot closes at noon on Thursday 2 April and the winner will be announced at a Special Conference on Saturday 4 April.



What are the opinion polls saying?

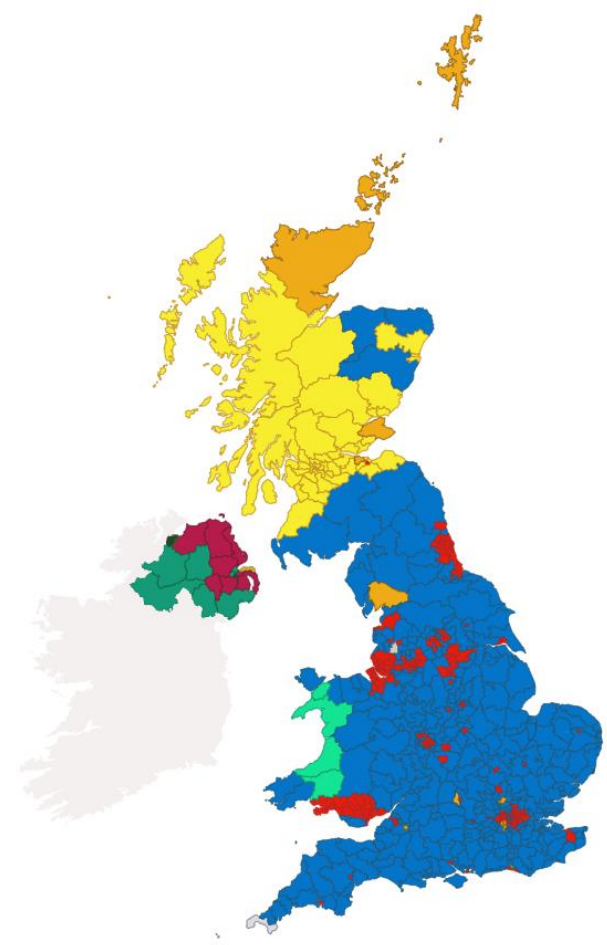
- According to a 26th February poll by YouGov and Sky News, Keir Starmer is set to win the contest in the first round with 53% of the vote. The same poll puts Starmer well ahead of Long-Bailey (31%) and Lisa Nandy (16%).
- In a January 2020 Survation poll of LabourList readers, Rebecca Long-Bailey came out as most popular candidate with Starmer a close second.
- Lord Ashcroft's poll of more than 10,000 people including focus groups in seats Labour lost, found that the most popular reason for deserting Labour at the ballot box was a desire not to see Jeremy Corbyn become PM. The new leader will have to create sufficient distance to be considered a change to their predecessor.



What's in the in-tray for the new leader?

The new leader faces a difficult path ahead to rebuild the Labour Party. Some of the challenges they face include:

- **Dealing with antisemitism** as a priority to restore trust amongst members but also the general public.
- Creating enough **breathing distance from the Corbyn era** so as to give the party a new 'feel' without alienating the party membership that has become more and more left-leaning in the past few years.
- Forming a **Shadow Cabinet** which appeals to all factions of the party and brings back talented former Shadow Ministers and Ministers back into the fold.
- **Campaigning on issues** which will pressure the Government, resonate with the general public and win back traditional Labour voters who deserted the party at the last election. Labour's anti-austerity mantra was partly nullified at the last election through promises of greater spending by the Conservative Party.
- **Setting out a clear vision for the country** and acting like a Prime Minister-in waiting at a time when the Labour Parliamentary Party and Labour Councils have been decimated.



The Labour Party Leadership Contest

Political Intelligence

For further information on the Labour Party Leadership Contest or if you would like to discuss your plans for this Parliament and ways in which Political Intelligence can support you, then please contact us on 020 3397 3300 or contact our Chairman [Nicholas Lansman](#) for further information.

