

# UK political turmoil: leadership contests



## Conservatives

The 1922 Committee has wasted little time, confirming that nominations for candidates will open on the evening of Wednesday 29th June, subject to the Committee approving the contest rules.

At the latest, the new Tory leader (and PM) is expected to be in place by Friday 2nd September – i.e. the last day of Parliamentary summer recess.

Graham Brady will act as the returning officer in his capacity as chair of the '22, with all Conservative MPs eligible to put themselves forward.

If only one nomination is received, then Brady will declare that individual as the new leader. If there are two candidates, party members will be balloted.

Former frontrunner George Osborne has ruled himself out. However, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Jeremy Hunt and a joint ticket of Stephen Crabb and Sajid Javid may stand. In this scenario, Conservative MPs will vote on Thursday 7th July to nominate two candidates who will then go through to a ballot of party membership.

This vote is held via a postal ballot with Brady choosing the date by which the ballot needs to be returned. The result is then announced at a meeting of the Parliamentary party.



## Labour Party

The Labour Party is in uncharted territory with Corbyn seemingly intent on carrying on as leader despite the loss of support of up to 70% of his parliamentary party.

On Friday, senior Labour MPs Margaret Hodge and Anne Coffey had tabled a motion of no confidence to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, John Cryer.

At 16:40 on 28th June, it emerged that Corbyn lost by 172 votes to 40.

However, the result is non-binding and Corbyn is expected to challenge rebels to secure the 50 or more MP/MEP signatures required to trigger a formal contest.

The procedures for the subsequent contest are relatively new, having been changed after the election of Ed Miliband in 2010. The Party now uses the "one member one vote" (OMOV) system, where party members - along with £3-paying supporters as well as affiliated supporters from Trade Unions - each get one vote.

The election is held using Alternative Vote (AV), votes being counted and redistributed until a candidate reaches the quota of 50 per cent.

Two points are likely to define the race: firstly, will Corbyn be able to secure the required 36 votes (15% of party MPs) in order to run; and secondly, if he is successful, will other Labour candidates be able to draw the grassroots support which swept Corbyn into office last August.

The 2015 Labour leadership contest lasted a little over a month with the outcome announced at a special conference in London. So if the MPs' coup is successful this week, expect the new leader (or Corbyn to be re-elected) by August.

Current favourites for the Labour top job are Tom Watson at 7/2, Dan Jarvis at 11/2 and Lisa Nandy at 7/1. Many Labour supporters are hoping for the grand return of David Miliband although bookies are more sceptical at 10/1.