

Greens gain first directly elected mayor – in Hackney

8 May 2026 / 8 May 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Green Party leader Zack Polanski has celebrated a Green winning the party's first elected Mayor.

Zack Polanski said: "These results are already our best ever and they are still coming in. Across England and Wales voters are putting their trust in us as never before.

"In Hackney, Zoe Garbett has become our first ever directly elected Green Mayor.

"Two party politics is no longer dying – it is dead. This is a historic victory for the Green Party.

"In Hackney and across England and Wales, we're electing Greens who have only two vested interests – serving their communities and protecting the planet."

Greens topped the poll in Exeter and have also had breakthrough wins in Chorley, Lincoln, Salford and Ealing.

Zack Polanski said: "Voters are creating these record Green results because we are the only party responding to their demands to take the cost-of-living crisis seriously. We are the only party with real plans to cut bills, reduce rents and provide genuinely affordable homes.

"I thank the voters have seen through a storm of hostile media stories and put a cross next to hope. We won't let you down.

"I have said we are not here just to be disappointed by Labour, but to replace them.

"Now we have clear evidence that we are doing just that. These are disastrous results for Keir Starmer and he must go. We are expecting more Green wins as the votes are counted but can already declare these will be our best local election results ever."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Green share of the vote is up across England with high points in Reading 32%, Exeter 31%, Oxford 29%. This lays the foundations to win constituencies like Reading Central, Exeter and Oxford East at the General Election.

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[Greens tell Starmer – the voters have spoken and he must go](#)

8 May 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Green Party leader Zack Polanski tonight called on Prime Minister Keir Starmer to: “hear the call of the people and go” after early results showed Labour suffering a disastrous drubbing, losing the majority of the seats they were defending.

The call came after Greens made early gains from Labour, Lib Dems, Conservatives and Independents in places like Oxford, Exeter, and Peterborough and gained councillors for the first time ever in places such as Chorley and Salford. Nationally Greens have also seen a marked increase in vote share. Green targets will mostly be counting on Friday, with the Party feeling bullish about their prospects in London boroughs like Hackney, as well as making history by breaking through onto the Senedd for the first time.

Zack Polanski said: “These first Green gains confirm what I’ve heard as I criss-crossed England and Wales during the campaign.

“Voters are backing the only party taking the cost-of-living crisis seriously. We are the only party with real plans to cut bills, reduce rents and provide genuinely affordable homes.

“I’ve made it clear that we are here not just to be disappointed by Labour, but to replace them. These early results indicate that voters want to see that change too. That is why Keir Starmer has to listen to the people and go.

“Of course, many councils are counting throughout Friday, so it will take time for the full scale of the Green successes to become clear.

“However, we are on course for a historic breakthrough in Wales, gaining Green representation in the Senedd in Wales for the first time.

“We are very confident that we will gain many seats in London – and are looking forward results from Newcastle and Bradford through to Sussex.”

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