

# Greens gain first directly elected mayor – in Hackney

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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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