

# September 2015 Labour elections – New Labour Leader



## LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION JEREMY CORBYN

**CONSTITUENCY:** MP for since Islington North since 1983

**AGE:** 66

**MANIFESTO:** *Vision for Britain 2020*; [\*Protecting our Planet\*](#)

## A LABOUR GOVERNMENT UNDER CORBYN WOULD:

- Establish an Energy Commission to reform the energy market and prioritise tackling climate change.
- Renationalise the railways.
- Scrap Trident, and possibly withdraw from NATO and the EU.
- End all tuition fees and restore student grants, EMA and the Disabled Students Allowance.
- Scrap zero hours contracts and enforce a £10 National Living Wage.
- A new national investment bank to encourage growth and reduce the deficit
- Introduce an ambitious house building programme

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Originally nominated by MPs under the premise of “broadening the debate”, Corbyn’s lack of frontbench experience and far-left views meant few thought he posed a credible challenge. Indeed, even the most fanciful of pundits wouldn’t have placed a bet on the 250-1 rank outsider when he snuck onto the ballot on deadline day with just minutes to spare.

However, his apparent disregard for the conventions of mainstream politics transformed the entire campaign and captured the imagination of Labour activists, who identify with his simple, anti-austerity message. With the previously inconceivable now a reality, Corbyn must tread carefully to avoid splitting his party in two. One of his first priorities will be to form a Shadow Cabinet, with many of Ed Miliband’s front bench already thought to be unlikely to willing to serve under Corbyn. The Parliamentary Labour Party could prove a long-term thorn in Corbyn’s side with only around 20 MPs actively supporting the veteran MP. That being said, future ‘rebels’ are unlikely to rock the bed early and are more likely to keep their powder dry until next year’s elections for local councils, the Scottish Parliament and London Mayor.

There is also the question of what the Government does in response to a Corbyn victory. Whilst conventional wisdom may dictate that the Conservatives attack Jeremy early and look to expose unconventional opinions, it is more likely the Government will want Corbyn to last until 2020 as he is seen as an ‘easy’ electoral opponent. An initial salvo from the Prime Minister was issued on Friday, as he suggested that Corbyn posed a threat to national security. Cameron’s remarks emphasised how foreign policy, notably the prospect of further military intervention in Syria, is a priority for the Government, and a vote on further bombing campaigns will prove an acid test of Corbyn’s ideological mettle. Their first exchanges across the dispatch box on Wednesday will be compulsory viewing for the public affairs industry, and will provide greater insight into the Conservatives’ approach. With Party Conference season looming soon after, it proves to be an intriguing first few months for the Corbyn premiership.

# September 2015 Labour elections – Deputy Leader and Mayoral Candidate



## MAYORAL CANDIDATE FOR LABOUR

### SADIQ KHAN

Age: 44

MP for Tooting 2005-Pres  
Shadow Justice Secretary 2010-2015  
Transport Minister 2009-2010  
Assistant Whip 2007-2008

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

The Tooting MP beat bookies' favourite Tessa Jowell in the fifth round of voting, by 59 to 41 per cent. The margin of victory has surprised many, but it simply underlines to extent to which the Labour Party has shifted leftwards since the General Election. The former human rights lawyer, a prominent figure on Labour's left and an MP since 2005, will now seek a mandate from five million Londoners in nine months. Khan's compelling background story, one of eight children born to a Pakistani bus driver and the first ethnic minority MP to enter the shadow cabinet will appeal to many voters. This is particularly true if his main rival for City Hall next May is the Eton-educated Zac Goldsmith, the current Conservative frontrunner.

## AS MAYOR, KHAN WOULD:

- Oppose a third runway at Heathrow.
- Freeze tube and bus fares and invest in transport infrastructure.
- Ban so-called "poor doors", where private and social housing tenants have separate entrances.
- Pedestrianise Oxford Street to improve air quality
- Divest City Hall's investment in the coal and gas industry, where around one per cent of the capital's £4.8bn pension fund is currently invested.



## NEW LABOUR DEPUTY LEADER

### TOM WATSON

Age: 48

MP for West Bromwich East 2001 - Pres  
Labour Campaign Coordinator, 2011-2013  
Parliamentary Secretary (Cabinet Office), 2008-2009  
Assistant Whip, 2007-2008

## WHITEHOUSE ANALYSIS

Fourteen years after entering Parliament, Watson has won the deputy leadership, securing the role after beating off competition from four other candidates.

Originally viewed by some as a bruising, Brownite hit man, Watson played a central role in forcing Blair out of office in 2007. However, the Sheffield-born MP is now viewed as a key unifying figure for the Party, expected to play an important role in bridging the chasm between a mutinous Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) and the grassroots energised by the Corbyn campaign.

## KEY PRIORITIES FOR WATSON:

- Pledged to develop an election strategy that will make the new leader a future Prime Minister
- Reconcile differences between the PLP and grassroots activists.
- Introduce a bursary scheme to give disadvantaged candidates financial assistance whilst seeking selection to Parliament
- Has enlisted Gloria De Piero MP to chair an inquiry into increasing the proportion of female Labour councillors.