

**EASTLEIGH BY-ELECTION POLL
LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC
FEBRUARY 2013**

1,006 adults were interviewed by telephone in the Eastleigh constituency on 4 and 5 February 2013. Results have been weighted to be representative of all adults living in the constituency.

1. As you may have heard, Chris Huhne, the MP for Eastleigh, is resigning as an MP. This means a by-election will have to be held to elect a new MP for the area. Which party's candidate do you expect to vote for in the by-election? [Change since 2010 election]

Conservative	34% (-6)
Liberal Democrat	31% (-16)
Labour	19% (+9)
UKIP	13% (+9)
Other	3% (-)

- This represents a 5-point swing from Lib Dem to Con since 2010, or a 13-point swing from the Liberal Democrats to Labour.

2. Are you fairly sure that is what you will do at the by-election, or do you think you may well change your mind between now and then?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Lab voters
Fairly sure I will vote as stated	73%	79%	75%	69%
May well change my mind	27%	21%	25%	31%

3. If you changed your mind, which party would you be most likely to switch to?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Lab voters
Conservative	16%	-	28%	10%
Liberal Democrat	16%	44%	-	15%
Labour	8%	6%	19%	-
UKIP	13%	31%	8%	15%
Another party	19%	5%	13%	20%
Don't know	29%	15%	31%	40%

4. Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
I am satisfied with the job David Cameron is doing overall as PM	32%	56%	40%	22%
I am dissatisfied with the job David Cameron is doing overall as PM, BUT I'd still prefer to have him as PM than Ed Miliband as PM	35%	41%	39%	14%
I am dissatisfied with the job David Cameron is doing overall as PM, AND I'd prefer to have Ed Miliband as PM instead	21%	-	16%	63%
Refused/Don't know	12%	2%	5%	2%

5. Which party do you think would have the best approach to each of the following issues?

	ALL			Con voters			Lib Dem voters			Labour voters		
	C	L	LD	C	L	LD	C	L	LD	C	L	LD
Getting the economy growing & creating jobs	37%	29%	13%	88%	6%	1%	30%	23%	29%	8%	75%	9%
Cutting deficit & debt	48%	18%	13%	93%	1%	1%	41%	13%	29%	14%	58%	13%
Improving the NHS	24%	38%	18%	60%	16%	12%	16%	32%	40%	4%	75%	7%
Improving schools	32%	30%	18%	69%	11%	9%	23%	27%	36%	8%	74%	8%
Protecting the environment	21%	15%	42%	46%	4%	36%	16%	4%	68%	12%	43%	30%
Dealing with crime	46%	19%	15%	87%	4%	3%	38%	14%	34%	18%	58%	7%
Defending Britain's interests in Europe	44%	22%	13%	87%	3%	3%	37%	15%	39%	23%	61%	8%
Reforming welfare to stop scroungers and cut benefit dependency	52%	17%	12%	89%	2%	3%	51%	12%	29%	31%	50%	8%
Controlling immigration	47%	16%	11%	82%	2%	4%	47%	10%	26%	31%	42%	7%

6. Thinking about the coalition government between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, from what you have seen or heard, how much influence do you think Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats have when it comes to deciding the policies and direction of the coalition government?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
A great deal of influence	3%	7%	1%	4%
Quite a substantial influence	23%	41%	20%	13%
Not very much influence	53%	41%	66%	50%
No real influence at all	17%	10%	10%	28%

7. Thinking about Britain's economy, which of the following is closest to your view?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
Although things are difficult now, the right decisions are being made and things will improve significantly over the next two or three years	42%	71%	47%	25%
In two or three years' time, the economy will be no better, or even worse, than it is now	56%	25%	49%	74%

8. [Split sample A] With our economy facing challenges in the months ahead, who do you most trust to manage the economy in the best interests of Britain – David Cameron and the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, or Ed Miliband and the Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls?

[Split sample B] ... David Cameron, Nick Clegg and the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne, or Ed Miliband and the Shadow Chancellor Ed Balls?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
Cameron & Osborne	57%	97%	68%	21%
Miliband & Balls	25%	3%	20%	74%
Cameron, Clegg & Osborne	59%	97%	66%	26%
Miliband & Balls	23%	1%	22%	60%

9. Here are two arguments that have been made about the amount the UK government borrows and how quickly this should be reduced through spending cuts and tax rises. Please say which of them is closest to your own view.

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
The government's spending cuts are hurting the economy. It should cut taxes, and/or cut spending less fast, even if that means we go on borrowing more for longer, because given how much we already owe, borrowing an extra few billion pounds cannot do much more harm	31%	21%	28%	47%
Borrowing more at a time when we already owe so much money will simply make matters worse, as the country will have to pay even more back in the longer term. We have to bring the debt and the deficit under control even if it has some painful effects for the economy in the short term	65%	78%	70%	49%

10. Here are some reasons people have given for supporting the Liberal Democrats. Please say in each case whether you think the statement is true, or not true.

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
By entering a coalition with the Conservatives, the Lib Dems have shown they are prepared to take real responsibility, not just oppose from the sidelines	58%	64%	79%	45%
The Lib Dems have decent principles and spend less time attacking than their opponents	59%	58%	84%	49%
The Lib Dems do a good job locally in my area	67%	59%	97%	51%
Voting Lib Dem is the best way to stop my least preferred party from winning in my constituency	44%	23%	69%	39%
In government, the Lib Dems have achieved some good things that would not otherwise have happened, or stopped some bad things happening that the Conservatives wanted to do	58%	49%	77%	51%

11. Here are some reasons people have given us for not supporting the Liberal Democrats. Please say in each case whether you think the statement is true or not true.

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
Although they are in government they don't have any real power, so a vote for the Lib Dems is really a wasted vote	46%	54%	23%	66%
The Lib Dems have shown that coalition governments don't really work because one party is always trying to obstruct what the other is trying to do	56%	50%	46%	74%
There is no point in the Lib Dems being in government as they have not been able to persuade the Conservatives to do anything they didn't want to do, or stop them doing anything they did want to do	45%	43%	30%	56%
The Lib Dems used to be a principled party even if they were powerless, but they've deliberately compromised those principles for a share of power	64%	59%	56%	72%

12. Regardless of which party you might vote for, which party do you think is most likely to win the by-election in Eastleigh?

	ALL	Con voters	Lib Dem voters	Labour voters
Liberal Democrats	50%	43%	80%	32%
Conservatives	24%	41%	14%	23%
Labour	12%	11%	2%	30%
Another party	6%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	8%	4%	2%	13%