



MAKE VOTES MATTER OXFORD

**OXFORD citizens campaign for real democracy!
Support Proportional Representation [PR]**

Oxfordshire people want to change our voting system to make it fair.

On Saturday **31 July** Oxford **Make Votes Matter [MVM]** supporters will be in CORNMARKEt, Oxford city centre, to discuss real parliamentary democracy and how to achieve it.

COME AND JOIN IN
10am – 4pm

There will be a petition to sign, leaflets to hand out, a QUIZ, and if anyone has a **musical** instrument bring that along too.

[Make Votes Matter](#) is a national, cross-party campaign backing Proportional Representation for national, House of Commons elections.

Make Votes Matter point to how at the 2019 general election under our current voting system of First Past the Post [FPTP] the current government gained an 81 seat majority at Westminster on fewer than half of all votes cast in the country. FPTP skewed the results in every constituency, which is why we need local people to call on their MP and their communities to back Proportional Representation.

A petition calling on local MPs to back PR can be signed at <https://www.makevotesmatter.org.uk/sign-petition>

Make Votes Matter is part of a UK-wide coalition *endorsed by [eleven](#) organisations* calling for change to our parliamentary voting system to Proportional Representation.

In 2017 in our local parliamentary constituency, Oxford West and Abingdon, a progressive alliance helped to get the Liberal Democrat Layla Moran elected to Westminster rather than the sitting Conservative MP.

For many that meant that meant tactical voting. BUT, we are fed up with having to vote tactically rather than for the party we actually support. We want a system where every vote counts.

In 2020 the Oxford MVM group held a day of action in Summertown. More and more local groups are active across the country, campaigning and calling for electoral reform. See [Make Votes Matter](#)

MVM says: The idea of a minority ruling over the majority goes against our most basic ideas about democracy. But with **First Past the Post**, it's the norm. For about 90% of the time since 1935 we've had single-party 'majority' governments, but not one of them had the support of a majority of voters. The Conservatives currently hold a majority of seats with just 43.6% of the votes. In the **2019** election they gained an extra 48 seats despite an increase of only 1.2% of the vote share.

In 2019 the Conservatives got one seat for every 38,264 votes, while Labour got one seat for every 50,837 votes. It took many more votes to elect a Lib Dem (336,038) and Green MP (866,435), but far fewer to elect an SNP MP (25,883). <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/general-election-2019-turning-votes-into-seats/>

About 20-30% of the electorate vote tactically. This was especially clear in the recent Chesham and Amersham by-election when the Lib Dems gained an 8,000 majority, overturning a previous Conservative majority of 16,000. This is the first time a non-Conservative candidate has ever won this seat.

In **2017** the Greens got 1.6% of votes [over 500,000] but a sole parliamentary seat while the Northern Irish party the DUP gained only 0.9% of the votes [nearly 300,000] and 10 seats at Westminster. Over 22 million votes (68%) were wasted in this election. <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/the-2017-general-election-report/>

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