



What people think,  
feel and do

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## The Political Report

# Brexit Countdown



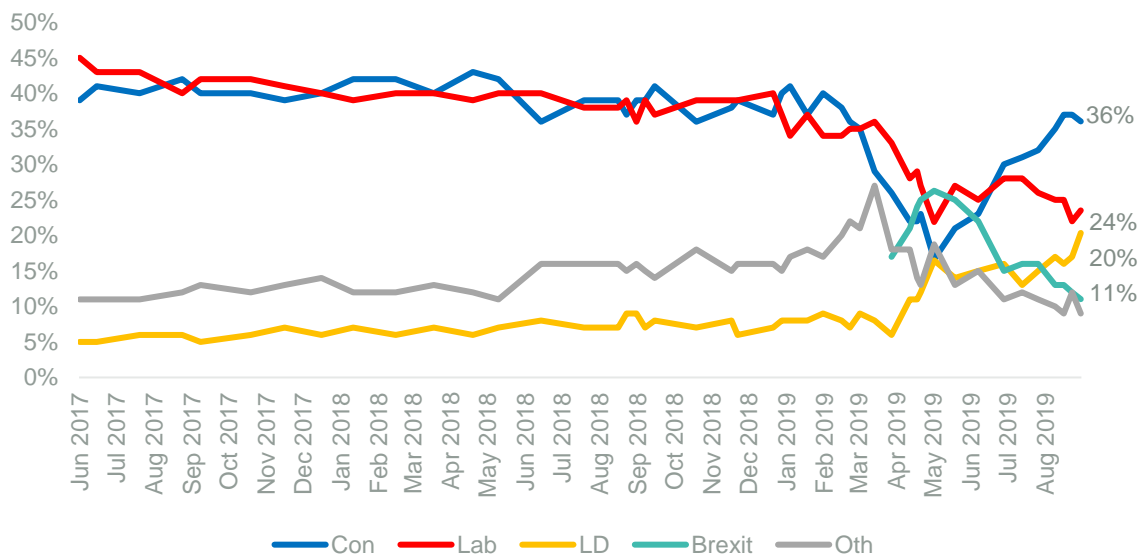
From the Opinium/Observer polling series

27 September 2019

# One-minute takeaway

- The Conservatives drop to a 12-point lead, with Labour gaining two points over the last week
- For the first time Remainers are most likely to vote for the Lib Dems, while Labour gain 5 points among Leavers
- 49% think Johnson’s prorogation of Parliament was unlawful and that he should not have advised the Queen to prorogue Parliament
- 49% think Johnson should obey the Benn Act and apply for an extension, including a fifth of Leavers
- Most of the public support a general election in the event of a Brexit extension
- Support for Labour’s private school policies is mixed.
- There is opposition to the idea of abolishing private schools or seizing their assets, but there is generally support for removing private schools’ charitable status, and to put a cap on the number of university places provided to private school students

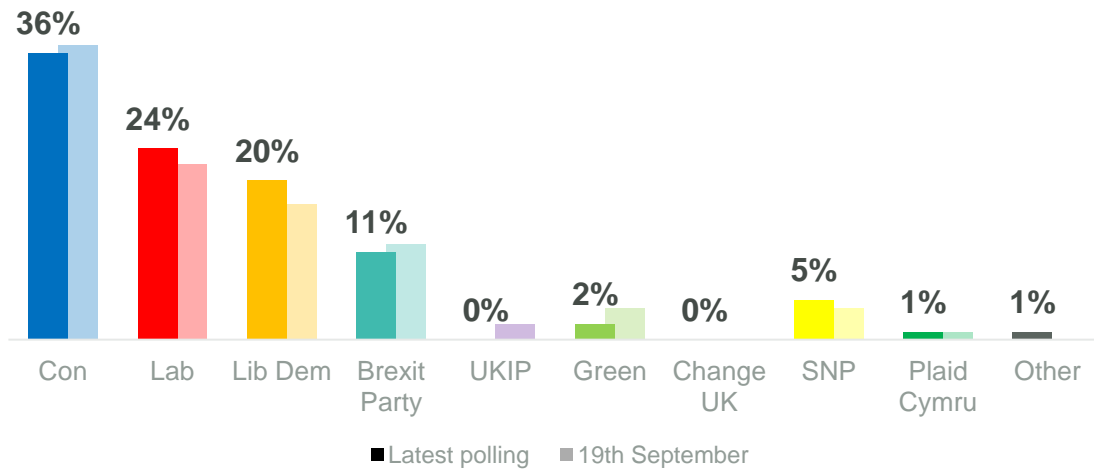
## Voting intention since the 2017 general election



# The state of the parties and leaders

## The Conservative lead drops to 12 points

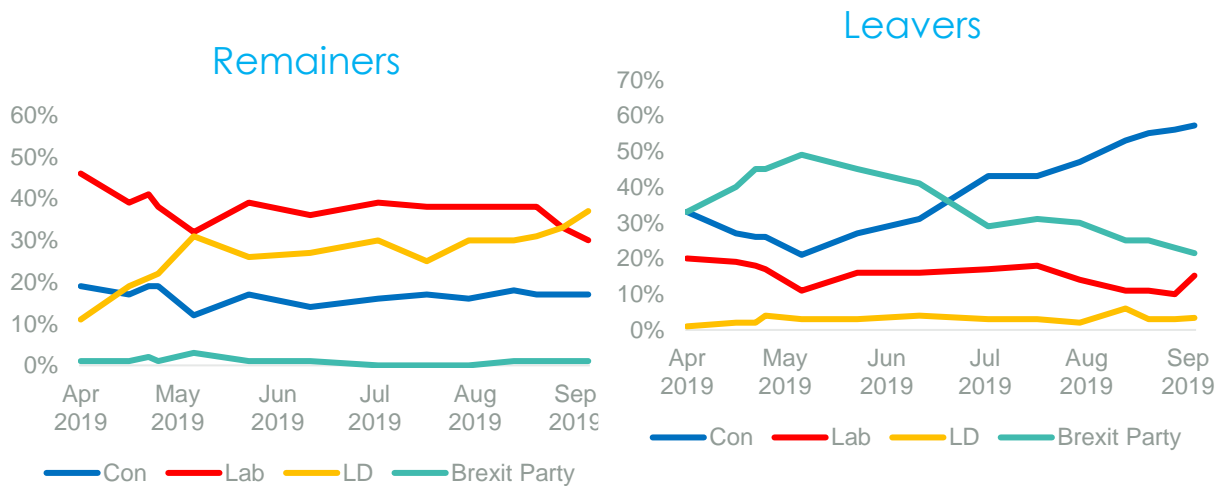
The Conservatives have dropped from a 15-point to a 12-point lead over the last week.



The Conservatives are down 1 point to 36%, while Labour is up 2 points after its Conference in Brighton to 24%. The Liberal Democrats continue to climb in polls, up 3 points to 20%.

## Remain voters are turning to the Lib Dems

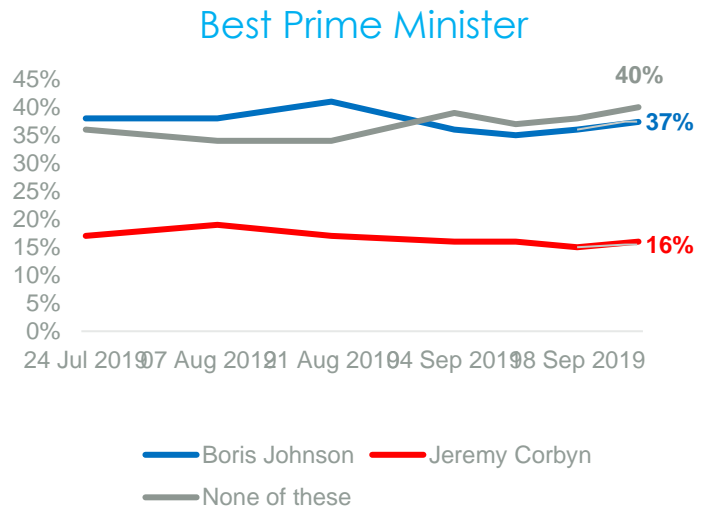
While Labour has gained 2 points, it is a mixed picture for them. They have continued to drop points among Remainers, with the Liberal Democrats gaining and for the first time now being the party with the most support among Remainers. On the other hand, Labour have also gained 5 points among Leavers since last week.



## Johnson continues to lead in Best Prime Minister ratings

Despite some of the personal setbacks for Boris Johnson this week it appears that little is changing in terms of his appeal by comparison to Jeremy Corbyn.

37% think that Boris Johnson would be the best prime minister, up from 36% last week, while only 16% think Jeremy Corbyn would make the best PM, up 1% from last week.



## Polling commentary

### Adam Drummond, head of political polling at Opinium commented:

“Labour’s rough start to their conference doesn’t seem to have affected their position in our poll but their updated Brexit policy may have done. Although most voters still describe the party’s position as ‘unclear’, they have slipped to second behind the Liberal Democrats among Remainers but gained some support among Leavers.

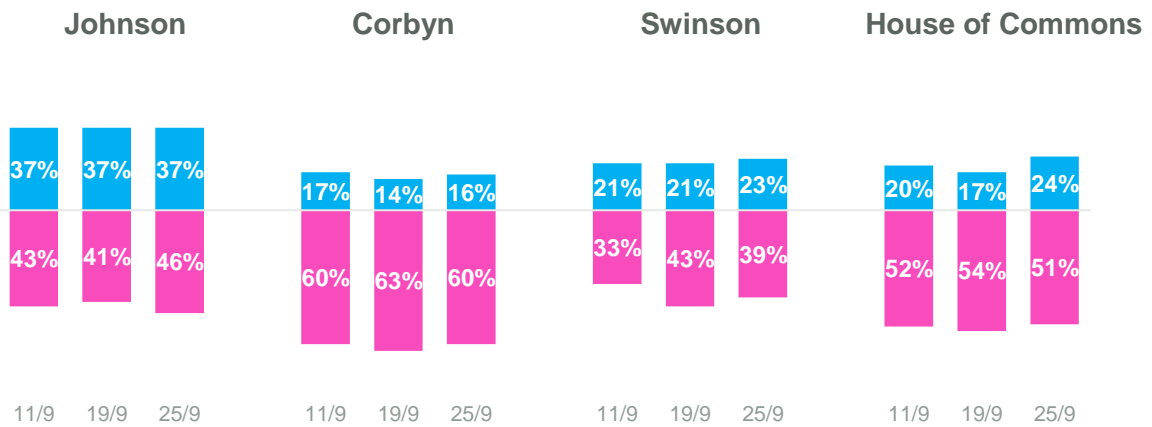
However, not falling back is not the same as moving forwards. Despite the overall Tory lead falling slightly, Labour remain more than 10 points behind and Boris Johnson’s lead over Jeremy Corbyn as best prime minister remains near 20 points.”

# How Brexit has been handled

## Disapproval of Johnson's handling of the Brexit process has increased over the past week

Disapproval of Johnson's handling of the Brexit process has increased from 41% last week to 46% this week. However, disapproval of Corbyn's stance still remain higher at 60%.

### Approval of Brexit handling by date of poll

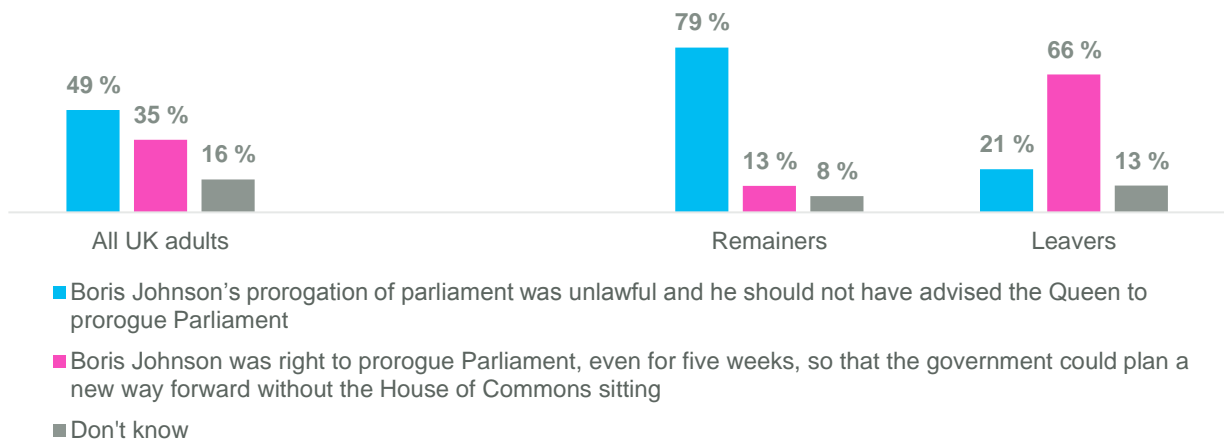


# Prorogation of parliament

## The public think Johnson's prorogation of parliament was unlawful

The Supreme Court rules on Tuesday that Johnson acted unlawfully in advising the Queen to prorogue Parliament. Johnson disagreed with the ruling. However, the public are siding with the Supreme Courts ruling. Half (49%) think the prorogation was unlawful and he should not have advised the Queen to prorogue Parliament, including 21% of Leavers. On the other hand, 35% think Johnson was right to prorogue Parliament.

Whether Johnson was right or unlawful to prorogue Parliament

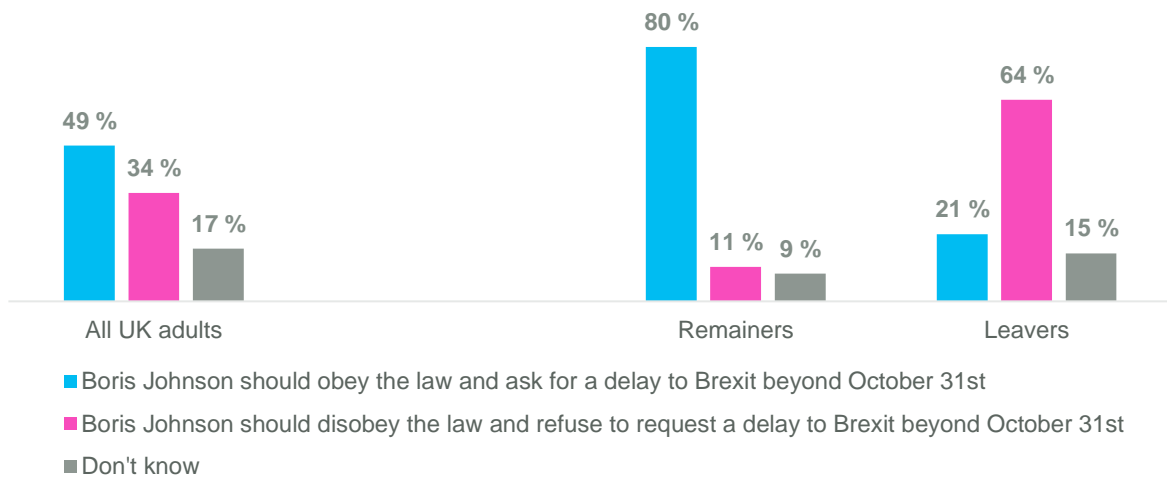


The public is split on whether Johnson should resign in light of the Supreme Court ruling that he has acted unlawfully. 47% think he should resign, while 42% think he should remain in his role.

# A Brexit extension

Going forward, half (49%) of the public think that Johnson should obey the law and ask for a delay to Brexit beyond October 31<sup>st</sup>, including a fifth (21%) of Leavers.

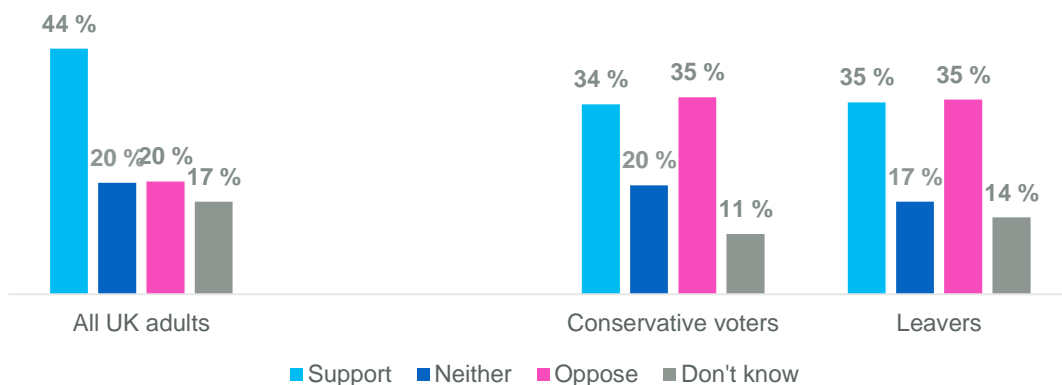
## Whether Johnson should obey the Benn act and apply for an extension



## Most of the public support a general election in the event of a Brexit extension

Most of the public would support a general election if the Brexit deadline is delayed and the election is scheduled after the current deadline of October 31<sup>st</sup>. Conservative voters and Leavers however are split on supporting a general election in the event of an extension.

## Support and opposition to a general election in the event of a Brexit delay



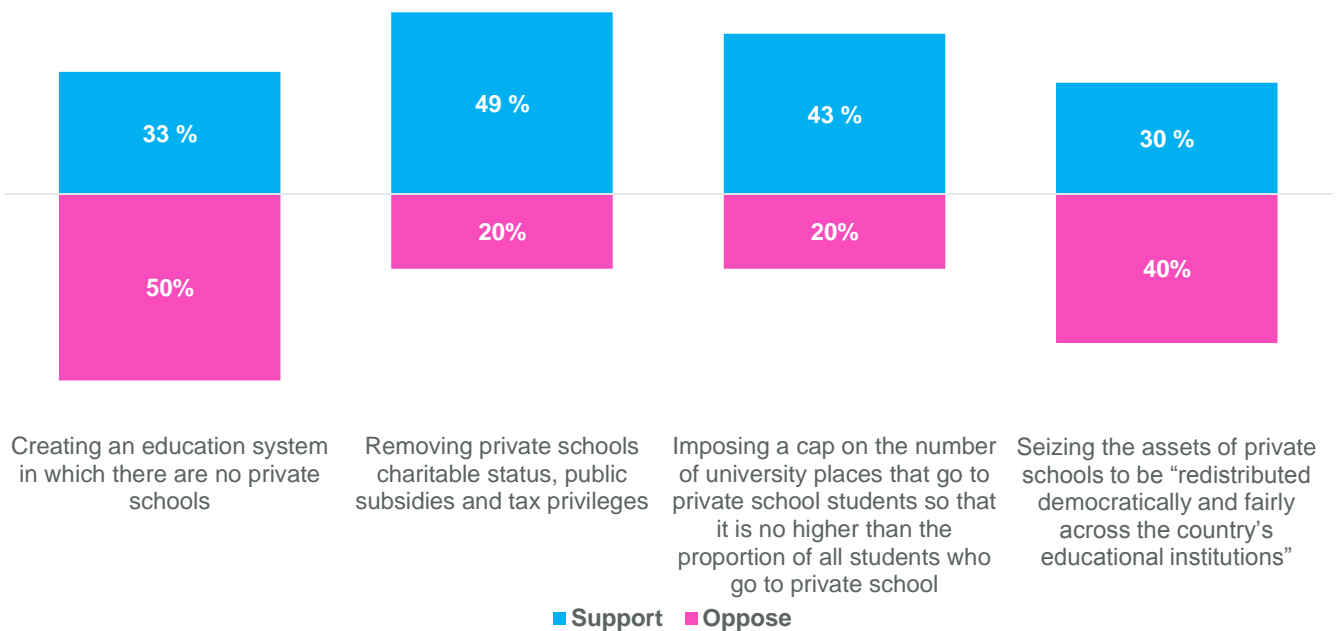
# Labour's private schools' proposals

## Some of Labour's private school proposals have public support, others do not

Labour passed some motions on private schools at their Brighton Party Conference. We de-branded some of the proposals and tested public support and opposition to those.

Overall, the public are not comfortable with the idea of abolishing private schools. 50% oppose the idea of creating an education system in which there are no private schools, while 33% would support this proposal. They are also not comfortable with the proposal to seize the assets of private schools for fairer distribution across the country's educational institutions, with 40% opposed vs 30% supporting this proposal.

### Levels of support of Labour's private school proposals



However, private schools are not perceived to be great for society. Only 37% think that private schools are good for society, with a quarter (24%) thinking they are not good, and 39% feeling neutral on this. Some of Labour's proposals on private schools therefore do have public support. 43% support the imposition of a cap on the number of university places that go to private school students, and 49% support the removal of charitable status, public subsidies and tax privileges that private schools have.





# About Opinium

**OPINIUM** is an award winning strategic insight agency built on the belief that in a world of uncertainty and complexity, success depends on the ability to stay on pulse of what people **think, feel** and **do**. Creative and inquisitive, we are passionate about empowering our clients to make the decisions that matter. We work with organisations to define and overcome strategic challenges – helping them to get to grips with the world in which their brands operate. We use the right approach and methodology to deliver robust insights, strategic counsel and targeted recommendations that generate change and positive outcomes.

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