



National Assembly for **Wales**
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

Local Election Results 2008 (updated)

This paper presents the results of the local elections held on 1 May 2008. Figures are provided on overall control of councils and the number of seats won by each political party.

This replaces the shorter paper published in May. It includes results from postponed elections and additional analysis and presentation of the results.

June 2008

Local Election Results 2008 (updated)

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June 2008

Paper number: 08/039

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Executive Summary

- The number of councils in no overall control in Wales increased from 9 in 2004 to 14 in 2008.
- Independents were the largest group in four councils in 2008, compared to three in 2004. Independent councillors gained 24 more seats than they won in 2004, resulting in a total of 346 seats.
- The Conservatives retained overall control of one council and won overall control of one additional council. They also increased the number of seats they held from 107 in 2004 to 174 in 2008.
- Labour retained overall control of two councils but lost overall control of six councils. They also lost 134 seats, bringing the total number of seats held in 2008 to 345.
- The Liberal Democrats did not win overall control of any councils, but increased the number of seats they held from 146 in 2004 to 166 in 2008.
- Plaid Cymru lost overall control of the one council it controlled in 2004, but increased its number of seats by 30, bringing the total number of seats it won to 205.
- Independent and other candidates won the largest share of the vote (28.0%). They were followed by Labour (26.6%), Plaid Cymru (16.9%), the Conservatives (15.6%) and then the Liberal Democrats (12.9%).
- Only the Conservatives and Plaid Cymru saw their share of the vote increase from 2004.
- In 2008, 102 seats (8.1%) were uncontested, 50 seats fewer than in 2004.

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Local Election Results 2008

1 Introduction

On 1 May 2008, local elections were held in all 22 unitary authorities in Wales. On the same day, elections were held in 137 English councils, while in London, elections were held for the London Assembly and London Mayor. This paper replaces the shorter paper produced by the Members' Research Service in May on the local elections results. This fuller paper includes the results of four postponed elections and provides further analysis of the outcome of the elections.

This paper is intended to be read as a colour document and many of the charts, tables and maps may not be fully understood in black and white format.

Data sources and notes

The election results shown in this paper are from local authority declarations and media reports. Every effort has been made to ensure that figures are correct, however, figures are subject to revision and should be treated as provisional. Final figures will be published in the *Local Elections Handbook 2008*, produced by Professors Rallings and Thrasher of the LGC Elections Centre at the University of Plymouth. Figures on share of the vote were kindly provided for this paper by the LGC Elections Centre.

This paper includes comparisons of the 2008 results with positions after the 2004 local election, as published by Professors Rallings and Thrasher in their *Local Elections Handbook 2004*. It does not take into account any by-elections or changes in political affiliations of councillors which may have taken place since then.

Control is attributed on a numerical basis, being allocated to the party or group that holds the majority of the seats. Minority administrations and coalitions are not taken into account. They are regarded as being under no overall control. The Members' Research Service will be producing a paper on councils in Wales, including details of coalitions, at a later date.

Seats are allocated to the Independent group if a candidate listed themselves as independent (or 'annibynnol' in Welsh) on their nomination form or did not give a party. Unless given separately, 'independent groups' are also included in this category. These include Merthyr Independents (3 seats) in Merthyr Tydfil and Llantwit First Independents (3 seats) in the Vale of Glamorgan. The 'Other' category includes all other parties. Further information on other parties is available in the explanatory notes section of this paper.

Further information

A full analysis of the results at ward level, including turnout, will be published later in the year by Professors Rallings and Thrasher at the University of Plymouth in their *Local Elections Handbook 2008*.

2 Council Control

Fourteen councils were in no overall control (NOC) in 2008, compared to nine in 2004.

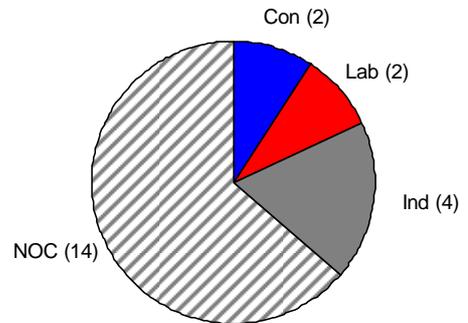
Independents were the majority group in four councils, compared to three in 2004.

The Conservatives retained overall control of the one council they controlled in 2004 and won overall control of an additional council.

Labour retained overall control of two councils, but lost overall control of six councils.

Plaid Cymru lost overall control of the one council it controlled in 2004.

Council control, 2008



Number of councils controlled, by party

Party	2004	2008	Change
Conservative	1	2	1
Labour	8	2	-6
Liberal Democrat	0	0	0
Plaid Cymru	1	0	-1
Independent	3	4	1
NOC	9	14	5

Changes in Council Control

Coloured blocks show the controlling party at the 2004 and 2008 elections.

Conservative gains

 Vale of Glamorgan

Independent gains

  Merthyr Tydfil

Losses to No Overall Control

  Gwynedd

  Flintshire

  Caerphilly

  Blaenau Gwent

  Torfaen

  Newport

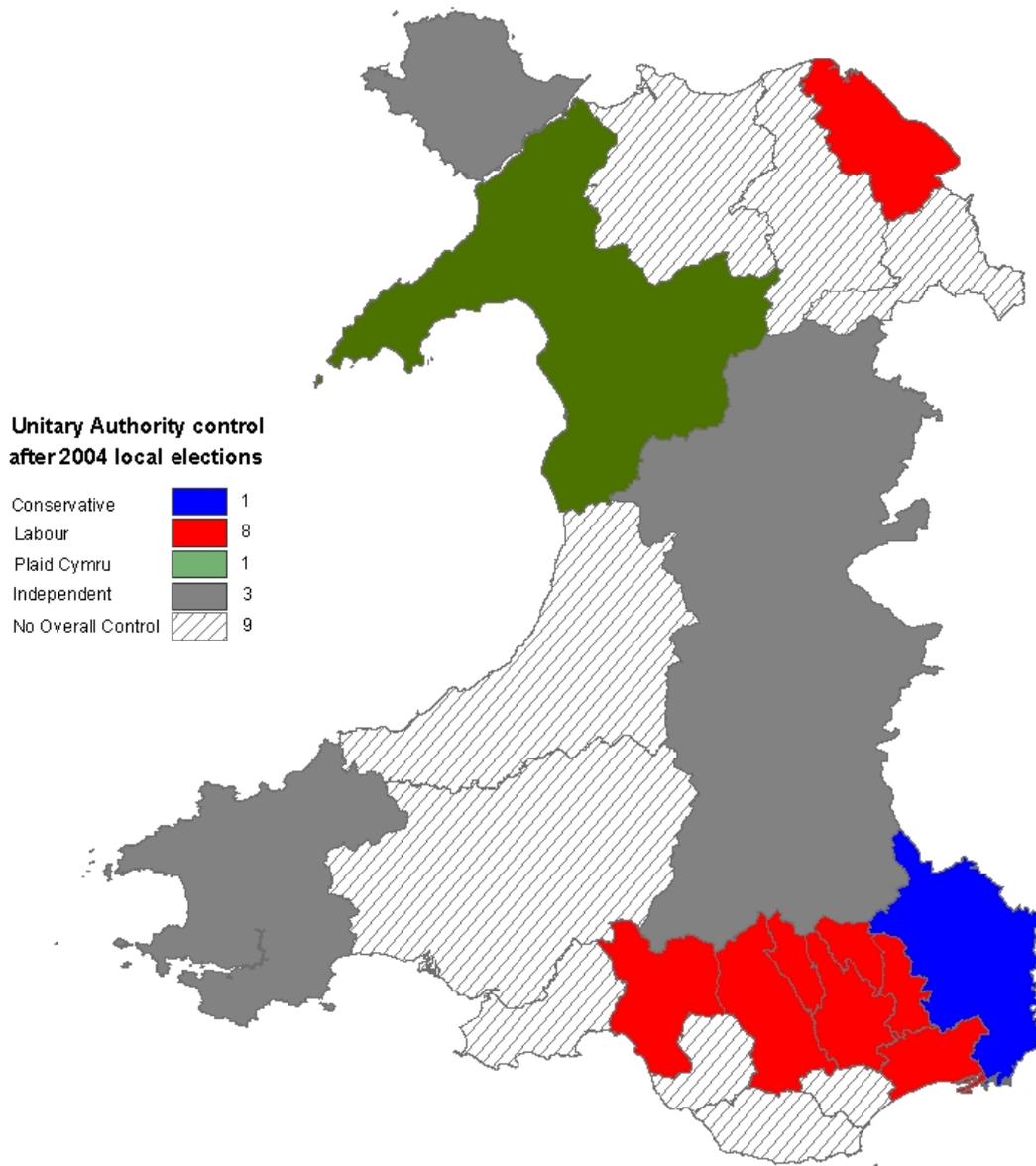
Political control of unitary authorities and change from 2004

Local Authority	2004	2008		Change
Isle of Anglesey			Independent	No Change
Gwynedd			No Overall Control	From Plaid Cymru
Conwy			No Overall Control	No Change
Denbighshire			No Overall Control	No Change
Flintshire			No Overall Control	From Labour
Wrexham			No Overall Control	No Change
Powys			Independent	No Change
Ceredigion			No Overall Control	No Change
Pembrokeshire			Independent	No Change
Carmarthenshire			No Overall Control	No Change
Swansea			No Overall Control	No Change
Neath Port Talbot			Labour	No Change
Bridgend			No Overall Control	No Change
Vale of Glamorgan			Conservative	From No Overall Control
Cardiff			No Overall Control	No Change
Rhondda Cynon Taf			Labour	No Change
Merthyr Tydfil			Independent	From Labour
Caerphilly			No Overall Control	From Labour
Blaenau Gwent			No Overall Control	From Labour
Torfaen			No Overall Control	From Labour
Monmouthshire			Conservative	No Change
Newport			No Overall Control	From Labour

The controlling party of each council since 1995 can be found in reference table 7.4.



Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2004

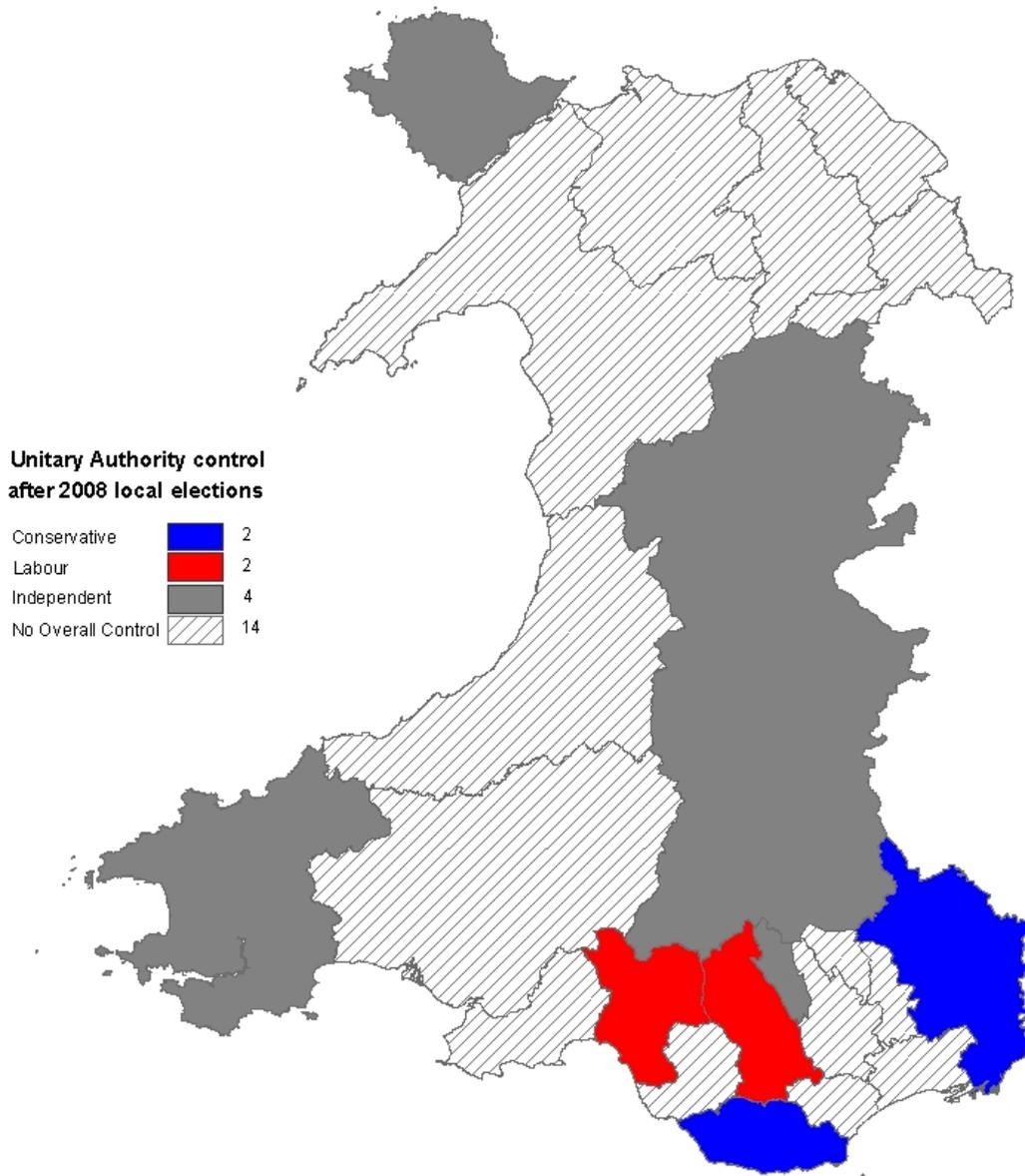


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Map of unitary authorities by controlling party, 2008



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3 Council Seats

Independent candidates won 346 seats, 24 more than in 2004.

The Conservatives won 174 seats across councils in Wales, 67 more than in 2004.

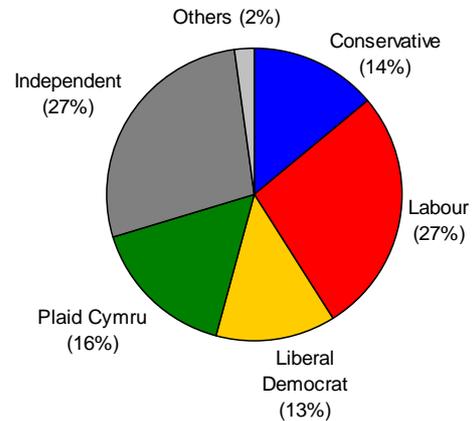
Labour won 345 seats, a 134 seat decrease compared to 2004.

The Liberal Democrats won 166 seats, 20 more than in 2004.

Plaid Cymru won 205 seats, an increase of 30 compared to 2004.

Candidates from other parties won 28 seats, 7 fewer than in 2004. This included 13 seats for Llais Gwynedd and 8 seats for People's Voice.

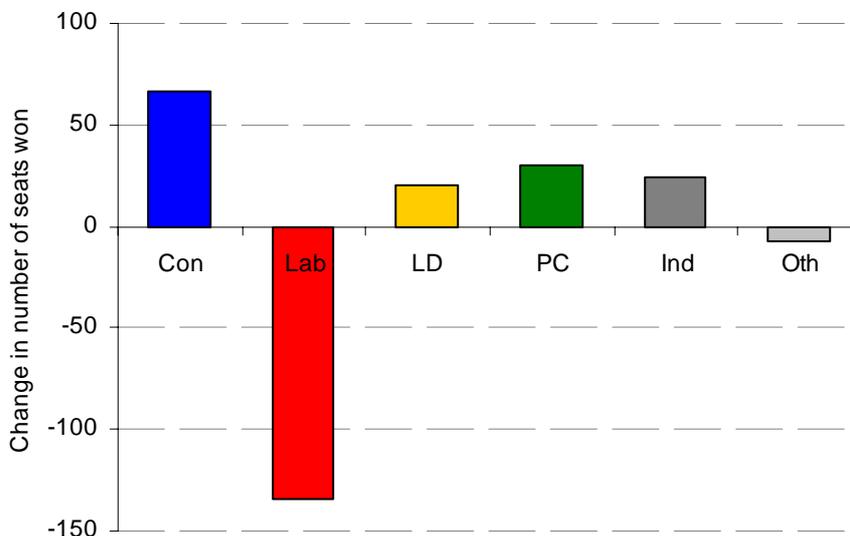
Seats won, 2008



Number of seats won, by party

Party	2004	2008	Change
Conservative	107	174	67
Labour	479	345	-134
Liberal Democrat	146	166	20
Plaid Cymru	175	205	30
Independent	322	346	24
Others	35	28	-7

Change in the number of seats won, by party, 2004-2008





Number of seats won, by unitary authority and party, 2008

	Con	Lab	LD	PC	Ind	Other
Isle of Anglesey	2	5	2	8	23	0
Gwynedd	0	4	5	35	18	13
Conwy	22	7	4	12	14	0
Denbighshire	18	7	1	8	13	0
Flintshire	9	22	12	1	26	0
Wrexham	5	11	12	4	20	0
Powys	9	4	15	0	45	0
Ceredigion	0	1	10	19	12	0
Pembrokeshire	5	5	3	5	42	0
Carmarthenshire	0	11	1	30	32	0
Swansea	4	30	23	1	13	1
Neath Port Talbot	0	37	4	11	6	6
Bridgend	6	27	11	1	9	0
Vale of Glamorgan	25	13	0	6	3	0
Cardiff	17	13	35	7	3	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	44	4	20	6	0
Merthyr Tydfil	0	8	6	0	19	0
Caerphilly	0	32	0	32	9	0
Blaenau Gwent	0	17	2	0	18	5
Torfaen	5	18	2	3	13	3
Monmouthshire	29	7	5	1	1	0
Newport	17	22	9	1	1	0
Total	174	345	166	205	346	28

Figures showing changes in the number of seats won by each party, compared to the 2004 local elections are given in reference table 7.2.



4 Share of the Vote

Figures on share of the vote are compiled from local election returns by the LGC Elections Centre, University of Plymouth on behalf of the Electoral Commission.

The Conservatives won 15.6% of the vote, up from 11.0% in 2004.

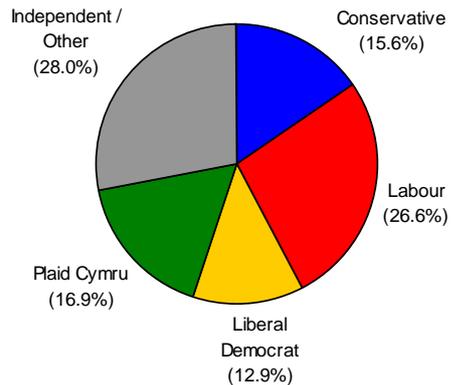
Labour won 26.6% of the vote, a 3.9 percentage point fall compared to 2004.

The share of the vote won by the Liberal Democrats was 12.9%. This compares to 13.9% won in 2004.

Plaid Cymru won 16.9% of the vote, a 0.5 percentage point increase on 2004.

Independent and other candidates won the largest share of the vote, with 28.0%. This was largely similar to the share they won in 2004 (28.1%).

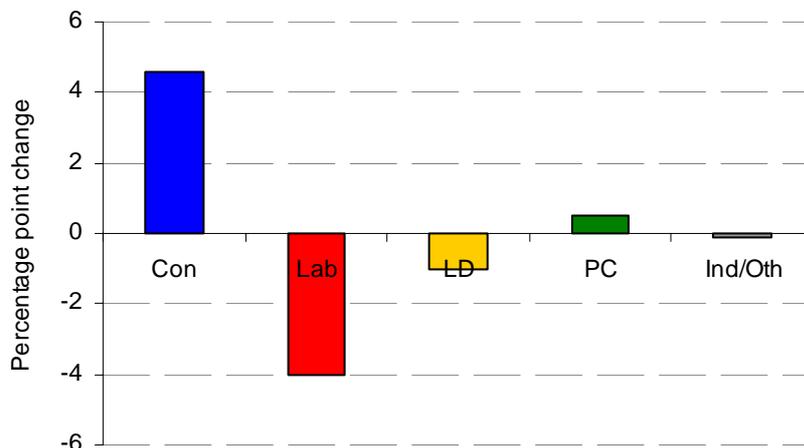
Share of the vote



Share of the vote won, by party

Party	2004	2008	Percentage point change
Conservative	11.0	15.6	4.6
Labour	30.6	26.6	-4.0
Liberal Democrat	13.9	12.9	-1.0
Plaid Cymru	16.4	16.9	0.5
Independent/Other	28.1	28.0	-0.1

Change in the share of the vote won, by party, 2004-2008





5 Uncontested Seats

Uncontested seats occur when only one nomination for a seat is received, therefore allowing the nominee to be elected without a ballot being called. In total, 102 seats were uncontested across Wales. This represents 8.1% of all local council seats.

The number of uncontested seats fell by approximately one-third, compared to the 2004 local elections. In 2004, 152 seats (12%) were uncontested.

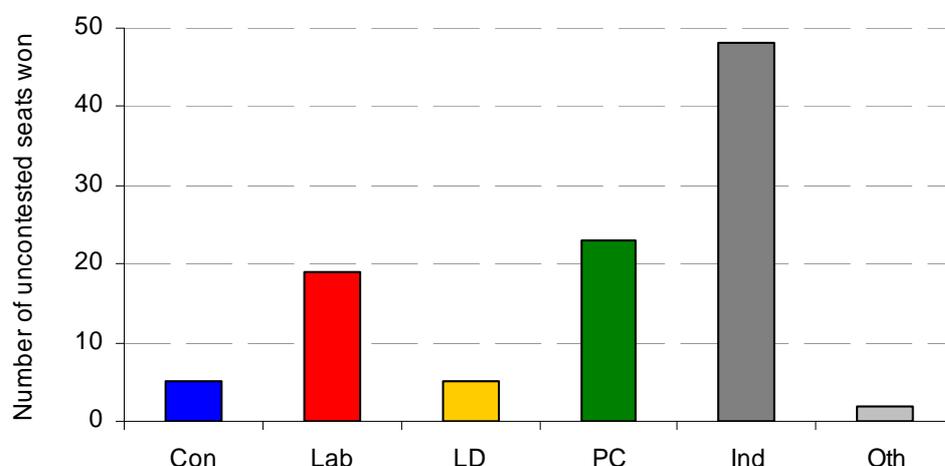
Powys had the highest proportion of uncontested seats. In 2008, 42.5% of its seats were elected uncontested. Gwynedd had the second highest proportion of uncontested seats, with 25.3% of its seats being uncontested. Ten authorities had no uncontested seats.

With 48 seats, independent candidates won the most uncontested seats. Uncontested seats made up 13.9% of all seats won by independent candidates.

Reference table 7.3 gives the number and percentage of uncontested seats in each unitary authority and the winning parties of these seats.

Uncontested seats won, by party

Party	Number of uncontested seats won	Uncontested seats as a percentage of total seats won
Conservative	5	2.9
Labour	19	5.5
Liberal Democrat	5	3.0
Plaid Cymru	23	11.2
Independent	48	13.9
Others	2	7.1





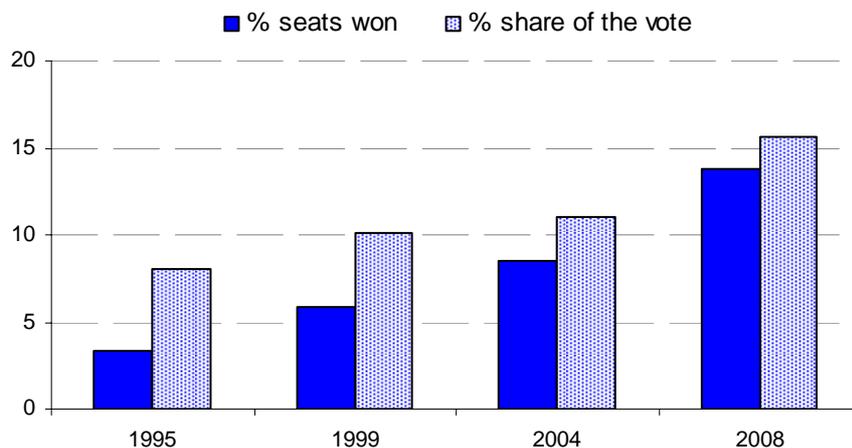
6 Party Summaries

Conservatives

- The Conservatives fielded candidates in 21 of the 22 unitary authorities. The only authority in which they did not field a candidate was Merthyr Tydfil.
- The Conservatives retained control of Monmouthshire and won control of the Vale of Glamorgan, which was previously in no overall control.
- The party won 174 seats, 67 more than they won at the 2004 local elections. This represents an increase of 63% on 2004.
- Of the 174 seats won by the Conservatives, 5 (3%) were uncontested.
- The largest gains for the Conservative Party, in terms of the number of seats won, were in Denbighshire (11 additional seats), Conwy (10 additional seats) and Powys (9 additional seats).
- The total number of seats held by the Conservatives fell in two authorities, Carmarthenshire (one seat lost) and Bridgend (two seats lost).
- The share of the vote won by the Conservatives increased from 11.0% to 15.6%.

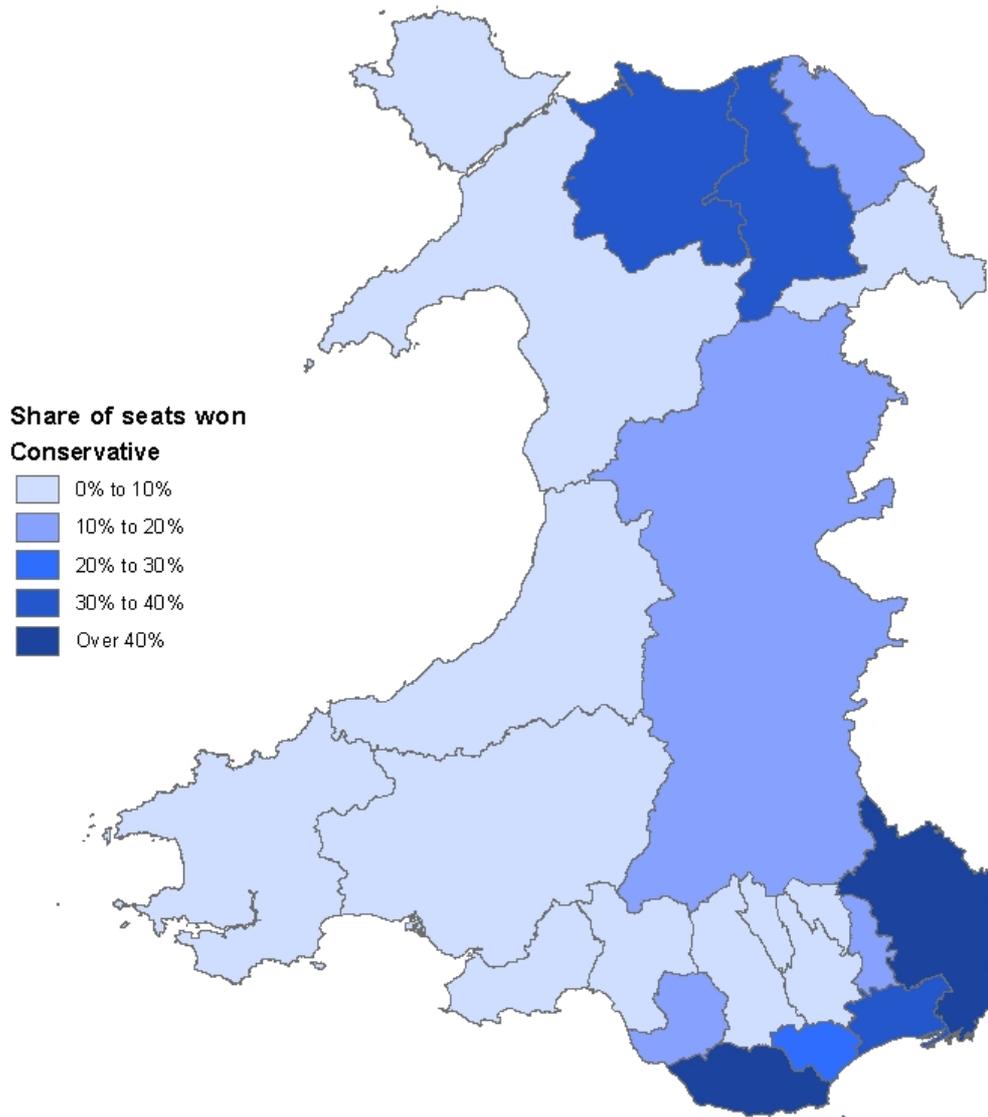
Trends: 1995 to 2008 local election results

Conservatives	1995	1999	2004	2008
Councils controlled				
Number	0	0	1	2
Change	.	0	+1	+1
Seats won				
Number	42	75	107	174
Per cent	3.3	5.9	8.5	13.8
Percentage point change	.	+2.6	+2.6	+5.3
Share of the vote won (%)	8.1	10.1	11.0	15.6
Percentage point change	.	2.0	0.9	4.6





Map of the share of seats won by the Conservatives, by unitary authority



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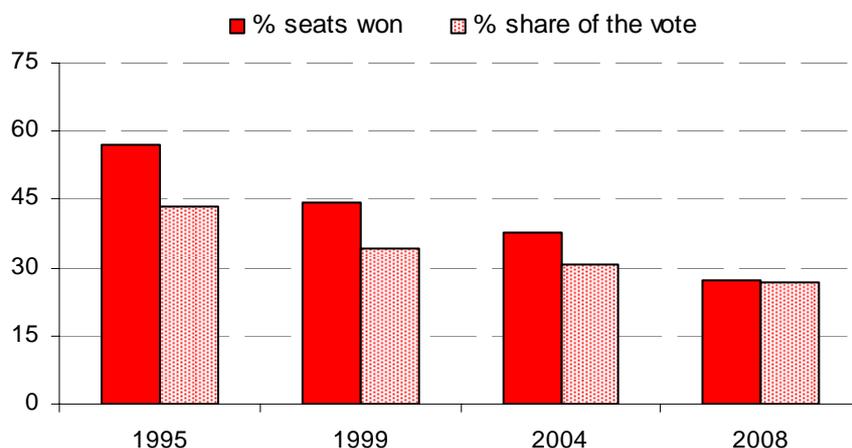


Labour

- Labour fielded candidates in all 22 unitary authorities.
- The Labour Party retained control of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot, but lost five councils to no overall control (Flintshire, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Newport) and one to the Independents (Merthyr Tydfil).
- The party won 345 seats, 134 fewer than they won at the 2004 local elections. This represents a decrease of 28% on 2004.
- Of the 345 seats won by Labour, 19 (6%) were uncontested.
- The largest gains for the party, in terms of the number of seats won, were in Bridgend (five additional seats) and the Isle of Anglesey (four additional seats).
- The total number of seats held by Labour fell in 17 authorities. The largest falls were in Torfaen (16 seats lost) and Flintshire (15 seats lost).
- The share of the vote won by Labour decreased from 30.6% to 26.6%.

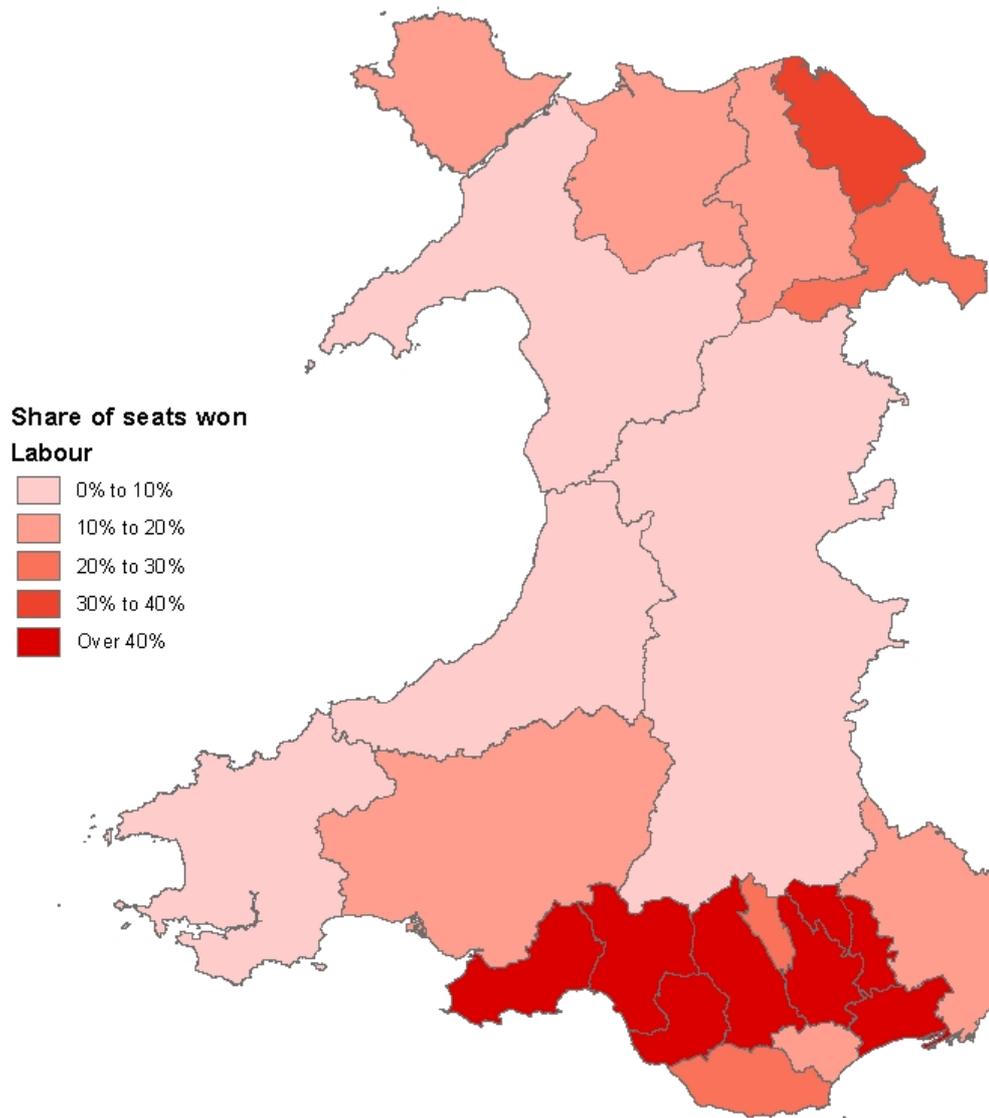
Trends: 1995 to 2008 local election results

Labour	1995	1999	2004	2008
Councils controlled				
Number	14	8	8	2
Change	.	-6	0	-6
Seats won				
Number	726	563	479	345
Per cent	57.1	44.3	37.9	27.3
Percentage point change	.	-12.8	-6.4	-10.6
Share of the vote won (%)	43.6	34.4	30.6	26.6
Percentage point change	.	-9.2	-3.8	-4.0





Map of the share of seats won by Labour, by unitary authority



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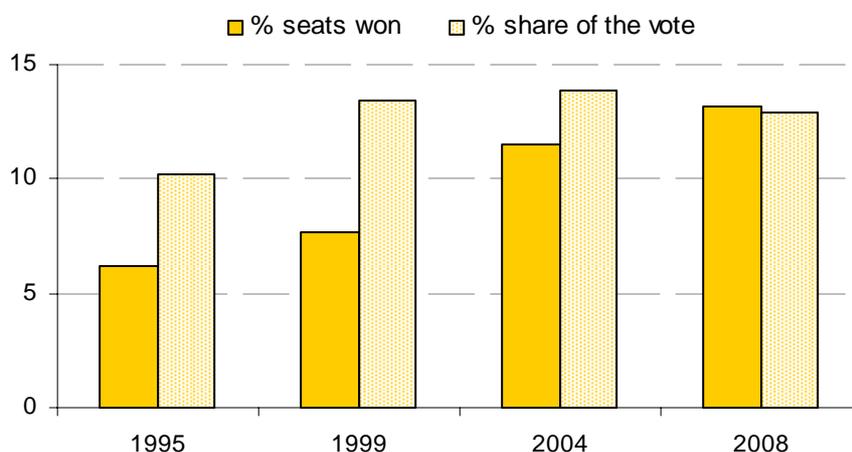


Liberal Democrats

- The Liberal Democrats fielded candidates in all 22 unitary authorities.
- The party does not have overall control of any councils.
- The Liberal Democrats won 166 seats, 20 more than they won at the 2004 local elections. This represents an increase of 14% on 2004.
- Of the 166 seats won by the Liberal Democrats, 5 (3%) were uncontested.
- The largest gains for the party were in Merthyr Tydfil (six additional seats), Cardiff and Swansea (four additional seats each).
- The total number of seats held by the Liberal Democrats fell in six authorities, with the largest falls being in Bridgend and Conwy (two seats lost in each authority).
- The share of the vote won by the Liberal Democrats decreased from 13.9% to 12.9%.

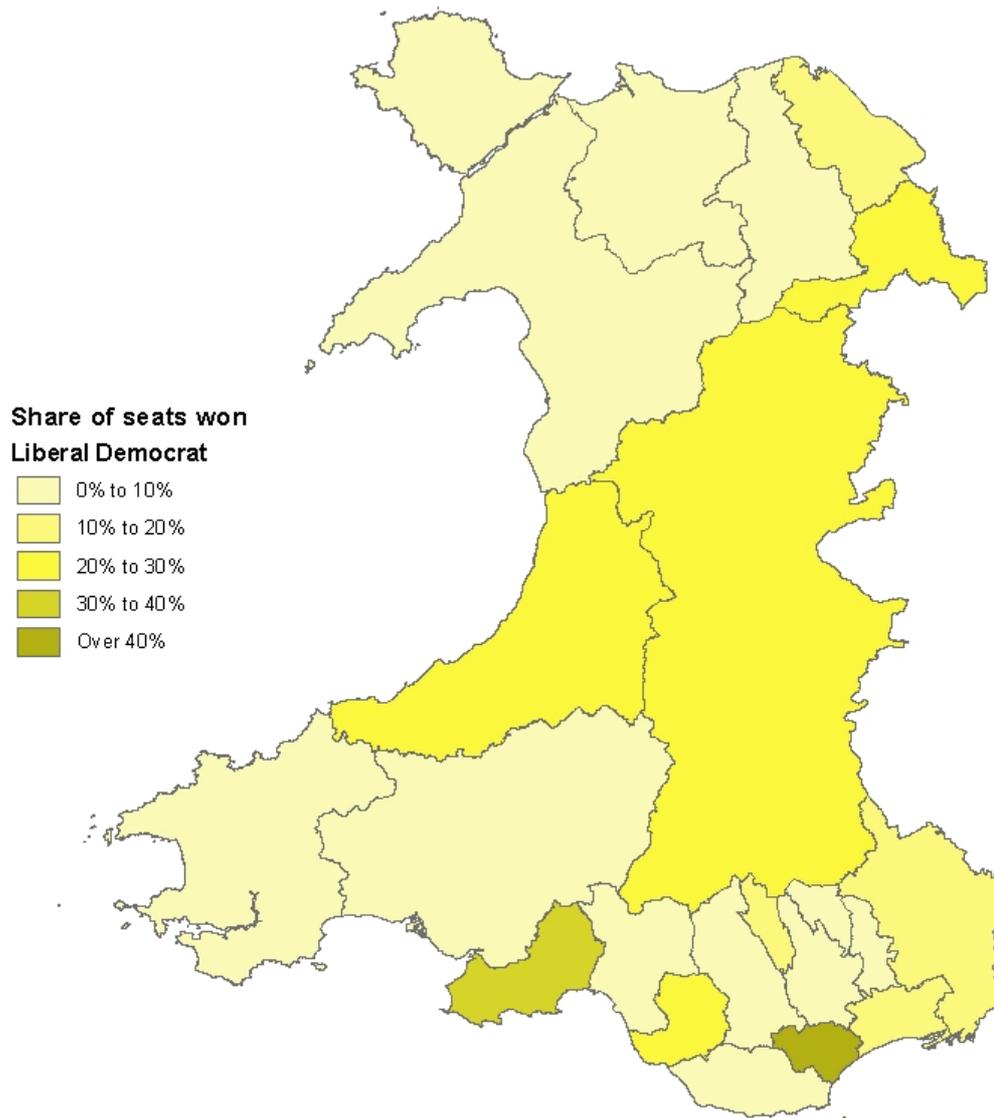
Trends: 1995 to 2008 local election results

Liberal Democrats	1995	1999	2004	2008
Councils controlled				
Number	0	0	0	0
Change	.	0	0	0
Seats won				
Number	79	98	146	166
Per cent	6.2	7.7	11.6	13.1
Percentage point change	.	+1.5	+3.9	+1.5
Share of the vote won (%)	10.2	13.4	13.9	12.9
Percentage point change	.	3.2	0.5	-1.0





Map of the share of seats won by the Liberal Democrats, by unitary authority



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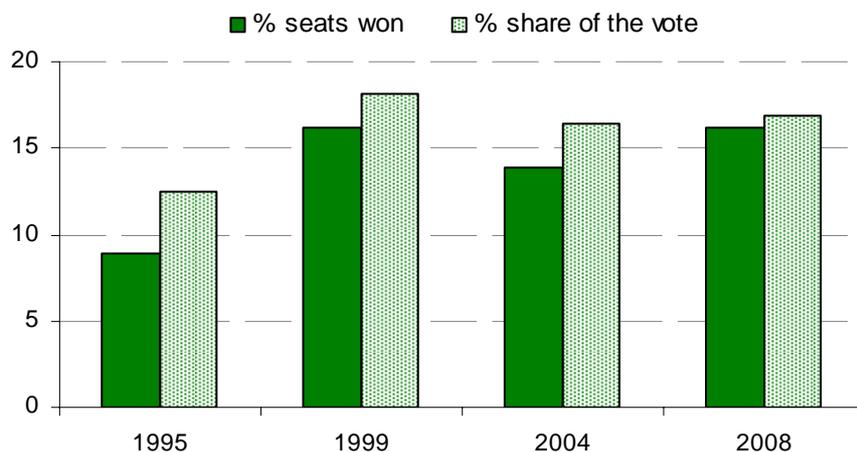


Plaid Cymru

- Plaid Cymru fielded candidates in all 22 unitary authorities.
- Plaid Cymru lost overall control of the one council it held in 2004 (Gwynedd) to no overall control.
- The party won 205 seats, 30 more than they won at the 2004 local elections. This represents an increase of 17% on 2004.
- Of the 205 seats won by Plaid Cymru, 23 (11%) were uncontested.
- The largest gains for Plaid Cymru, in terms of the number of seats won, were in Carmarthenshire (14 additional seats), Rhondda Cynon Taf (7 additional seats) and Caerphilly (6 additional seats).
- The total number of seats held by Plaid Cymru fell in five authorities, with the largest decreases being in Gwynedd (seven seats lost) and Swansea (four seats lost).
- The share of the vote won by Plaid Cymru increased from 16.4% to 16.9%.

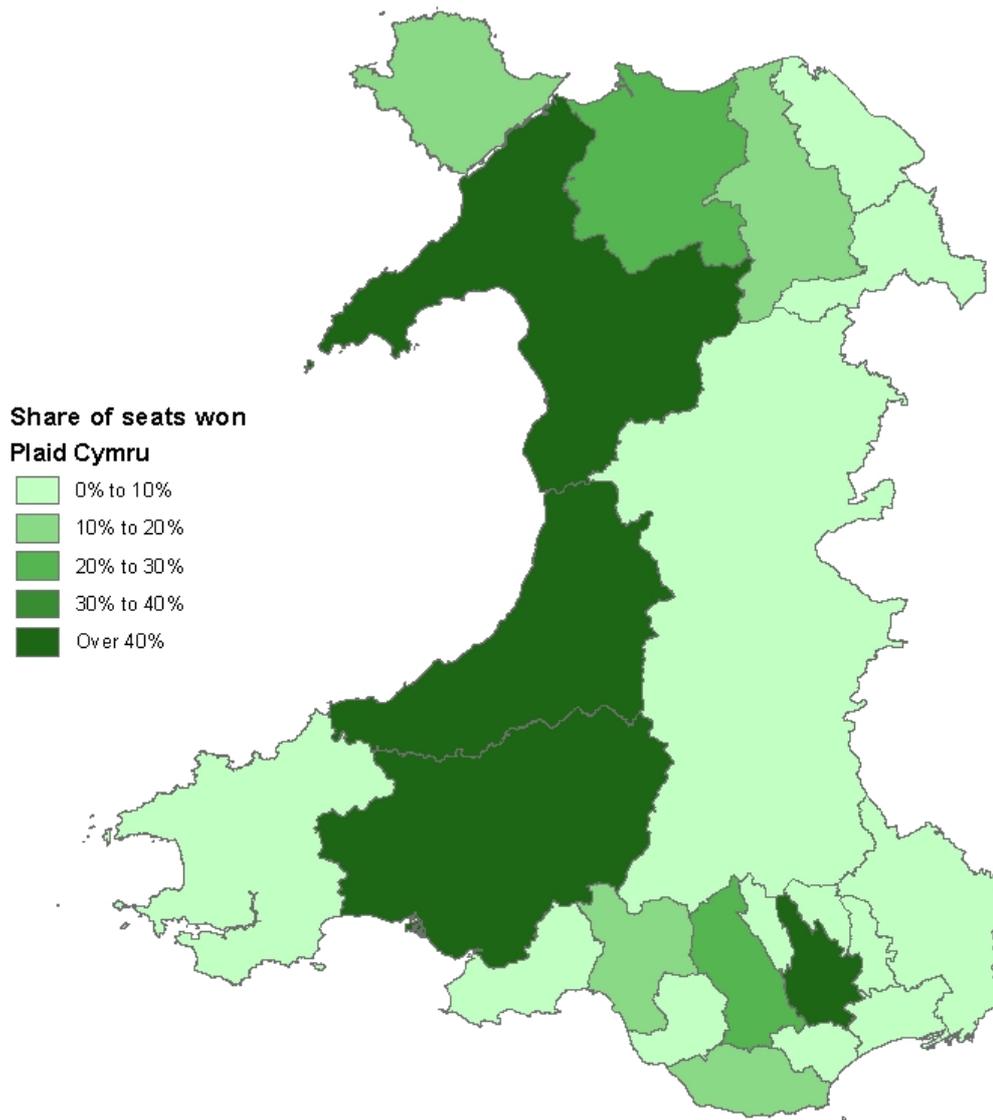
Trends: 1995 to 2008 local election results

Plaid Cymru	1995	1999	2004	2008
Councils controlled				
Number	1	3	1	0
Change	.	+2	-2	-1
Seats won				
Number	113	205	175	205
Per cent	8.9	16.1	13.8	16.2
Percentage point change	.	+7.2	-2.3	+2.4
Share of the vote won (%)	12.5	18.2	16.4	16.9
Percentage point change	.	5.7	-1.8	0.5





Map of the share of seats won by Plaid Cymru, by unitary authority



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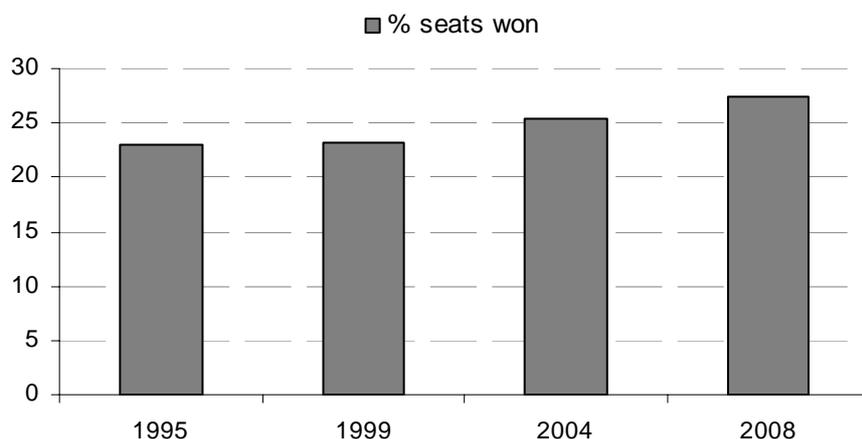


Independents

- Independent candidates stood for election in all unitary authorities in Wales.
- Independents retained overall control in Isle of Anglesey, Powys and Pembrokeshire. They also gained overall control of Merthyr Tydfil from Labour.
- Independent candidates won 346 seats, 24 more than they won at the 2004 local elections. This represents an increase of 7% on 2004.
- Of the 346 seats won by independents, 48 (14%) were uncontested.
- The largest gains for independents, in terms of the number of seats won, were in Merthyr Tydfil (12 additional seats), Blaenau Gwent (10 additional seats) and Swansea (9 additional seats).
- The total number of seats held by independents fell in seven authorities, with the largest falls being in Powys (eight seats lost) and Denbighshire (seven seats lost).
- Figures on the share of the vote won are only available for independents and other candidates combined (see page 8).

Trends: 1995 to 2008 local election results

Independent	1995	1999	2004	2008
Councils controlled				
Number	4	3	3	4
Change	.	-1	0	+1
Seats won				
Number	292	295	322	346
Per cent	23.0	23.2	25.5	27.4
Percentage point change	.	+0.2	+2.3	+1.9





7 Safe and Marginal Councils

The two tables below show the safest and most marginal councils, in terms of percentage majority and absolute majority, respectively. The explanatory notes section of this paper gives information on how each type of majority is calculated. Figures are only shown for councils where one party/group is in overall control.

Pembrokeshire council has the largest majority, both in terms of percentage and absolute majority. The independent group in this council has a majority of 40%, or 24 seats.

The most marginal council is the Vale of Glamorgan, controlled by the Conservatives. They hold a percentage majority of 6.4%, or 3 seats.

Some councils hold the same ranked position regardless of the type of majority used (i.e. percentage or absolute). However, Monmouthshire, which is the second safest council in terms of percentage majority, swaps places with third-placed Powys when using absolute majority. Merthyr Tydfil and Isle of Anglesey (sixth and seventh in terms of percentage majority) also swap places when using absolute majority.

Safest and most marginal councils, by percentage majority

		Control	% Majority
1	Pembrokeshire	Ind 	40.0
2	Monmouthshire	Con 	34.9
3	Powys	Ind 	23.3
4	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Lab 	17.3
5	Neath Port Talbot	Lab 	15.6
6	Merthyr Tydfil	Ind 	15.2
7	Isle of Anglesey	Ind 	15.0
8	Vale of Glamorgan	Con 	6.4

Safest and most marginal councils, by absolute majority

		Control	Majority
1	Pembrokeshire	Ind 	24
2	Powys	Ind 	17
3	Monmouthshire	Con 	15
4	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Lab 	13
5	Neath Port Talbot	Lab 	10
6	Isle of Anglesey	Ind 	6
7	Merthyr Tydfil	Ind 	5
8	Vale of Glamorgan	Con 	3

Members' Research Service: Research Paper
Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil

8 Reference Tables

8.1 Summary of 2008 local government election results, by unitary authority

	Control		2008 seats won											
	2004	2008	Con	Lab	LD	PC	Ind	MI	LFI	LG	NPTR	PR	PV	SDP
Isle of Anglesey			2	5	2	8	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Gwynedd			0	4	5	35	18	.	.	13	.	.	.	.
Conwy			22	7	4	12	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Denbighshire			18	7	1	8	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flintshire			9	22	12	1	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wrexham			5	11	12	4	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Powys			9	4	15	0	45	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ceredigion			0	1	10	19	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pembrokeshire			5	5	3	5	42	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carmarthenshire			0	11	1	30	32	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Swansea			4	30	23	1	13	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Neath Port Talbot			0	37	4	11	6	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
Bridgend			6	27	11	1	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Vale of Glamorgan			25	13	0	6	0	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
Cardiff			17	13	35	7	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rhondda Cynon Taf			1	44	4	20	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Merthyr Tydfil			0	8	6	0	16	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
Caerphilly			0	32	0	32	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blaenau Gwent			0	17	2	0	18	.	.	.	.	.	5	.
Torfaen			5	18	2	3	13	.	.	.	.	.	3	.
Monmouthshire			29	7	5	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Newport			17	22	9	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total			174	345	166	205	340	3	3	13	3	1	8	3

. Not applicable



8.2 Changes in number of seats won, compared to 2004, by unitary authority

	Control		Change in number of seats from 2004					Other
	2004	2008	Con	Lab	LD	PC	Ind	
Isle of Anglesey			1	4	1	-1	-5	0
Gwynedd			0	-6	-1	-7	1	13
Conwy			10	-5	-2	2	-5	0
Denbighshire			11	-1	-1	1	-7	-3
Flintshire			5	-15	2	0	8	0
Wrexham			2	-7	1	4	1	-1
Powys			9	0	-1	0	-8	0
Ceredigion			0	0	1	3	-4	0
Pembrokeshire			5	-7	0	0	2	0
Carmarthenshire			-1	-14	1	14	0	0
Swansea			0	-2	4	-4	9	-7
Neath Port Talbot			0	1	2	1	2	-6
Bridgend			-2	5	-2	0	-1	0
Vale of Glamorgan			5	-3	0	-2	0	0
Cardiff			5	-14	4	4	3	-2
Rhondda Cynon Taf			1	-13	2	7	3	0
Merthyr Tydfil			0	-9	6	0	12	-9
Caerphilly			0	-7	0	6	1	0
Blaenau Gwent			0	-14	-1	0	10	5
Torfaen			4	-16	0	3	6	3
Monmouthshire			6	-2	1	-1	-4	0
Newport			6	-9	3	0	0	0
Total			67	-134	20	30	24	-7

8.3 Uncontested seats won, by unitary authority and party

	Seats uncontested	% Seats uncontested	Number of uncontested seats won					
			Con	Lab	LD	PC	Ind	Oth
Isle of Anglesey	7	17.5	0	1	0	1	5	0
Gwynedd	19	25.3	0	2	0	13	3	1
Conwy	4	6.8	0	0	0	3	1	0
Denbighshire	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Flintshire	7	10.0	1	5	1	0	0	0
Wrexham	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Powys	31	42.5	1	3	3	0	24	0
Ceredigion	4	9.5	0	0	1	2	1	0
Pembrokeshire	13	21.7	0	0	0	1	12	0
Carmarthenshire	5	6.8	0	0	0	3	2	0
Swansea	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Neath Port Talbot	5	7.8	0	4	0	0	0	1
Bridgend	2	3.7	0	2	0	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cardiff	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Caerphilly	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Blaenau Gwent	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Torfaen	2	4.5	0	2	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	3	7.0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Newport	0	0.0	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	102	8.1	5	19	5	23	48	2

. Not applicable

8.4 Council control since 1995

	1995	1999	2004	2008
Isle of Anglesey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Gwynedd	Green	Green	Green	Grey
Conwy	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Denbighshire	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Flintshire	Red	Red	Red	Grey
Wrexham	Red	Grey	Grey	Grey
Powys	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Ceredigion	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Pembrokeshire	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Carmarthenshire	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Swansea	Red	Red	Grey	Grey
Neath Port Talbot	Red	Red	Red	Red
Bridgend	Red	Red	Grey	Grey
Vale of Glamorgan	Red	Grey	Grey	Blue
Cardiff	Red	Red	Grey	Grey
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Red	Green	Red	Red
Merthyr Tydfil	Red	Grey	Red	Grey
Caerphilly	Red	Green	Red	Grey
Blaenau Gwent	Red	Red	Red	Grey
Torfaen	Red	Red	Red	Grey
Monmouthshire	Red	Grey	Blue	Blue
Newport	Red	Red	Red	Grey

9 Explanatory Notes

Key to party codes

Code	Party
Con	 Conservative
Lab	 Labour
LD	 Liberal Democrat
PC	 Plaid Cymru
Ind	 Independent
MI	 Merthyr Independents
LFI	 Llantwit First Independents
LG	 Llais Gwynedd
NPTR	 Neath Port Talbot Rate Payers
PR	 The People's Representative
PV	 People's Voice
SDP	 Social Democratic Party

Each party has a short code and colours have been assigned to the main parties and groups of parties. In some tables, the independent groups (Merthyr Independents and Llantwit First Independents) are grouped together under the 'Independent' label with all other independent candidates. Remaining parties are assigned a light gray colour. In some tables these smaller parties are grouped together under the 'Other' label.

Percentage and absolute majorities – worked examples

Majority is calculated in this paper using two different methods. Absolute majority is calculated by taking the number of seats won by the controlling party and subtracting from this the number of seats won by the other parties. For example, in Pembrokeshire, the independent group won 42 seats and the other parties won 18 seats.

$$42 - 18 = 24$$

Therefore the independents have an absolute majority of 24 seats in Pembrokeshire.

Using the absolute majority can be misleading in some circumstances as it does not take into account any differences in the size of councils and the number of seats available. The percentage majority uses the total number of seats in a council as part of the calculation. It is calculated by dividing the absolute majority by the total number of seats in the council and then multiplying this figure by 100. For example, there are 60 seats on Pembrokeshire council and the absolute majority of the controlling independents was 24.

$$24 \div 60 = 0.4$$

$$0.4 \times 100 = 40.0$$

Therefore the independents have a percentage majority of 40.0% in Pembrokeshire.