



## 3-way marginal seats

Standard Note: SN/SG/3425

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Social and General Statistics

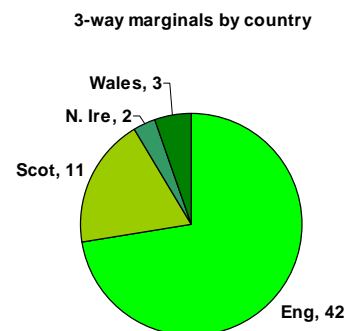
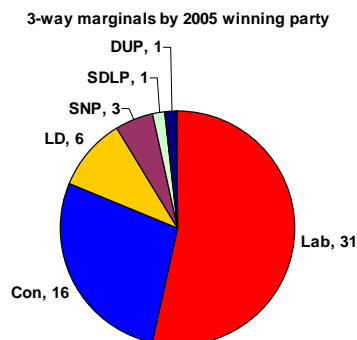
This note shows seats that are '3-way marginals' at the forthcoming general election, using notional 2005 results. The data shown for all constituencies are notional results for the new boundaries, as calculated by Rallings and Thrasher.<sup>1</sup>

For the purposes of this note, a seat is considered a '3-way marginal' if the party in third place in 2005 was within 20 percentage points of the victorious party. There are a total of 58 such seats.

Data on marginal and safe seats in general can be found in SN/SG/3373, [Marginal seats](#).

### Summary

The charts below show the distribution of 3-way marginal seats by party and country:



More than 70 per cent of 3-way marginal seats are in England, including 7 of the top 10; 2 from Scotland and one from Northern Ireland make up the rest. 48 seats are 3-way marginals between the 3 main parties, including all 16 won by the Conservatives and all 6 won by the Liberal Democrats in 2005.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Colin Rallings & Michael Thrasher, University of Plymouth Local Government Elections Centre

## Reference table

### 2005 General Election: Three Way Marginals

Using notional results for new boundaries

Constituency	1st Party	% vote	2nd Party	% vote	3rd Party	% vote
Ealing Central & Acton	Lab	33.4%	Con	31.2%	LD	30.6%
Watford	Lab	33.6%	LD	31.2%	Con	29.6%
Filton & Bradley Stoke	Con	35.5%	Lab	33.9%	LD	28.4%
Edinburgh South	Lab	33.2%	LD	32.3%	Con	24.1%
Belfast South	SDLP	32.3%	DUP	28.4%	UUP	22.7%
York Outer	LD	36.7%	Con	36.3%	Lab	27.0%
Ochil & South Perthshire	Lab	31.4%	SNP	29.9%	Con	21.5%
Leeds North West	LD	36.9%	Lab	31.9%	Con	26.8%
Camborne & Redruth	LD	35.9%	Lab	28.8%	Con	25.6%
Colne Valley	Lab	35.4%	Con	32.9%	LD	24.5%
Reading East	Con	35.6%	Lab	33.9%	LD	24.4%
Poplar & Limehouse	Lab	35.3%	Con	24.5%	Others	23.6%
Northampton North	Lab	38.7%	Con	29.7%	LD	26.9%
St. Albans	Con	37.3%	Lab	34.3%	LD	25.4%
Chelmsford	Con	39.5%	LD	30.3%	Lab	26.9%
Bristol North West	Lab	38.2%	Con	32.5%	LD	24.8%
Hampstead & Kilburn	Lab	36.3%	LD	35.2%	Con	22.9%
Pendle	Lab	37.1%	Con	31.8%	LD	23.2%
Aberconwy	Lab	33.0%	Con	29.1%	LD	19.1%
Argyll & Bute	LD	36.5%	Con	23.5%	Lab	22.4%
Brighton Pavilion	Lab	36.4%	Con	23.3%	LD	16.0%
Burnley	Lab	38.5%	Others	26.1%	LD	23.7%
Shrewsbury & Atcham	Con	37.7%	Lab	34.1%	LD	22.8%
Perth & North Perthshire	SNP	33.7%	Con	30.4%	Lab	18.7%
Stirling	Lab	36.0%	Con	25.1%	LD	20.7%
Edinburgh North & Leith	Lab	34.2%	LD	29.2%	Con	18.7%
Norwich South	Lab	37.4%	LD	30.0%	Con	21.8%
Angus	SNP	33.7%	Con	29.5%	Lab	18.0%
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale	Con	36.2%	Lab	32.3%	LD	20.3%
Brentford & Isleworth	Lab	39.0%	Con	30.7%	LD	23.0%
Derby North	Lab	42.1%	LD	27.5%	Con	25.9%
Moray	SNP	36.6%	Con	22.0%	Lab	20.4%
Upper Bann	DUP	37.5%	UUP	25.6%	SF	20.9%
Bournemouth West	Con	39.5%	LD	32.0%	Lab	22.9%
Hexham	Con	42.4%	Lab	30.4%	LD	25.7%
Basingstoke	Con	38.8%	Lab	32.6%	LD	21.9%
Chester, City Of	Lab	39.0%	Con	36.8%	LD	21.8%
Warrington South	Lab	41.2%	Con	32.1%	LD	24.0%
Eastleigh	LD	38.3%	Con	37.2%	Lab	21.1%
Milton Keynes North	Lab	37.9%	Con	36.2%	LD	20.6%
Arfon	Lab	33.9%	PC	32.1%	Con	16.4%
Suffolk South	Con	42.1%	LD	28.4%	Lab	24.5%
Gainsborough	Con	43.8%	Lab	26.1%	Con	26.0%
Plymouth Sutton & Devonport	Lab	40.7%	Con	29.6%	LD	22.6%
Portsmouth North	Lab	38.5%	Con	37.8%	LD	20.3%
Congleton	Con	45.4%	Lab	27.7%	LD	26.9%
Oxford East	Lab	35.9%	LD	35.2%	Con	17.3%
Edinburgh South West	Lab	39.8%	Con	23.3%	LD	21.1%
Wantage	Con	43.1%	LD	27.6%	Lab	24.0%
Portsmouth South	LD	41.6%	Con	33.6%	Lab	22.4%
Ynys Mon	Lab	34.6%	PC	31.1%	Others	15.4%
Hove	Lab	37.4%	Con	36.4%	LD	18.0%
Somerset North East	Con	39.1%	Lab	38.6%	LD	19.6%
Worthing East & Shoreham	Con	43.9%	Lab	25.5%	LD	24.3%
Aberdeen South	Lab	36.7%	LD	33.5%	Con	17.1%
Calder Valley	Lab	38.5%	Con	35.8%	LD	18.9%
Bedford	Lab	41.6%	Con	33.5%	LD	21.8%
Broadland	Con	43.4%	LD	29.5%	Lab	23.6%