



Election of the Speaker of the House of Lords: result

Introduction

In the election of the Lord Speaker held on 13 July 2011 a total of 644 valid votes, including 125 postal votes, were cast. There were 2 spoilt or invalid ballot papers. A total of 770 Members of the House were eligible to vote.

After 4 transfers of votes, the voting for the final 2 candidates was as follows:

Lord Colwyn	285
Baroness D'Souza	296

The successful candidate was therefore **Baroness D'Souza**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate at each stage of the count:

- The left-hand column lists all 6 candidates.
- The next column shows the number of first-preference votes for each candidate.
- Subsequent columns (which are numbered) show the number of votes for each candidate after each transfer of votes from excluded candidates. An **X** in a column shows that the candidate concerned was excluded at that stage.
- The penultimate row shows the total number of valid votes at each stage—that is to say, after excluding any votes which could not be transferred because no further preference was marked.
- The last row shows the number of votes required at that stage for a candidate to be elected (half the total number of valid votes)

A note on the voting system

The Alternative Vote System was used for this election. Under this system:

- Voters rank in order as many candidates as they wish.
- Initially only first-preference votes are counted.
- If the vote for any one candidate equals or exceeds the votes for all the other candidates combined, that candidate is elected.
- If no one candidate has sufficient votes to be elected, the candidate (or candidates) with fewest votes drops out. Each vote for that candidate is transferred to whichever of the remaining candidates has been marked by the voter as his or her next available preference. Votes thus transferred are added to the first-preference votes of the remaining candidates. This process is repeated until one candidate has as many votes as all the remaining candidates combined.
- Any paper on which no further preference is marked is set aside as non-transferable.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Lord Eames and Lord Lloyd of Berwick acted as scrutineers at the count.

DAVID BEAMISH
Clerk of the Parliaments

Results table

Candidate	1st-preference votes	Votes after transfers			
		1	2	3	4
Colwyn, L.	166	167	193	213	285
Desai, L.	78	79	92	X	
D'Souza, B.	186	188	202	240	296
Goodlad, L.	145	145	150	168	X
Harris of Richmond, B.	62	65	X		
Redesdale, L.	7	X			
<i>Votes excluded at each stage</i>		0	7	16	40
<i>Total continuing votes at each stage</i>	644	644	637	621	581
<i>Votes needed in order to be elected</i>	322	322	319	311	291