

**Results from Lib Dem Voice survey, conducted 12-16 Sept 09****No of records in this query: 234**

Total records in survey: 234

Percentage of total: 100.00%

[Browse](#)[Export](#)**Field Summary for Q1:****To what extent do you think the Liberal Democrats have been damaged by the MPs' expenses scandal compared to Labour and/or the Conservatives ?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Damaged more than Labour and/or Conservatives (1a)	2	0.85%
Damaged less than Labour and/or Conservatives (1b)	138	58.97%
Just as damaged as Labour and Conservatives (1c)	95	40.60%
Don't know / No opinion (1d)	2	0.85%

**Field Summary for Q2:****How well do you think the Lib Dem party leadership has handled the MPs' expenses scandal? (On a scale of 1-5, where 1 is extremely poorly, and 5 is extremely well).**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
1 (1)	10	4.27%
2 (2)	32	13.68%
3 (3)	102	43.59%
4 (4)	84	35.90%
5 (5)	6	2.56%

**Field Summary for Q3:****What effect do you think the MPs' expenses scandal has had on public support for electoral reform?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Increased public support for electoral reform (3a)	107	45.73%
Decreased public support for electoral reform (3b)	7	2.99%
No real difference either way (3c)	115	49.15%
Don't know / No opinion (3d)	5	2.14%

**Field Summary for Q4:**

**If the result of the next general election is that the Lib Dems hold the balance of power in a 'hung parliament', what do you think should be the party's response if Labour/Conservatives offer some form of deal which includes the promise of a referendum on electoral reform?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Steer well clear of any form of negotiations or coalition with Labour or Conservatives (4a)	62	26.50%
Be ready to negotiate only with Labour on that basis (4b)	12	5.13%
Be ready to negotiate only with the Conservatives on that basis (4c)	14	5.98%
Be equally ready to negotiate with either Labour or the Conservatives on that basis (4d)	139	59.40%
Don't know / No opinion (4e)	7	2.99%

**Field Summary for Q5:**

**In the event of a 'hung parliament', and if the Lib Dems were prepared to cooperate with Labour/Conservatives in some way, do you believe a referendum on electoral reform should be a 'deal-breaker'?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Yes - electoral reform is fundamental to the Lib Dems. No deal of any kind is possible without it. (5a)	154	65.81%
No - electoral reform is important, but should not be a deal-breaker compared with other big issues the public cares about more. (5b)	70	29.91%
Don't know / No opinion (5c)	10	4.27%

**Field Summary for Q6:**

**If the result of the next general election is that the Lib Dems \*do not\* form the next government, either on their own or as part of a coalition, which of the two other main parties do you think would be most likely to advance the Liberal Democrats' electoral reform agenda?**

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Labour (5a)	78	33.33%
Conservatives (5b)	3	1.28%
Neither party (5c)	144	61.54%
Don't know / No opinion (5d)	9	3.85%

**Field Summary for Q6:**

**6. Thinking of the financial crisis, some people have said that the Lib**

<b>Dems should be doing better in the polls; while other people believe that the party has done well to hold its own, given that the economy is not traditionally a strong area for the party. Which of these two verdicts is closest to your own view?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
The party should have benefited more in the polls from the financial crisis (6a)	140	59.83%
The party has done well to maintain support in the circumstances (6b)	82	35.04%
Don't know / No opinion (6c)	12	5.13%

<b>Field Summary for Q7: In the next budget, what do you think is the single most important action the Chancellor should take to address the UK's current economic situation?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Increase taxation as a proportion of national income only on the well off to address the budget deficit and/or safeguard spending on public services (7a)	97	41.45%
Increase general taxation as a proportion of national income to address the budget deficit and/or safeguard spending on public services (7b)	28	11.97%
Decrease public spending as a proportion of national expenditure to address the budget deficit and/or to avoid any further rises in taxation (7c)	70	29.91%
Maintain taxation and public spending at roughly the same levels, and allow the budget deficit to continue to increase. (7d)	21	8.97%
Don't know / No opinion (7e)	18	7.69%

<b>Field Summary for Q8: How do you feel Nick Clegg has emerged from the political and economic crises of the last few months?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
Much stronger (8a)	12	5.13%
Stronger (8b)	90	38.46%
Roughly the same (8c)	107	45.73%
Weaker (8d)	21	8.97%
Much weaker (8e)	2	0.85%

Don't know / No opinion (8f)	2	0.85%
------------------------------	---	-------

<b>Field Summary for Q9:</b>		
<b>Thinking of the next general election, what do you think is the most likely result for the Liberal Democrats?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
No answer	0	0.00%
A significant increase in the number of MPs (75 or more) (9a)	8	3.42%
A small increase in the number of MPs (64-75) (9b)	64	27.35%
Maintain roughly the same number of seats (c.63) (9c)	78	33.33%
A small decrease in the number of MPs (51-62) (9d)	63	26.92%
A significant decrease in the number of MPs (50 or fewer) (9e)	18	7.69%
Don't know / No opinion (9f)	3	1.28%

<b>Field Summary for Q10:</b>		
<b>What in your view is the most important issue facing the political parties in this election year?</b>		
<b>Answer</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Answer <input type="button" value="Browse"/>	234	100.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

<a href="#">1</a>	The economy.
<a href="#">2</a>	Apathy.
<a href="#">3</a>	How to handle the economy and the budget deficit.
<a href="#">4</a>	the crisis of confidence in politics
<a href="#">5</a>	Maintaining interest in politics and stopping the "curse on all their houses" felleing that abounds
<a href="#">6</a>	The economy obviously. I'm only interested in our party and sometimes I wonder if we are truly Liberal. I despair at the activities of some of our local parties who allow us to be called "opportunists"
<a href="#">7</a>	Voters who hate all politicians and assume everything they say is a lie. These people will be impossible to reach by any ethical method of campaigning.
<a href="#">8</a>	Distrust
<a href="#">9</a>	Our lunatic involvement in Afganistan and the resulting lack of acceptable honest leadership
<a href="#">10</a>	Economy
<a href="#">11</a>	The economy will rebound. What won't go away is the legacy & unanswered questions of

	the "war on terror". There's a lot of repair-work that needs to be done there.
<a href="#">12</a>	the economy
<a href="#">13</a>	Repair the economy Employment especially for young people (but without disadvantaging older people!)
<a href="#">14</a>	Electoral reform, particularly if there is another record low turnout
<a href="#">15</a>	cash.
<a href="#">16</a>	recession
<a href="#">17</a>	Will they engage with the concerns of the electorate and not those of the Westminster media?
<a href="#">18</a>	Complacency: They are so insular and arrogant about the public that they just care to preen thier little gardens because change means that they may have to not be kings of their little or large realms of career politician sycophants within the party.
<a href="#">19</a>	The economy, stupid.
<a href="#">20</a>	The Constitution - as evidenced by the fact that our democratic institutions are not capable of having an effect on the Economy.
<a href="#">21</a>	The economic crisis
<a href="#">22</a>	economy and climate change
<a href="#">23</a>	Public trust
<a href="#">24</a>	It's everything really; we seem to be a badly managed inefficient conervative country hugely burdened with laws and rules that are not really effective. We are becoming overpopulated, but our people are devoted to narrow consumerist values. No vision. Not liberal.
<a href="#">25</a>	Public trust in political parties and the institutions of government
<a href="#">26</a>	The economy/ public spending
<a href="#">27</a>	Spending cuts or tax increases
<a href="#">28</a>	Moving to a more sustainable economy (environmentally and financially). Cutting through Brownian complexity and red tape to free up the public and private sectors.
<a href="#">29</a>	Maintaining public services
<a href="#">30</a>	The economy
<a href="#">31</a>	Economy
<a href="#">32</a>	Combining a response to the financial crisis and challenges to community cohesion with a radical reform agenda. The Lib Dems need to get tougher and smarter on reforming the welfare state.
<a href="#">33</a>	Voter apathy
<a href="#">34</a>	the long term handling of the economy

<a href="#">35</a>	financial security of individuals and families.
<a href="#">36</a>	The future of the economy
<a href="#">37</a>	Public confidence in the political system.
<a href="#">38</a>	Getting through to people who are fed up with politicians due to the culture of spin, lies and greed.
<a href="#">39</a>	The Economy
<a href="#">40</a>	Climate change
<a href="#">41</a>	The financial crisis
<a href="#">42</a>	The Expenses scandal
<a href="#">43</a>	Public disinterest has turned into public dislike.
<a href="#">44</a>	Everyone hates them all
<a href="#">45</a>	The economy
<a href="#">46</a>	Economy
<a href="#">47</a>	The economy.
<a href="#">48</a>	Voter apathy and voter disillusionment with politics and politicians. Everyone I've spoken to has no faith at all in politicians or politics and they see no way to change the situation, certainly not by voting.
<a href="#">49</a>	Working out how we are going to run a decade or two of surpluses to pay down our debt with the minimum amount of pain to those least well off. There are still really acute social problems that we face- adult illiteracy, poor educational outcomes for the worst off, the skills gap, improving health care for the worst off, the environment etc. We need to find a way to be radical on these issues while saving the economy from the mess Labour have left it in.
<a href="#">50</a>	economy - and public sector spending
<a href="#">51</a>	Credibility.
<a href="#">52</a>	Where the axe will and the consequence of this.
<a href="#">53</a>	Ending the recession & protecting the poor against the effects
<a href="#">54</a>	The economy
<a href="#">55</a>	Rebuilding trust and ensuring a good turnout
<a href="#">56</a>	The economy - how do we share the pain? We need to ensure fair treatment and ensure the 2 big parties don't unfairly discriminate against their enemies.
<a href="#">57</a>	A much more HONOURABLE foreign policy so that Britain makes more friends than enemies. This means distancing ourselves from the US-Israel axis.
<a href="#">58</a>	The economy and what sort of recovery (if any) we get
<a href="#">59</a>	The economy

<a href="#">60</a>	Housing - it's the key to so much
<a href="#">61</a>	economy
<a href="#">62</a>	The Economy
<a href="#">63</a>	It will be important for Nick to do something constructive about the chaos in the SW - he seems to be ignoring our failure in the hearlands. We need a leader who gets involved.
<a href="#">64</a>	Can we persuade ourselves to be honest with the public? We all know that we're in for a tough ride, and that taxes will have to rise ... can we be straight about this?
<a href="#">65</a>	The Economy
<a href="#">66</a>	Constitutional and Electoral Reform and ending the Economic Crisis.
<a href="#">67</a>	How to get Brown out
<a href="#">68</a>	The Economy (stupid)
<a href="#">69</a>	Being seen as a Party based on principles that benefit the nation's citizens at large and especially those with problems.
<a href="#">70</a>	Cutting the deficit
<a href="#">71</a>	The economy
<a href="#">72</a>	Economy
<a href="#">73</a>	Personal liberty
<a href="#">74</a>	Regaining credibility
<a href="#">75</a>	Economy
<a href="#">76</a>	being seen to put principle over expediency to counter the perception that politics only appeals to the corrupt
<a href="#">77</a>	Convincing the general public that not all MP's are out to line their own pockets. Regardless of what the Parties attempt to create as the theme for the election, it will I fear be the election of MPs expenses.
<a href="#">78</a>	Reshaping the economy to deal with globalisation and climate change.
<a href="#">79</a>	Economy
<a href="#">80</a>	Culmulative debt - ratio to GDP
<a href="#">81</a>	Jobs, and cuts in services, protecting the weakest in society
<a href="#">82</a>	The green agenda
<a href="#">83</a>	Balancing the economic recovery with adressing the state of the public finances.
<a href="#">84</a>	Public expenditure
<a href="#">85</a>	It's the economy, stupid.
<a href="#">86</a>	economy
<a href="#">87</a>	Combatting electoral discontent and disillusionment in politics
<a href="#">88</a>	Climate change. We may not be in the mood to think about it, but we don't have a choice.

<a href="#">89</a>	Unemployment
<a href="#">90</a>	The economy
<a href="#">91</a>	The economy
<a href="#">92</a>	economy/social unrest
<a href="#">93</a>	spending cuts
<a href="#">94</a>	economy/budget
<a href="#">95</a>	Getting the electorate to trust *any* politician, of whatever hue.
<a href="#">96</a>	The economy.
<a href="#">97</a>	The economy, closely followed by the war in Afghanistan.
<a href="#">98</a>	Drug policy reform.
<a href="#">99</a>	Afghanistan
<a href="#">100</a>	public spending cuts
<a href="#">101</a>	How to look different from the Neo Con consensus that plagues British politics.
<a href="#">102</a>	Trust
<a href="#">103</a>	Reconnecting with the people. Not reducing the number of MPs. Smaller "local" constituencies. This is NOT the time to try large multi-member constituencies. Now is the time for AV (+ if really necessary)
<a href="#">104</a>	-
<a href="#">105</a>	their failure to regain public trust and respect
<a href="#">106</a>	Resolving the economic situation in a way that paves the way for a more sustainable way of living (especially re. CO2 emissions).
<a href="#">107</a>	How to get Britain out of the recession and rebuild public finances
<a href="#">108</a>	The economy
<a href="#">109</a>	The economy (barring a terrorist attack)
<a href="#">110</a>	Apathy, of course. People having a "can't be bothered" attitude.
<a href="#">111</a>	Climate change
<a href="#">112</a>	A slightly leading question: my first thought was the economy, but that's probably because I've just had several questions on the subject!
<a href="#">113</a>	The fiscal deficit
<a href="#">114</a>	Economy
<a href="#">115</a>	Rebuilding public confidence in the idea of democratic politics as the "least bad" way of governing. There is now a prevalent corrosive cynicism that "they are all in for themselves" which is leading to disengagement and I think a reduction in a willingness to participate in genuine public consultation/engagement exercises.
<a href="#">116</a>	Restoring public confidence and engagement in the political process
<a href="#">117</a>	Economy

<a href="#">118</a>	The economy, including housing.
<a href="#">119</a>	Balancing the books whilst maintaining employment levels. We need to better define areas of genuine growth for manufacturing to recover and then support it. Also we need to reduce the public sector spend through efficiency in delivery terms - a big challenge but I beleive its possible to cut waste without losing too many staff outside "natural wastage".
<a href="#">120</a>	economy
<a href="#">121</a>	Apathy
<a href="#">122</a>	Economic downturn
<a href="#">123</a>	Damage Limitation. Making sure their candidate is seen as the best for the job, rather than a party hack and works well for his/her constituency
<a href="#">124</a>	Public spending and taxation.
<a href="#">125</a>	Taxation and cuts to public services.
<a href="#">126</a>	unemployment and the effects of the economy
<a href="#">127</a>	The economy
<a href="#">128</a>	Financial crisis
<a href="#">129</a>	The economy.
<a href="#">130</a>	A largely disillusioned Public, with bucket loads of apathy, that will allow more extremists, to get seats. And I cant say I blame them.
<a href="#">131</a>	It's the economy, stupid.
<a href="#">132</a>	The economy
<a href="#">133</a>	The financial crisis.
<a href="#">134</a>	The economy - public spending cuts and tax rises
<a href="#">135</a>	honesty in facing the financial situation
<a href="#">136</a>	Voter apathy
<a href="#">137</a>	Environment
<a href="#">138</a>	Apathy
<a href="#">139</a>	How to energise the electorate and engage them in the political process. Need for discussion and public involvement in decision making.
<a href="#">140</a>	Dealing with the economy.
<a href="#">141</a>	Maintaining public services and investment in the context of dire public finances
<a href="#">142</a>	Jobs and Homes
<a href="#">143</a>	steering the UK out of the recession, cutting debt while not sending the UK back into a double-dip recession
<a href="#">144</a>	Carrying across message effectively in the media and on the streets
<a href="#">145</a>	we need to think outside the box but I think

	that won't happen. Public increasingly cynical and morals have gone to pot with Politics pretty much in view
<a href="#">146</a>	the economy, unemployment
<a href="#">147</a>	Unemployment, personal debt and the growing rich-poor divide.
<a href="#">148</a>	Economic downturn
<a href="#">149</a>	The economy
<a href="#">150</a>	Unemployment
<a href="#">151</a>	Offering sustainable hope and purpose in face of high unemployment which will only slowly decrease.
<a href="#">152</a>	showing we have can change thing for the better with public support mp and community working together to erase race hate
<a href="#">153</a>	Its the economy stupid! But - that element of the economy that is government spending is a huge part of the issue. Government spending has to be controlled - even cut - in real terms. Big ticket items will have to go e.g. Nuclear arms, ID cards, some capital projects (airports, runways, some roads), headcount will have to fall, a bonfire of the quangos.
<a href="#">154</a>	Offering hope. Hope for the Plant, hope for a better more secure future.
<a href="#">155</a>	Balancing the budget
<a href="#">156</a>	Unemployment
<a href="#">157</a>	Choices over public spending
<a href="#">158</a>	"It's the Economy, Stupid" comes to mind. We are very strong in this area and Vince is trusted by the public far more than are Darling and Osborne. Our support for the low paid is a good message. A little pain cannot be avoided for people on middle income - they expect the pain but this needs to be handled with care. I don't think MPs expenses will feature that strongly in the next General Election - the rougues have been largely exposed and are not standing again and folk will be most focused on their financial wellbeing.
<a href="#">159</a>	To address Immigration and Crime and to look how the human rights act can be modified to protect the victim and not the perpetrator. It is not the police but the judiciary that needs to be reformed to better reflect public opinion
<a href="#">160</a>	tax and spend decisions
<a href="#">161</a>	For the Lib Dems, the biggest issue to resolve is that of party funding
<a href="#">162</a>	For the Lib Dems to increase knowledge of their position and policies - poeple STILL don't really know what we stand for. Inertia is OK

	for the 2 big parties, but we need to get out there. Already the Conservatives are placing themselves alongside Obama: we are more akin to him and should regain that position.
<a href="#">163</a>	The Economy stupid
<a href="#">164</a>	Overcoming voter 'they're all as bad as each other' apathy.
<a href="#">165</a>	The economy
<a href="#">166</a>	The means of wealth creation
<a href="#">167</a>	getting electorate fired up enough to vote at all.
<a href="#">168</a>	The state of the economy
<a href="#">169</a>	Split between the budget deficit and Afghanistan.
<a href="#">170</a>	Recruiting new helpers
<a href="#">171</a>	sensible and realistic response to the economic situation. Hurray for Vince.
<a href="#">172</a>	Reforming the political system.
<a href="#">173</a>	The economy
<a href="#">174</a>	Taking moral high ground on the future of politics in general eg working to give back the Michael Brown donation
<a href="#">175</a>	Taxation
<a href="#">176</a>	Economic credibility
<a href="#">177</a>	The preservation of the ancient liberties of the citizens of the UK. These have been attacked by various spurious "anti-terrorist" measures, and absurd extensions of the surveillance society such as the proposed national ID database. We must get the state out of our faces, and keep it out.
<a href="#">178</a>	the economy.
<a href="#">179</a>	Getting the electorate to trust them
<a href="#">180</a>	Economy
<a href="#">181</a>	The economy
<a href="#">182</a>	public spending cuts
<a href="#">183</a>	Total lack of confidence in the political system. Youth unemployment
<a href="#">184</a>	In the real world, both nuclear proliferation and global warming. The the political world, it is the economy.
<a href="#">185</a>	Honesty in politics
<a href="#">186</a>	It's the economy, stupid.
<a href="#">187</a>	a
<a href="#">188</a>	The economy - stupid
<a href="#">189</a>	Expenses
<a href="#">190</a>	Unemployment
<a href="#">191</a>	The economy and public spending.
<a href="#">192</a>	Handling the budget deficit whilst not killing

	off the glimmer of recovery. House prices will still fall and unemployment will rise before 2011.
<a href="#">193</a>	The economy.
<a href="#">194</a>	To try to restore the electorate's faith in the system and block the rise in extremism
<a href="#">195</a>	The fact that the public see the result as a forgone conclusion
<a href="#">196</a>	the economy
<a href="#">197</a>	Dealing with the economy, potentially by cutting spending, whilst maintaining standards in public services
<a href="#">198</a>	For the parties generally, it has to be trust. The public think we are all dishonest and unreliable. The challenge will be to reverse that. The nonsense debate about "honesty" on cuts and public spending is in many ways simply not resonating with the public either way - they don't believe anyone!
<a href="#">199</a>	The economy stupid
<a href="#">200</a>	public finances
<a href="#">201</a>	Economy
<a href="#">202</a>	The economy
<a href="#">203</a>	The economy stupid!
<a href="#">204</a>	It's the economy, stupid!
<a href="#">205</a>	We have come to the end of hte road for 'Thatcherism' aka 'New Labourism' and it has failed. A new paradigm is needed which will, inter alia, address some long standing problems in our national life.
<a href="#">206</a>	How to communicate with the public when we have an increasinly right-wing media
<a href="#">207</a>	Fragmentation of support to smaller minority and extreme parties.
<a href="#">208</a>	Articulate an uplifting vision for Britain in the 21st Century.
<a href="#">209</a>	It's the economy stupid
<a href="#">210</a>	The financial situation
<a href="#">211</a>	Public Spending and tax
<a href="#">212</a>	Taxation & public expenditure - "the economy stupid"
<a href="#">213</a>	Withdrawal of the public from the current political system - rightly or wrongly there is a feeling that it doesn't 'deliver'
<a href="#">214</a>	It's the economy, stupid!
<a href="#">215</a>	Economic recovery
<a href="#">216</a>	Public confidence in the political process
<a href="#">217</a>	The way we do politics. 60% of the population may vote and their top issue will probably be the economy, but 40% will be utterly

	uninspired.
<a href="#">218</a>	The economy, stupid
<a href="#">219</a>	The economy, particularly unemployment.
<a href="#">220</a>	Obviously the economy. However for the Liberal Democrats parliamentary (not just electoral) reform will help make us distinctive from Labour and the Tories and should be part of our agenda during the election
<a href="#">221</a>	A credible economic policy
<a href="#">222</a>	Climate change
<a href="#">223</a>	It's the economy, stupid!
<a href="#">224</a>	?
<a href="#">225</a>	Unemployment and the pay gap between rich and poor
<a href="#">226</a>	The media will ensure it's the economy
<a href="#">227</a>	The economy
<a href="#">228</a>	Convincing people that there is some integrity left in the parliamentary system and keeping sustainability at a high priority
<a href="#">229</a>	Cuts, cuts, cuts.
<a href="#">230</a>	To restore some confidence in party politics to the public eye.
<a href="#">231</a>	It's the economy, stupid!
<a href="#">232</a>	Setting a path through the oil crisis of the next 20 years
<a href="#">233</a>	The economy and political reform
<a href="#">234</a>	Getting more people actually involved in politics