

21st March 2025

Baroness Smith of Basildon, Leader of the House of Lords
Lord True, Leader of His Majesty's Official Opposition in the House of Lords
Lord Newby, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords

Dear Party Leader,

Local elections are a fundamental part of our democracy, but the Government is cancelling them for more than five million voters this May.


This isn't something that was in a manifesto and the reasons given for this move are weak at best.

On Monday 24th March, please can you and your party back the fatal motions tabled by Baroness Pinnock and Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb against the Local Authorities (Changes to Years of Ordinary Elections) (England) Order 2025 (SI 2025/137).

Voters must have a say in who runs their local areas, especially when councillors are making major decisions about merging authorities. They also deserve a say on their local councils and councillors who have been in post for 4 years.

I hope you and your party will vote against the cancellation of these elections.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Brake - Director of Unlock Democracy