

Brighton Pavilion

Brighton Pavilion is a constituency of the UK House of Commons represented since 2010 by Caroline Lucas of the Green Party.

1. Geography

The constituency takes in the western part of Brighton. On the south-eastern border of the seat stands the Royal Pavilion, home of George IV, and on the opposite side of the road the Brighton constituency of Kemptown starts.

Brighton Pavilion encompasses the heart of the city, including The Lanes and the more bohemian North Laine areas. The developed centre has major hotels and entertainment venues and is bordered on the south by the pebbled beach. It has always been a popular tourist destination. It is relatively affluent, with higher than average annual incomes (based on 2001 statistics) and lower than average unemployment.

2. Parliamentary history

The constituency was formed in 1950 from an amalgamation of two previous Brighton constituencies and the present name is derived from the Royal Pavilion. The seat was held by Conservatives until 1997 when it was won by the Labour party candidate, David Lepper. He was the MP for 13 years, winning the two subsequent elections. The Conservatives' share of the vote has declined at every election since 1979.

In July 2007, the Green Party selected Caroline Lucas to contest the seat, at which point she was a Member of the European Parliament for the South East England constituency. In 2010 Labour's share of the vote fell by 6.5% and Lucas won the seat. She retained the seat at the 2015 election with an increased majority. The Liberal Democrat candidate gained 2.8% of the vote, and this was the last time a Liberal Democrat candidate stood in Brighton Pavilion.

In 2017 and 2019 Liberal Democrats stood aside to support Caroline Lucas and the Green Party's stance on the EU. Lucas increased her percentage of the vote share in both 2017 and 2019 elections and in 2019 it was 57.2%. Caroline Lucas will step down as MP at the end of the current Parliament. On 19 July 2023, the Green Party picked Sian Berry to replace her. It is expected that the election will be a tight race between the Green Party and the Labour Party, who gained overall majority of Brighton and Hove Council in May 2023. Labour has yet to select their candidate, but the comedian Eddie Izzard is widely expected to stand. A Liberal Democrat candidate will also stand in this exciting and high-profile constituency.

3. Local Government

The Constituency is within Brighton and Hove City Council. It takes in the City of

Brighton wards of Hanover and Elm Grove, Hollingdean and Fiveways, Patcham and Hollingbury, Coldean and Stanmer, Preston Park, Regency, West Hill and North Laine, Round Hill and parts of Westdene and Hove Park. At the 2023 election Labour won a majority on the council for the first time since 1999. After the election, the party selected Bella Sankey to be its new leader. The number of Green councillors was reduced from 20 seats to 7. The Liberal Democrats currently have no elected councillors, but in May 2023 they fielded 30 candidates across Brighton and Hove, fielding at least one candidate in all but 2 wards in the city.

4. Local Party

There are 105 active members in Brighton Pavilion.



Figure 1 Brighton Pavilion