

YouGov / The Sun Survey Results

Sample Size: 832 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 2nd July 2010

	Voting intention			Gender		Age				Social grade		Region				
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample 832				405	427	100	217	285	230	463	349	109	276	175	200	73
Unweighted Sample	282	242	111	404	428	55	237	295	245	572	240	124	284	148	189	87
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The Conservative-Liberal Democrat government are committed to holding a referendum on changing the electoral system from first-past-the-post (FPTP) to the Alternative Vote (AV), expected to be held next year.

At the moment, under first-past-the-post (FPTP), voters select ONE candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

It has been suggested that this system should be replaced by the Alternative Vote (AV). Voters would RANK a number of candidates from a list. If a candidate wins more than half of the '1st' votes, a winner is declared. If not, the least popular candidates are eliminated from the contest, and their supporters' subsequent preferences counted and shared accordingly between the remaining candidates. This process continues until an outright winner is declared.

Regardless of how you would vote in such a referendum, would you support or oppose the principle of holding a referendum on changing the electoral system to AV?

Support holding a referendum	69	76	67	85	74	65	46	67	79	68	70	67	73	75	65	67	61
Oppose holding a referendum	12	11	21	5	16	8	11	14	9	14	13	11	15	9	8	14	26
Don't know	19	13	12	10	10	27	43	19	11	18	17	22	13	16	27	20	13

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Before the election the Conservative party criticised an AV referendum as likely to cost £80 million at a time when the government would be needing to make major spending cuts.

In view of the government's current cuts in public spending, do you think it is an appropriate or inappropriate time to hold a referendum on AV?

Appropriate	35	34	34	53	45	26	20	34	42	35	41	29	36	40	31	36	26
Inappropriate	46	54	55	26	41	50	37	42	48	49	43	48	49	40	43	47	65
Don't know	19	13	10	21	14	24	43	24	10	16	16	23	16	20	27	17	10