

# The next election might well turn out to feel a very lo...

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I offered a reaction to the local authority elections yesterday in which I pointed out the problems Labour faced. But let's be honest, the party with the biggest problem is the Tories.

Try as the Tories might to claim the results from Thursday's elections were just mid-term blues for a party that has been in power for thirteen years, that is not true. They are, very clearly, a sign that the electorate has had enough of being made deliberately worse off by a government that does not care about their wellbeing and is not willing to do anything to promote it.

The reality is that, as most commentators agree, there is no way back for the Tories at the next general election. Labour may not have a winning lead, but the Tories are heading for a drubbing come what may.

The trouble is, we now have at least sixteen months notice of that. I cannot see the election coming sooner. It may be later. So the question is, what will the Tories do with that time?

It is my guess that we will see a scorched earth retreat. They will pass as much wrecking legislation as they can. They will issue as many contracts as possible, for example for private healthcare supply, to limit the scope for action of an incoming government. And they will make sure the position that government inherits will be as grim as possible, giving it maximum chance of failing to correct the mess so that the Tories can hope they will spend no more than one term out of office.

We know the Tories can be malicious. It is their normal mode of operation. But with their backs against the wall, staring their own rather bleak futures in the face, what will this lot be like? I fear they will make government of ill intent their new chosen approach to creating havoc.

The next election might well turn out to feel a very long time from now.