

## Labour's fading glory

Published: January 13, 2026, 3:12 am

---

As [the FT notes](#) this morning:

*Labour has lost more than 40 per cent of the council seats it has defended in by-elections since the general election, in a further sign that the party's popularity has plunged since July 4.*

*The party's vote share has fallen in 80 per cent of local authority by-elections, and in almost half, its vote share fell by at least 10 per cent, according to a new analysis of its performance in council ballots.*

Bizarrely, most of the losses are to the Tories. Others have gained, but the Tory recovery is almost as shocking as the rapid Labour decline.

The survey covered 101 by-elections.

Politics, as usual, looks as though it might survive for a while. We are all losers as a result.