

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 1723 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 6th - 7th March 2012

	Voting intention			2010 Vote			Gender		Age				Social grade		Region					
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	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	1723				536	454	388	837	886	208	439	589	486	982	741	221	560	369	424	150
Unweighted Sample	1723	512	495	128	546	412	406	820	903	101	420	714	488	1074	649	222	609	335	414	143
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

The government has said that voters should have a means to 'sack' MPs who are guilty of 'serious wrongdoing'. It proposes to allow voters in individual constituencies to vote on whether to recall their MP – that is, to hold a by-election - if more than 10% of voters sign a petition calling for one to take place.

In principle, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea	79	81	78	81	83	78	82	79	80	67	75	81	85	79	79	83	80	80	78	72
Bad idea	10	11	12	10	9	12	8	13	7	18	9	10	7	11	8	6	11	7	10	16
Don't know	11	7	10	8	7	11	10	8	14	15	16	9	8	10	13	11	9	12	12	12

Below are a list of things that people have suggested MPs should be able to be recalled for. In each case please say whether or not you think MPs should or should not face a recall petition if they behave in that way.

Switching to a different political party

Should face recall	52	62	49	62	60	50	51	56	49	39	45	54	62	56	47	49	56	49	51	54
Should not face recall	34	29	34	32	29	33	38	32	35	39	37	33	29	34	33	39	33	32	34	31
Don't know	14	9	16	7	10	17	11	13	16	22	18	13	9	11	19	12	12	19	15	15

Committing a crime serious enough to receive a prison sentence

Should face recall	91	93	91	95	95	91	94	89	93	79	86	95	97	92	91	88	91	90	94	92
Should not face recall	3	1	4	3	1	4	1	3	2	4	3	3	1	3	2	6	2	3	1	1
Don't know	6	5	5	2	4	6	5	7	5	16	11	3	2	5	7	6	6	8	4	7

Committing a less serious crime, that does not receive a prison sentence

Should face recall	56	54	56	55	55	58	57	52	60	44	55	60	59	57	56	57	57	52	59	58
Should not face recall	24	28	25	26	26	24	21	30	19	29	23	24	24	24	24	26	25	22	23	25
Don't know	19	18	19	20	19	18	21	18	21	27	22	16	17	19	20	17	18	25	18	17

Not holding surgeries or responding to constituents' letters

Should face recall	60	53	66	62	60	65	64	61	60	38	55	67	68	58	63	56	59	60	63	67
Should not face recall	26	34	20	29	27	22	24	26	26	38	28	22	23	29	21	32	27	27	23	17
Don't know	14	13	14	8	13	13	12	13	15	24	17	12	9	13	15	12	15	14	14	16

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Supporting a policy with which you disagree																				
Should face recall	10	9	11	8	10	12	8	11	10	6	10	11	12	8	14	9	11	10	11	8
Should not face recall	77	82	76	84	80	74	83	78	76	72	74	77	80	81	71	82	76	76	75	77
Don't know	13	9	13	7	9	14	9	11	15	21	15	13	8	11	16	10	12	14	14	15
Breaking a promise made in their election leaflets																				
Should face recall	50	40	55	39	48	54	50	48	53	43	53	51	51	46	56	44	50	49	56	53
Should not face recall	34	44	30	47	38	30	34	37	32	37	29	33	39	39	27	45	33	32	31	36
Don't know	15	15	15	14	15	16	15	16	15	20	18	16	11	15	17	11	17	19	14	11
Being caught lying in Parliament																				
Should face recall	80	81	79	75	83	80	79	78	81	67	75	82	86	77	83	77	79	79	83	78
Should not face recall	10	11	10	15	10	10	10	13	8	13	11	11	7	12	8	14	11	9	8	11
Don't know	10	8	11	10	8	11	11	10	11	20	14	7	7	11	10	9	10	12	10	11
Taking bribes																				
Should face recall	91	93	92	95	94	92	93	91	92	82	85	95	97	92	90	91	90	90	93	92
Should not face recall	3	2	5	3	1	5	3	3	3	6	4	3	2	4	3	6	4	4	2	0
Don't know	5	5	3	2	5	3	4	6	5	12	11	3	1	5	7	3	6	6	5	8
Being caught claiming expenses that they are not entitled too																				
Should face recall	87	88	88	89	91	86	89	86	88	72	82	91	94	87	88	86	87	85	90	89
Should not face recall	5	5	6	8	3	7	5	6	5	11	5	5	4	6	4	8	6	6	5	1
Don't know	7	7	6	3	6	7	5	8	6	17	13	4	2	7	7	7	7	9	6	10
Making racist or offensive comments																				
Should face recall	70	63	77	71	64	78	72	66	75	61	71	76	66	70	71	71	69	67	72	75
Should not face recall	18	25	13	19	24	12	14	24	12	19	16	15	23	19	16	22	18	19	17	13
Don't know	12	11	10	10	11	9	14	10	13	20	13	8	11	11	13	6	13	14	11	13
Having an affair/cheating on their spouse																				
Should face recall	22	16	23	22	21	23	17	22	22	17	21	23	22	19	24	19	22	21	22	21
Should not face recall	65	70	66	69	65	65	70	67	62	61	65	64	66	69	59	72	64	63	63	63
Don't know	14	14	12	10	14	13	12	11	16	22	14	13	12	12	16	10	14	15	15	15
Under the Government's proposals a petition for a recall could only be started if there was proof that an MP had committed 'serious wrongdoing', in order to avoid petitions being started for party political reasons.																				
Which statement do you agree with most?																				
Voters should only have the chance to recall their MP if they have committed 'serious wrongdoing'	72	80	69	83	80	69	74	71	74	70	69	72	76	77	67	72	71	73	73	74
Voters should have the chance to recall their MP for any reason they wish	17	13	19	12	14	21	17	21	14	12	18	19	17	15	21	21	17	14	18	16
Neither	5	4	6	5	3	4	6	4	5	5	6	5	4	4	6	4	6	6	3	5
Don't know	5	3	6	0	3	6	3	4	7	12	7	4	3	4	7	3	6	7	6	5

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Under the proposals there would be two triggers for deciding if an MP has committed 'serious wrongdoing'.

Voters could start a recall petition if an MP had committed a crime for which they receive a prison sentence or if the House of Commons passed a vote saying they had committed serious wrongdoing and could face a recall petition.

Do you approve or disapprove of these triggers for allowing voters to start a recall petition?

Strongly approve	38	48	36	35	47	36	34	41	35	23	35	37	48	38	38	42	39	37	38	30
Tend to approve	48	43	49	57	42	50	54	45	50	56	45	50	44	49	47	44	48	50	46	51
TOTAL APPROVE	86	91	85	92	89	86	88	86	85	79	80	87	92	87	85	86	87	87	84	81
Tend to disapprove	5	5	6	4	4	6	5	5	5	7	6	6	3	5	5	6	4	5	7	3
Strongly disapprove	2	1	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	7	6	8	8	5	8	6	7	6	7	8	9	4	6	7	8	6	6	8	5
Don't know	7	4	7	1	5	6	6	7	8	14	12	5	4	7	8	6	7	7	8	14

And do you think these triggers would make it too easy for MPs to face recall, too difficult, or would they get the balance about right?

Would be too easy for MPs to face recall	9	12	10	4	11	8	5	9	9	10	6	10	9	9	8	7	9	9	10	4
Would be too difficult for MPs to face recall	17	14	19	20	12	18	21	21	14	22	27	17	7	17	17	22	16	16	16	24
would get the balance about right	55	63	52	61	64	53	55	55	56	42	45	56	70	57	53	54	58	53	55	52
Don't know	19	11	19	15	12	21	18	15	22	26	22	17	14	16	21	17	16	21	19	20

From what you have heard about the proposals to allow recall of MPs, how would their introduction affect your level of confidence in MPs and Parliament?

Would increase my confidence a lot	15	21	13	19	21	14	13	15	15	9	13	15	19	15	14	15	15	13	18	10
Would increase my confidence a little	49	53	45	57	52	43	55	48	49	42	53	47	49	52	45	56	50	47	45	49
TOTAL INCREASE CONFIDENCE	64	74	58	76	73	57	68	63	64	51	66	62	68	67	59	71	65	60	63	59
Would neither increase nor decrease my confidence	24	20	27	20	20	27	24	26	21	21	19	27	24	23	25	18	26	25	23	22
Would decrease my confidence a little	3	1	4	1	2	4	2	3	3	8	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	5	4	2
Would decrease my confidence a lot	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1
TOTAL DECREASE CONFIDENCE	4	1	6	2	2	6	2	4	4	9	3	4	4	4	4	2	2	6	6	3
Don't know	9	4	9	3	4	10	7	7	11	20	13	7	3	7	12	9	7	10	9	15