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University of Exeter online workshop

*“The UK - A case of democratic backsliding?”*



## Enduring issues

### **Voting system of the House of Commons**

Safe seats  
Wasted votes  
Tactical voting  
Skewed policy choices (ie Towns Fund)

### **Structure of House of Lords**

Democratic participation and accountability  
Composition  
Size  
Reflection of a political culture

## Recent issues

Political donations  
Boundary changes  
Lobbying Act and Trade Union Act  
Parliamentary sanctions (eg Owen Paterson; partygate)  
English Votes for English Laws/devolution structures

## Current issues

2022 local elections (All London, parts of England, all of Scotland and Wales)  
Elections Bill (status of Electoral Commission; compulsory voter ID measures; voting system for metro mayors and police and crime commissioners)

## **Publications for additional information**

The discussion will be aided and informed by the following Electoral Reform Society research reports (external authors noted where applicable)

Power of Preferences: STV in Scottish local elections by Professor Sir John Curtice  
<https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/the-power-of-preferences-stv-in-scottish-local-elections/>

Elections Bill report stage briefing: <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/parliamentary-briefings/briefing-on-the-elections-bill-report-stage/>

2019 General Election, Voters Left Voiceless <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/the-2019-general-election-voters-left-voiceless/>

Westminster Beyond Brexit: Ending the Politics of Division <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/westminster-beyond-brex-it-ending-the-politics-of-division/>

Here to Stay, Two Decades of Proportional Representation in Britain <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/here-to-stay-two-decades-of-pr-in-britain/>

Democracy Made in England <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/democracy-made-in-england-where-next-for-english-local-government/>

Democracy in the Dark by Katharine Dommett and Sam Power <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/democracy-in-the-dark-digital-campaigning-in-the-2019-general-election-and-beyond/>

The High Cost of Small Change: House of Lords <https://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/latest-news-and-research/publications/the-high-cost-of-small-change/>