

## Constituency Profile – Wakefield

Wakefield is a cathedral city on the River Calder in West Yorkshire, England. It is the City of Wakefield district's administrative centre. The city had a population of 99,251 in the 2011 census. It is part of the West Yorkshire Built-up Area and the Yorkshire and Humber region. The district borough, governed from the city, had a mid-2019 est. population of 348,312, the 21st most populous district in England.

The economy - The largest proportion of residents of the Wakefield district work in the wholesale and retail trade, including repair of motor vehicles; secondly manufacturing industry; a proportion of the residents work within the health and social work sector and the smallest number of the population are employed in the transport, storage and communication industries. Wakefield is a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, a sub-regional economic development partnership covering an area of the historic county of Yorkshire.

Culture - In May 2011 the Hepworth gallery opened on the south bank of the River Calder near Wakefield Bridge, displaying work by local artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore and other British and international artists. The gallery is thought to be the largest purpose-built gallery to open in the United Kingdom since 1968.

Politics – In the December 2019 General Election the Conservatives gained the Wakefield constituency from Labour. The results were:

- Imran Ahmad-Khan (Con) 47.3% (+2.3%)
- Mary Creagh (Lab) 39.8% (-9.9%)
- Peter Wiltshire (Brexit Party) 6.1% (+6.1%)
- Jamie Needle (Lib Dem) 3.9% (+1.9%)
- Ryan Kett (Yorkshire Party) 1.9% (-0.6%)
- Stephen Whyte (Independent) 1.0% (+1.0%)

Following the results from the 2021 Wakefield council elections, the make-up of the council (63 seats) is:

- Labour 43 seats
- Conservatives 17 seats
- Liberal Democrats 2 seats
- Independent 1 seat

The Liberal Democrats have enjoyed recent success in council elections, gaining two of the three seats in the Knottingley ward, which is part of the Normanton, Pontefract & Castleford parliamentary constituency. Cllr Tom Gordon was elected in 2019, and Cllr Adele Hayes was elected in 2021. The council elects in thirds, and there are elections across the Wakefield local authority area on 5th May.

In the 2021 West Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral elections, the first-round result in the Wakefield local authority area was:

- Tracy Brabin (Lab) 42.81%
- Matt Robinson (Con) 31.27%
- Bob Buxton (Yorkshire Party) 11.92%

- Andrew Cooper (Green) 5.91%
- Waj Ali (Reform UK) 3.72%
- Stewart Golton (Lib Dem) 3.13%
- Thérèse Hirst (English Democrat) 1.25%

In the 2016 EU referendum in the Wakefield local authority area, 66.4% of those who voted (71.1% turnout) voted Leave.

For further information about the constituency, please contact Tony Sargeant on 01924 260764 or 07808 792503.

