

Who replaces Boris Johnson?

How, when and who

Boris Johnson's fate has finally been sealed. In the end, his Party could no longer take the steady stream of stories that undermined the Government, the Party, and his authority. It now means a new leader and Prime Minister is needed – there is considerable pressure for the Conservatives to act quickly, but there are real dangers in moving too fast.

Now what happens next?

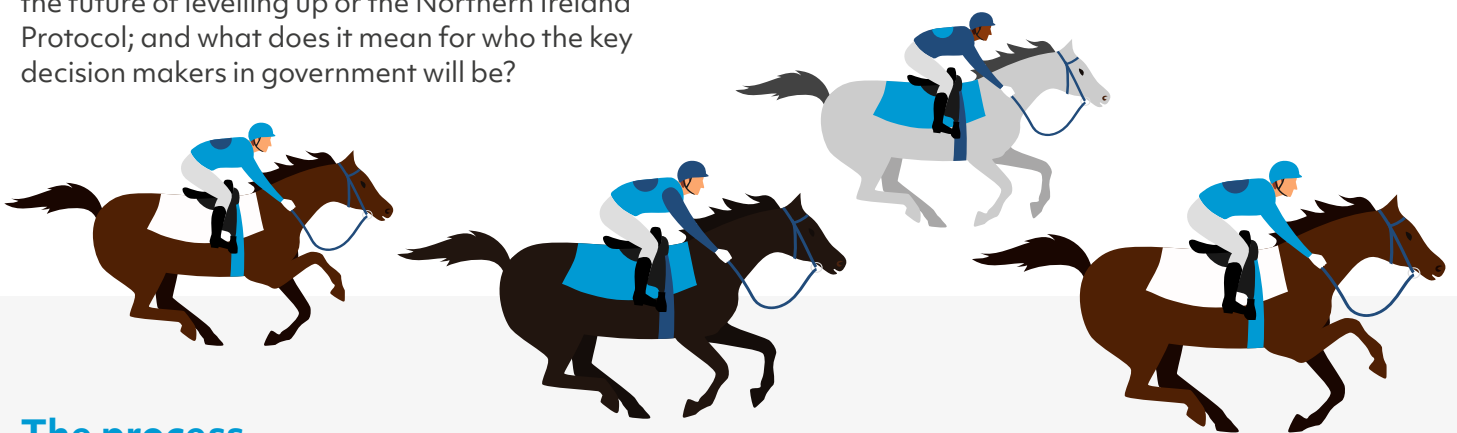
With no clear frontrunner, candidates from across the Party will be jockeying for position. Whether they stand for the top job or to secure a place around the Cabinet table, we are likely to see a wave of interest and speculation on who will run and who will back who. It will therefore fall to the 1922 Committee to shape the rules and ultimately, shape who can and who cannot run.

Business will be keen to understand the Government's future direction. What does the current political drama mean for the overarching policy agenda and philosophy; what does it mean for detailed policy proposals – whether that be the cost of living crisis, the future of levelling up or the Northern Ireland Protocol; and what does it mean for who the key decision makers in government will be?

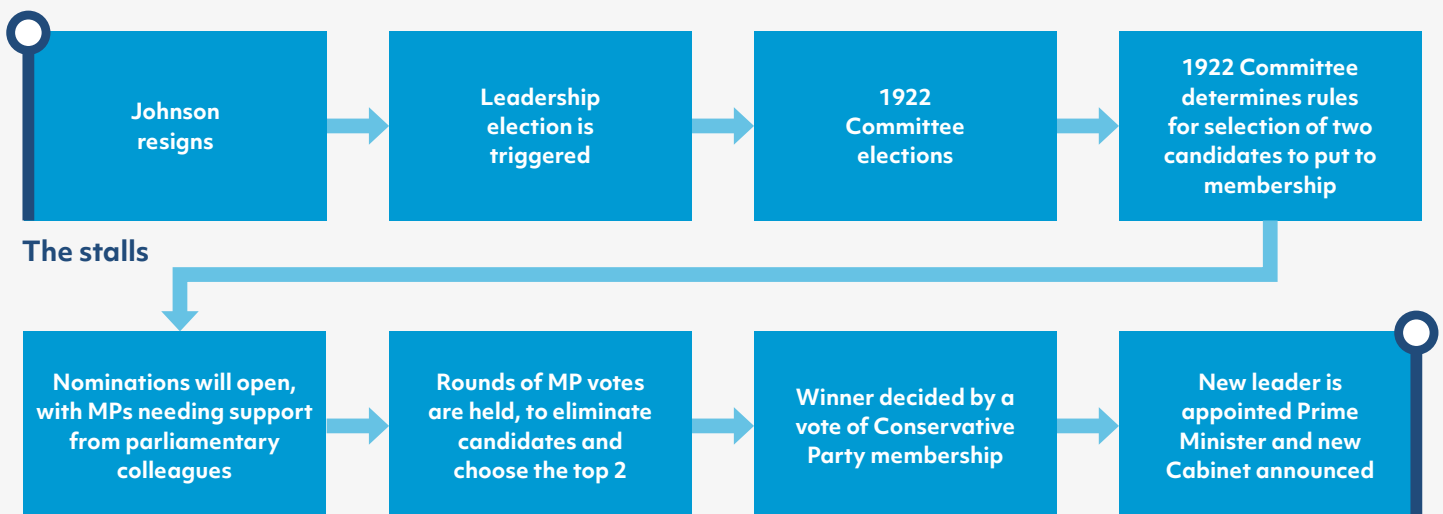
Over the coming weeks WA will be unpacking these questions. This briefing looks ahead to the process for selecting a new leader and who is most likely to emerge as the key contenders.

This briefing covers:

- What are the next steps following Johnson's resignation?
- What the process will be for selecting a new leader
- Who the leading candidates are, and what are the likely platforms they will be standing on



The process



Finishing line

Runners and riders



No candidate comes into the race as the clear frontrunner. Figures across Cabinet have been gearing up campaigns discreetly for months, with no obvious choice for the Party to coalesce around now. It leaves the race open to the candidates that perform well in the coming few weeks, and those that can make the right deals to keep other candidates out of the race or attract supporters of those who fail to make the grade in early rounds.

As the starting pistol is fired, the favourites would seem to be Wallace, Mordaunt, Sunak and Javid. Tom Tugendhat is the Cabinet outsider who has been most prominently jockeying. But in a fractured field the race is nowhere near decided.

Ben Wallace

The Defence Secretary has walked a careful line to become one of the new favourites for the leadership. A confident grasp of his brief, impressive media performances in the face of war in Ukraine and a long-standing loyalty to the Prime Minister may make him a favourite with Johnson loyalists and those in the Party who want a return to quieter politics.



Likely leadership platform: continuation of Johnson's policy platform, leaning on his experience to talk about global Britain and its role in the world. Latest odds 3/1

Penny Mordaunt

A former Defence Secretary and Trade Minister, Mordaunt has been amassing momentum for a bid. Her staunch backing of Brexit, reputation as an effective communicator, and distance from Johnson given she was not in Cabinet could win her backing across the Party. Questions remain on her experience and whether she can face up to the challenges the Party is dealing with.



Likely leadership platform: Able to unite the party by being pro-Brexit but appealing to the party's 'One Nation' wing on domestic policy. Latest odds 11/2

Rishi Sunak

The former chancellor has fallen out of favour with the Party but, following his resignation, has regained momentum with the punters. Pandemic spending made him popular, but his resignation highlighted his desire for fiscal discipline and a change in direction on economic policy from Johnson. If he enters, Sunak will be weakened by his family's tax scandal and face an uphill battle to convince members he has the political decision-making skills to govern.



Likely leadership platform: Fiscal discipline, lower taxes, and public services reform. Latest odds 9/2

Sajid Javid

The Former Health Secretary has the best claim to wielding the knife, but will he wear the crown? Javid and Sunak come from similar Thatcherite political traditions, and Javid will hope his competence across the Departments he has run, and boldness he showed in resigning, will win him support. Though, if both Javid and Sunak enter the race, they may undercut support for each other.



Likely leadership platform: Not dissimilar from Sunak's, but with a focus on competence, integrity and opportunity. Latest odds 10/1

Liz Truss

The grassroots darling has fallen behind in recent weeks, but the Foreign Secretary still has a clear path. Her experience in trade and making the most of Brexit has gone down well, and she has projected her role as a stateswoman since leadership questions began. Truss' biggest weakness will be the range of candidates running on similar platforms.



Likely leadership platform: Global Britain, lower taxes, promoting personal responsibility over greater state intervention. Latest odds 10/1

Jeremy Hunt

The runner up to Johnson has made no secret of his desire to run for leader a second time. He led the failed campaign to de-seat Johnson in the confidence vote and will try to highlight how he is untainted by the Government or recent crises. As interest has fallen away, Hunt may decide his best option is to back someone else to regain a seat at the Cabinet table.



Likely leadership platform: Highlighting his strong ministerial record and personal competency, 'One Nation' policy agenda. Latest odds 12/1

Tom Tugendhat

The Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee will lead the charge for 'One Nation' centrists in the party. Whilst few people expect Tugendhat to emerge victorious, he will seek to reassert the influence of centrists in the party and play king maker in who reaches the final two.



Likely leadership platform: One Nation Conservatism, liberal economics, expansion of defence spending. Latest odds: 6/1

Outsiders

A number of other figures are likely to be interested in running. Chancellor Nadhim Zahawi's stock rose as Vaccines Minister but has been dented by his miscalculation to take the job in Number 11. While Attorney General Suella Braverman was the first to openly declare her intention to stand, her prospects are slim. Others like Chair of the COVID Recovery Group Mark Harper will advocate for pro-Brexit, libertarian policy, whilst newer MPs will look to fresh faces like Kemi Badenoch to draw a line under the crisis and move past the 'old guard'.

