



Ross Lydall, City Hall Editor
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Boris Johnson is leading the race for Mayor among "influential" Londoners, a poll has revealed.

The Tory is on 44 per cent, with Ken Livingstone on 38 per cent and Liberal Democrat candidate Brian Paddick third on 12 per cent.

But Mr Paddick, the former Met deputy assistant commissioner, was well ahead when respondents were asked who would win their second preference votes - backing his belief that he can seize power if he makes it through to the second round of voting on 1 May.



Boris Johnson: Did well in the YouGovStone poll

Today's YouGovStone poll for the Evening Standard asked 533 Londoners drawn from the business, culture, education, government, media and voluntary sectors for their views on a range of questions on the Mayoral race.

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According to the poll, Mr Johnson would attract 44 per cent of first preference votes, Mr Livingstone 38 per cent, Mr Paddick 12 per cent and Green candidate Sian Berry four per cent. After the initial vote count, the top two candidates will go on to the second round, with second preference votes of the eliminated candidates being re-allocated if they are for either of the two front runners. Mr Paddick was the most popular second choice, with 37 per cent of respondents prepared to offer him their second vote, followed by Ms Berry on 28 per cent, Mr Livingstone on 18 per cent and Mr Johnson on a poor 10 per cent.

If the first and second preference votes were added together, Mr Livingstone would receive 56 per cent and Mr Johnson 54 per cent. However, not all second preference votes will come into play - if a voter's first choice makes it through to the second round their second preference vote is not counted.

Mr Paddick said today: "The way the voting system works means that only two people stand a chance of winning this election: Ken or me.

"Every Mayoral election to date has been decided by second preference votes. If it's Ken and Boris in the run-off, Ken will win. If it's Ken and me, I will win. If you've had enough of Livingstone you have to vote Paddick on 1 May."

Mr Livingstone scored well on his performance in his eight years as Mayor - 61 per cent felt he had done "very well" or "fairly well" while 39 per cent said he had done fairly or very badly. Mr Johnson was just one point ahead (on 36 per cent) when respondents were asked who would do most to enhance London's reputation. Mr Paddick got 11 per cent.

Mr Livingstone was most trusted to act in the interests of London in the event of another terrorist attack, beating Mr Johnson by 36 per cent to 28 per cent. Mr Paddick, who was one of the public faces of the Met after the July 2005 attacks, came third on 20 per cent. The Mayor was also judged best placed - by some distance - to improve the lives of London's ethnic minority communities, receiving 47 per cent backing. Transport was considered the priority issue by 34 per cent, followed by crime (28 per cent). The environment and housing scored only five per cent and four per cent respectively.

Some 45 per cent of respondents said the congestion charge was very or fairly important in determining who they would vote for, while 54 per cent said it was not very or at all important.

A spokesman for Ken Livingstone said: "It is impossible to provide any serious comment on [the poll's] contents given that by its own admission the sample in this poll is not representative and must not be represented as such."

THE CANDIDATES



Ken Livingstone (Labour)

How likely are you to vote in these elections?

Certain to vote	74
Very likely to vote	17
Fairly likely to vote	4
Fairly unlikely to vote	1
Very unlikely to vote	1
Certain not to vote	1
I am not eligible to vote	2

Who are you most likely to vote for?

Boris Johnson (Conservative)	44
Ken Livingstone (Labour)	38
Brian Paddick (Lib-Dem)	12
Sian Berry (Green)	4
Other	2

Who would you trust the most to act in your best interests in the event of another terrorist attack on London?

Ken Livingstone	36
Boris Johnson	28
Brian Paddick	20
Sian Berry	0
Other	13

What would decide you vote for?

Vote for the candidate of the party that I support	17
Vote for the candidate who I think has the best personal qualities to be mayor	25
Vote for the candidate who I think has put forward the best policies for London	41
Vote for the candidate who I think is best placed to defeat a candidate I don't want to win	14
Vote for a candidate or party as a protest vote	2
Other	1



Boris Johnson (Tory)

In your opinion which of these candidates will do most to enhance London's reputation?

Boris Johnson	36
Ken Livingstone	35
Brian Paddick	11
Sian Berry	3
Other	3

Who will get your second preference vote?

Boris Johnson	10
Sian Berry	28
Ken Livingstone	18
Brian Paddick	37
Other	6

Which of these candidates would be best placed to improve the lives of London's ethnic minority communities?

Ken Livingstone	47
Boris Johnson	19
Brian Paddick	13
Sian Berry	2
Other	3

Which ONE of the following policy areas should be priority for the Mayor?

Transport	34
Crime and safety	28
Council tax & London's cost of living	9
Poverty and inequality	7
Environment & climate change	5
Business/Economic development	4
Housing	4
Education and skills	3
The Olympics and its legacy	2
Planning policy	2
Arts and culture	1
Health	0
Other	2



Brian Paddick (Lib Dem)

Which area of transport do you think needs most attention from the Mayor?

The Tube	47
The road network (including buses and the congestion charge)	33
The overground rail network	10
Crossrail	3
Other	6

How important to you is the congestion charge in determining which candidate you might vote for?

Very important	16
Fairly important	29
Not very important	34
Not at all important	20

Do you think Ken Livingstone has performed well or badly as Mayor?

Very well	17
Fairly well	44
Fairly badly	23
Very badly	16

Do you feel that the current role of mayor is a good thing or a bad thing for London?

Very good	51
Fairly good	35
Fairly bad	9
Very bad	4

Should the Mayor get more powers from central government?

He should have more power	32
He should have less power	12
Neither more nor less power — I am happy with the way things are	52



Sian Berry (Green)

Should the Mayor get more power taken from boroughs? Do you think the role of London Mayor should have more power or less power than he currently has or are you happy with how things are at the moment?

He should have more power — power should be taken away from London's borough councils and given to the Mayor	28
He should have less power — power should be taken away from the Mayor and given back to London's borough councils	24
Neither more nor less power — I am happy with the way things are	42

Which, if any, of the following options for the future of the congestion charge would you support?

Raise the charge to £25 for higher polluting vehicles only	40
Stick to the £8 daily charge for all vehicles	32
Extend the zone to cover other areas in London	15
Abolish the congestion charge	15
Increase the basic charge from £8 to £25 for all vehicles	8
None of the above	4

Which ONE of the following comes closest to your view towards London's "bendy buses"?

They should be abolished	54
They need further researching	24
They should be retained	10
There should be more of them	5
Other	3

● Where totals do not add up to 100, some respondents answered "don't know"

• In the latest of our agenda-setting debates about issues facing London, the Evening Standard Influentials/YouGovStone Debate tonight asks: What does London need from the next Mayor?

Guest speakers are Mr Johnson, writer Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, columnist Nick Cohen, former New Nation editor Michael Eboda and Sir Simon Jenkins. The debate, from 6.30pm at Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace SW1, is chaired by Evening Standard executive editor Anne McElvoy. Some tickets will be available on the door.

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