

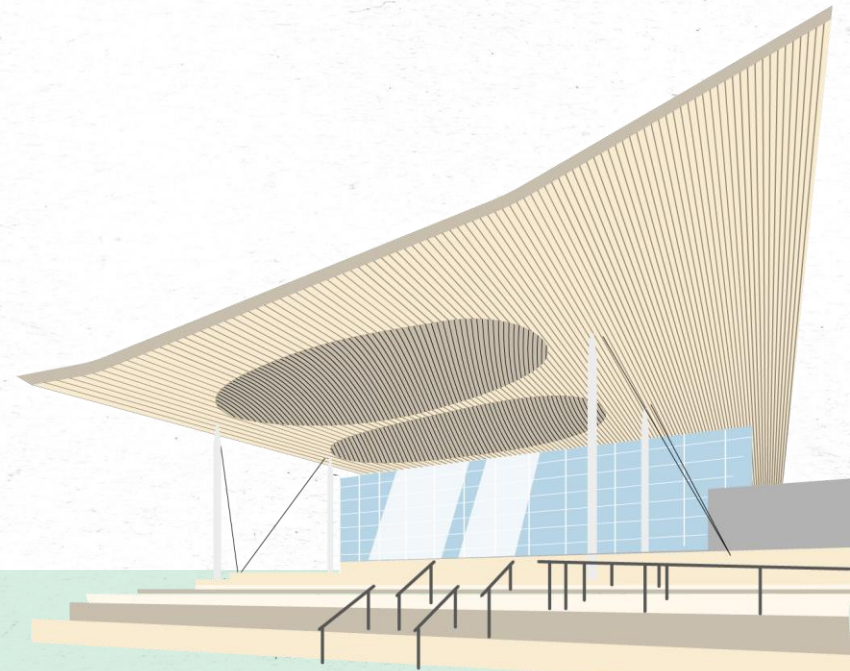


grasshopper

2026 Senedd Update

Grasshopper Communications

Thursday 9th July 2026



Agenda

Election results

What next?

Policy analysis

Opportunities

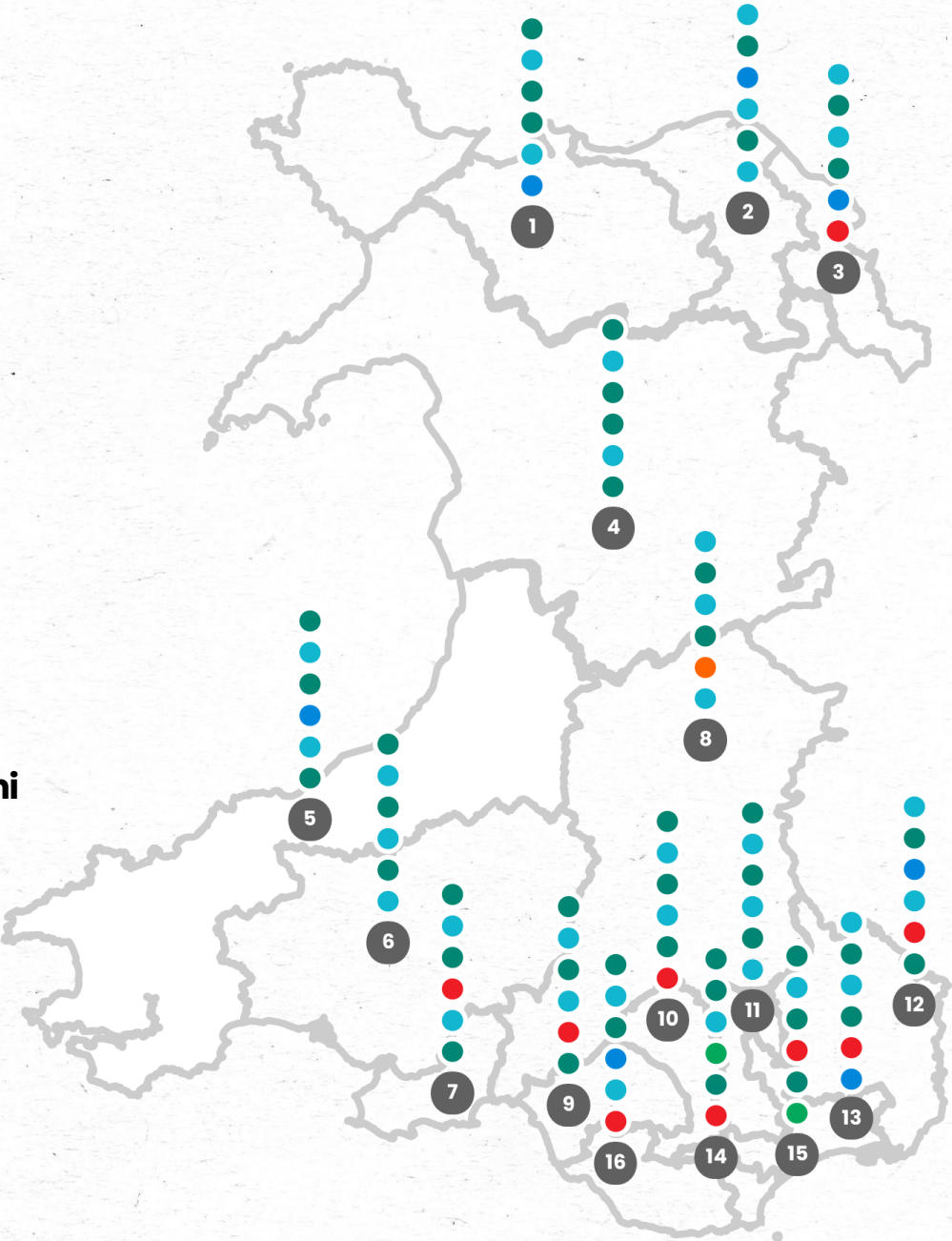


Election Results



Results

- 1 Bangor Conwy Môn
- 2 Clwyd
- 3 Fflint Wrecsam
- 4 Gwynedd Maldwyn
- 5 Ceredigion Penfro
- 6 Sir Gaerfyrddin
- 7 Gŵyr Abertawe
- 8 Brycheiniog Tawe Nedd
- 9 Afan Ogwr Rhondda
- 10 Pontypridd Cynon Merthyr
- 11 Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni
- 12 Sir Fynwy Torfaen
- 13 Casnewydd Islwyn
- 14 Caerdydd Penarth
- 15 Caerdydd Ffynnon Taf
- 16 Pen-y-bont Bro Morgannwg



- 43 Plaid Cymru
- 34 Reform UK
- 9 Labour
- 7 Conservative
- 2 Greens
- 1 Lib Dems

Government Formation

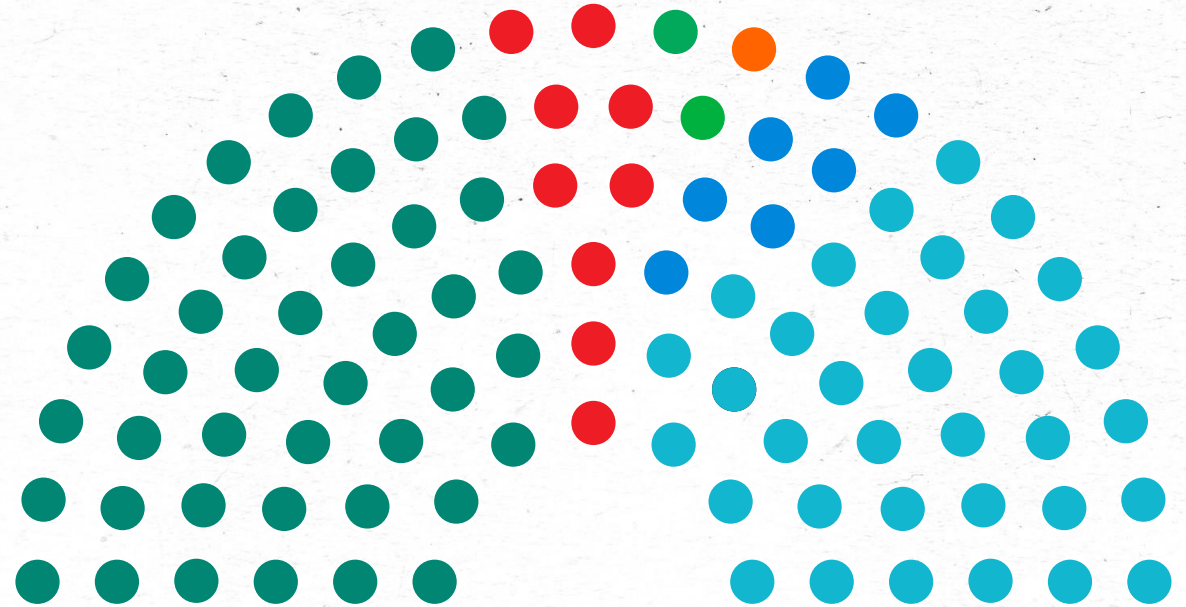
Majority: **49**

Plaid Cymru minority: **43**

Plaid – Greens – Lib Dems: **46**

Plaid Cymru – Labour: **52**

Reform UK – Conservatives: **41**



43
Plaid
Cymru

9
Welsh
Labour

2
Wales Green
Party

34
Reform UK
Wales

7
Welsh
Conservatives

1
Welsh Liberal
Democrats

First Minister and Opposition Leader



Rhun ap Iorwerth

Plaid Cymru
Bangor Conwy Môn

Background as a journalist for BBC Wales

Represented Ynys Môn since 2013

Leader of Plaid Cymru since 2023

Leadership has seen party shift focus away from independence



Dan Thomas

Reform UK
Casnewydd Islwyn

Raised in Wales, moved to London at 18

Former Conservative, led Barnet Council 2019–22

Defected to Reform UK in 2025

Announced as surprise Wales leader in February 2026

Key portfolio holders



Sian Gwenllian MS

Plaid Cymru
Cabinet Minister for Local Government,
Housing and Planning



Francesca O'Brien MS

Reform UK
Shadow Cabinet Minister for Local
Government, Housing and Planning



Jayne Bryant MS

Welsh Labour
Spokesperson for Housing,
Communities, Public and Preventative
Health

Policy commitments

Local Government, Housing & Planning

Sian Gwenllian set out her priorities for her Local Government, Housing and Planning portfolio on 9 June.:

- Delivering **20,000 social homes by 2030** – high quality and energy efficient
- Package of **renters protections** including fair rents
- Legislate for the right to **adequate housing for all**
- Stronger support for **fuel poverty, energy efficiency**, and a review of War Homes programme
- “Renewed focus” on **second homes** and holiday lets
- **Community centred** approach to planning
- Strengthen the relationship between the **Welsh Government and local authorities**

Committee Chairs



Carmelo Colasanto MS

Reform UK

Chair of the Local Government,
Housing and Planning Committee



Elwyn Vaughan MS

Plaid Cymru

Chair of the Economy, Energy, and
Connectivity Committee



Zaynub Akbar MS

Plaid Cymru

Chair of the Equality, Human Rights,
and Social Justice Committee

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee



Carmelo Colasanto
MS
Reform UK
Chair



David Hughes MS
Reform UK



Francesca O'Brien
MS
Reform UK



Rebeca Phillips MS
Plaid Cymru



Marc Jones MS
Plaid Cymru



Elyn Stephens MS
Plaid Cymru



Peter Fox MS
Welsh Conservatives



Anthony Slaughter
MS
Wales Green Party



Mike Hedges MS
Welsh Labour

Timeline



Date	Activity
8 th May	Ballots counted and result announced
June – July	Senedd plenary sessions Senedd Committees formed
20 th July	Senedd recess
July – September	MS and Minister summer visits and setting up offices Welsh Government's Programme for Government likely published Committees forward plan consultations
16 th August	First 100 days milestone
14 th September	Senedd returns

Policy analysis



Planning

Plaid Cymru		Labour
Provide greater clarity in planning		Streamlining planning for renewables
Reduce planning complexity and bureaucracy		Fastest planning system in the UK
Reform consultation processes		
Welsh Language embedded in planning		Welsh language considerations in development
New National Development Framework		
Improving skills and apprenticeships		Planning skills investment

Housing

Plaid Cymru		Labour
Legislate a Right to Adequate Housing		End homelessness by 2034
Regular Housing Survey		
Limit energy efficiency requirements to enable greater social housing stock		Ensure all new-builds include renewable energy generation
Establish 'Unnos' – a national development body and social housing enabler		National Housing Taskforce
Deliver at least 20,000 new social homes by 2030		100,000 homes over 10 years
		Expand Help to Buy
Seek powers for a Vacant Land Tax		Introduce a Vacant Land Tax

Plaid Cymru		Labour
Establish National Development Agency for Wales		New Industrial Strategy for Wales
		National Jobs Council
Keep more spending in Wales		
Reform business rates to support high streets		Business rates review and high street investment
Rural Development Strategy		Rural Economic Development Plan
Building community wealth		Expand co-operatives and community ownership

Transport

Plaid Cymru		Labour
New framework for making decisions on transport		
Connecting Wales		New rail links
Revisit transport links		Targeted interventions on major road pinch points

Environment

Plaid Cymru		Labour
Climate and Nature Action Plan for Wales and net zero by 2040		Protect 30% of land and sea for nature and set 100% renewable electricity target by 2035
Embedding decarbonisations, sustainability and environmental protection		Net zero public sector by 2030 ambition

Reform

Key policies	
Build the M4 relief road and upgrade the A55 North Wales Expressway and A470	
Speed up planning, with deadlines on decisions, a presumption in favour of development where supply is needed, and intervention where councils fail to deliver homes	
Let Help to Buy expire	
Step in where councils fail to secure Community Infrastructure Levy funding from developers	
Repeal sustainability requirements	

Opportunities



Stakeholder

Opportunities for engagement

Welsh Government

Sharing experiences and asks with Welsh Government ministers and civil servants:

- Consultation responses
- White Paper responses

Building networks and recognition with new ministers and civil servants

Opposition parties

Building networks and cross-party support for the housing agenda

Senedd committees

Sharing experiences and asks with Senedd committees:

- Committee forward plan consultation response
- Committee inquiry evidence sessions and consultation responses

Presented by Grasshopper Communications
for HBF



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