

by Mark Pack 5 years ago

Eastleigh by-election: 23 February - Labour aims high and is falling short

Right, let's start with the bravest MP spotted so far. Labour MP Tristram Hunt has well and truly stuck his neck out about how Labour needs to do really well in Eastleigh:

"Ed Miliband decided to fight to win with a high-profile candidate. John O'Farrell might be a comedian, but we are taking this by-election seriously, because if Labour is not interested in representing Eastleigh, then we have no governing project..."

"This is the psychological significance of Eastleigh. It shows that the Labour party is not going to retreat to a core strategy of upping the solid Labour vote while picking off disaffected Liberal Democrats. Nor will we limit ourselves to precision strikes against a few target wards in Stevenage and Redditch."

All of which will make a distant third or fourth place rather an embarrassment by his own standards.



S TRISTRAM HUNT

How Eastleigh will show Labour is working

Politics offers few greater pleasures than watching a by-election candidate self-immolate. Not a day goes by without Maria Hutchings, the...

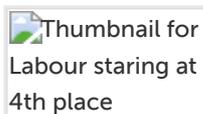
Oh look, here's a new poll which put the Lib Dems 5% ahead and Labour slumping:



UK Polling Report

It has been said on here previousy that the next poll would be critical for the Lib Dems. If Labour had a significant increase in VI then...

1 UKPOLLINGREPORT



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Labour staring at 4th place

WORRIED Labour bosses fear they will come FOURTH in next week's Eastleigh by-election, in what would be a massive blow for Ed Miliband. T...

Finally, after weeks of lagging effort, the Tory campaign seems to be picking up its levels of help:



Tim Montgomerie
TimMontgomerie

300 Tory activists were registered at [#Eastleigh](#) campaign HQ by 10am this morning. No shortage of volunteers to deliver and canvass.

5 YEARS AGO

But the Liberal Democrat helper levels are continuing to hit new heights:

 **Mike Thornton**
Mike4Eastleigh

And we've just broken through the 400 volunteer mark for the day. I'm running out of superlatives to describe the help we've had. #eastleigh

 5 YEARS AGO

All of which leaves on or two people not so happy:



@markpack One for your daily roundup of #Eastleigh I think Mark, via #MichaelFabricantMP
pic.twitter.com/wMe9ROBsIW/wMe9ROBsIW

 SIMON SHARPE-FOSTER @BRUMPOLITICS · 5 YEARS AGO

(Full marks by the way for getting the Lib Dem logo right, Mr/Ms Voter. You do better than many a media outlet.)

And finally, a trio of other stories:



UKIP MEP defects to Tories - ITV News

Read UKIP MEP defects to Tories latest on ITV News. All the Friday 22nd February 2013 news

 ITV



The Eastleigh by-election is a horrible warning for the Tories - Telegraph

Since winning by-elections is inextricably linked to getting your vote out, the party's choice of issues is designed both to fulfil that ...

 TELEGRAPH



Eastleigh by-election: your essential round-up of the week's campaign news

Liberal Democrats have broken their own party's by-election campaign records with more volunteers, more money raised and more campaign li...

 STEPHEN TALL