



A radical, campaigning voice

I'm a **successful campaigner** in Oxfordshire in a Labour-facing area where I chair the County Council group; a 3 times PPC and a past member of many Federal committees. The last time I stood for election to this body, Charles Kennedy with our robust backing led the country in protest at an illegal war. **We need this kind of principle and dynamism now**, in the face of far-right extremism and Labour's capitulation to it.



I've held office at most levels in the party. Having helped many councillors get elected across Oxfordshire, in May I won a seat that had only ever been won by the Tories.

Currently I'm **regional campaigns chair** for South Central. **We intend to win our looming Mayoral contests**, but the party's strategy to win these elections and cope with Labour's so-called "devolution" needs clarity and lines of responsibility. And that much was clear by the absence of our most powerful members - **us in local government** - from the platform at Boonmouth.

I'm a campaigner at heart, but there is **no point campaigning without**

principle. The party must stand firm against all discrimination, especially when directed against our own members and helpers. The alternative is too real and too frightening to contemplate.

As chair of Oxfordshire's majority Lib Dem council group, I will **stand up for local government** and our base, **without fear or favour**. Our work must be a prominent part of our core narrative - in how we **exercise power**.



My Priorities

- ✓ **WIN Mayoral elections in May** - vital for our national credibility. This **MUST** be at the heart of our strategy.
- ✓ **A voice for localism** - platforming our most powerful leaders running local government and standing as Mayors.
- ✓ **Talking the talk on diversity** - no more caving into a tiny minority who don't live our values on inclusivity and abuse non-binary and trans colleagues.

Gareth's Factfile

- ✓ Party member since 1992
- ✓ County Councillor in Oxfordshire and Group Chair
- ✓ Experience campaigning against both the Conservatives and Labour all over the country
- ✓ Regularly invited to HQ 'top canvassers' calls
- ✓ 15 years' experience on FCC before becoming the first independent HS2 Construction Commissioner and becoming politically restricted
- ✓ Chaired the General Election campaigns for Witney in 2019; Bicester & Woodstock 2024
- ✓ Changed the law for pubs leading the Fair Deal for your Local coalition
- ✓ Co-compere of the Glee Club since 2005
- ✓ Former co-chair of the Social Liberal Forum; member of the Liberator Collective; founder member, Lib Dem Friends of Palestine; former Youth & Student sabbatical officer
- ✓ 3x Parliamentary candidate
- ✓ Successfully moved Next Business at Spring 2023 on a discriminatory constitutional amendment.

What I will bring to Federal Board::

Doorstep feedback as one of the country's top canvassers

Experience as a councillor on town, district, county and unitary councils, in opposition and currently in overall control

Almost 30 years' experience on FCC< FPC and the old Federal Executive

Perspective as a regional campaigns chair for South Central, having campaigned against Tory, Labour and Green and with Reform UK adjacent to my division

Career perspective as a leading community relations professional

Regular feedback from councillors around the country - and reporting back to the ALDC and LGA Lib Dem Group.



Gareth EPPS

Your number one choice for local government oo Federal Board



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Please give Gareth your FIRST preference vote