

World Live Blog

Live updates: Britain votes to leave the European Union



June 24, 2016



Nigel Farage (front), the leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) reacts with supporters, following the result of the EU referendum, outside the Houses of Parliament in London, Britain June 24, 2016. (Toby Melville / Reuters)

The choice could have disastrous consequences for the British economy and ripple across the globe.

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French President Hollande: 'Europe cannot act as before'

Julie Vitkovskaya · June 24, 7:03 AM

#BREAKING Vote for Brexit a 'grave test for Europe': Hollande

— AFP news agency (@AFP) [June 24, 2016](#)

In a brief television statement, French President François Hollande said he regrets the British vote to leave the European Union and that the Brexit outcome will be a “grave test for Europe.”

Hollande also called for increased security.

“To move forward, Europe cannot act as before,” he said.



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Donald Tusk and others: 'We regret this decision but respect it'

Julie Vitkovskaya · June 24, 7:01 AM

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Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, released a joint statement with Mark Schulz, president of the European Council, and others after meeting in Brussels with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker about the Brexit outcome.

“In a free and democratic process, the British people have expressed their wish to leave the European Union. We regret this decision but respect it.

“This is an unprecedented situation but we are united in our response. We will stand strong and uphold the EU’s core values of promoting peace and the well-being of its peoples. The Union of 27 Member States will continue. ...

“We now expect the United Kingdom government to give effect to this decision of the British people as soon as possible, however painful that process may be. Any delay would unnecessarily prolong uncertainty.

Read the [full statement here](#).



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Merkel voices "great regret" over Brexit vote

Ishaan Tharoor · June 24, 7:01 AM

Speaking in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced a new emergency meeting with European leaders this and week and spoke of her regret over the result of the referendum.

***BREAKING:** German Chancellor Merkel voices "great regret" at British decision to leave EU.*

— *The Associated Press (@AP)* [June 24, 2016](#)

***#BREAKING #Brexit** is a blow to Europe and European unity process: Merkel*

— *AFP news agency (@AFP)* [June 24, 2016](#)

Merkel, a champion of the European project, has been at the heart of the response to its earlier crises, including Greece's debt implosion. Now she has to cling to the mast as the E.U. faces perhaps its greatest challenge yet. One of her minister's referred to the day of the referendum as "Black Friday."



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Boris Johnson calls David Cameron one of the most 'extraordinary politicians of

our age'

Adam Taylor · June 24, 6:54 AM

.@BorisJohnson on Cameron's resignation: "He's been one of the most extraordinary politicians of our age." #EUref <https://t.co/N3tqkvEtoU>

— Sky News (@SkyNews) [June 24, 2016](#)

While his support of the 'leave' campaign may have helped force him from office, Boris Johnson goes a long way back with David Cameron.

Cameron, who resigned as prime minister on Friday after Britain voted to leave the European Union, was at Oxford University at the same time Johnson. The two were even part of [the notorious Bullingdon Club](#); an exclusive dining club known for its extreme consumption of alcohol and tradition of trashing restaurants.

Speaking to the press on Friday, Johnson had only kind words for his old classmate, calling him one of the most "extraordinary politicians of our age."

Johnson was among 80 eurosceptic Conservative MPs who had signed a letter saying they wanted Cameron to stay on as Britain's leader even if "leave" won the E.U. referendum.



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French far right leader Marine Le Pen begins embracing the British flag

Adam Taylor · June 24, 6:41 AM

Victoire de la liberté ! Comme je le demande depuis des années, il faut maintenant le même référendum en France et dans les pays de l'UE
MLP

— *Marine Le Pen (@MLP_officiel)* [June 24, 2016](#)

Ambiance franco-britannique pour célébrer la liberté des nations ! pic.twitter.com/A0rVWhno78

— *Florian Philippot (@f_philippot)* [June 23, 2016](#)

Le Pen, the leader of the far right National Front, has also been pushing [for France to leave the European Union](#).



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Scotland First Minister says new independence

referendum 'must be on the table'

Ishaan Tharoor · June 24, 6:41 AM

Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's first minister, has said a new independence referendum is "highly unlikely." She said that it was "unacceptable" for Scotland to be extracted from the European Union against its will. It's unclear if Scotland will vote for independence; the "No" camp won a 2014 referendum comfortably.

*.@NicolaSturgeon: "Unacceptable" for Scotland to be taken out of EU "against its will"<https://t.co/K6pbNn362q>
<https://t.co/4dggtmHz6W>*

— *BBC Breaking News (@BBCBreaking) [June 24, 2016](#)*

A tweet from her Scottish National Party indicated that Sturgeon would initiate the process for a new referendum.

NS: We will immediately begin to prepare the required legislation to enable a new [#indyref](#) to take place if & when Parliament so decides.

— *The SNP (@theSNP) [June 24, 2016](#)*

Alex Salmond, Sturgeon's predecessor and ally, said the E.U. referendum justified a new vote in Scotland.

"The logic would be that Scotland would have the

option of remaining within Europe while the rest of the UK left Europe,” he [said](#), “so there would be no logic in saying: let Scotland go out and then come back in again.”



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Britain shouldn't move to leave E.U. immediately, Boris Johnson says

Adam Taylor · June 24, 6:38 AM

At a press conference on Friday morning, “leave” campaign leader Boris Johnson has said there is no need for Britain to rush to leave the European Union.

Boris: There is now no need for haste. Nothing will change over the short-term, but work will have to begin

— Nick Eardley (@nickeardleybbc) [June 24, 2016](#)

Johnson said that Britain should not invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty immediately. This article is the mechanism for member states to leave the E.U.

What Johnson said was in line with comments made by David Cameron today, who announced he would step down as leader and said he would be leaving the

decision on Article 50 to his successor.

However, this doesn't really match what E.U. leaders have been saying. In fact, they say they want Article 50 to be invoked as soon as possible to help end uncertainty.

In last 5 mins:

Boris Johnson: "No need for haste.. No need in invoke article 50"

EU: "UK should invoke A50 ASAP"

— *Lorcan Roche Kelly (@LorcanRK)* [June 24, 2016](#)

See also: [What will happen now that Britain has voted to leave the E.U.](#)



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Brexit leader Boris Johnson booed by large crowd as he leaves his home

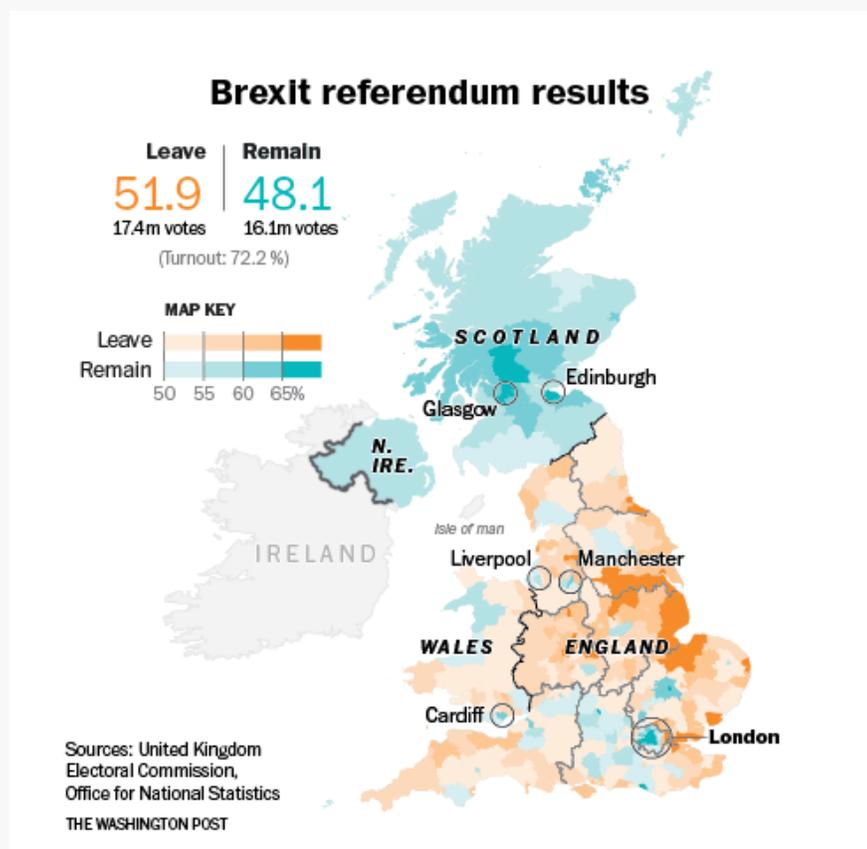
Adam Taylor · June 24, 6:15 AM



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Map: Britain's stark geographical divide over Brexit

Adam Taylor · June 24, 5:48 AM



The map above shows how different parts of Britain voted in the referendum on leaving the European Union.

As you can see, there's a stark geographical divide in the votes. Scotland and Northern Ireland quite clearly voted to remain in the E.U., as did London. But much of the rest of England and Wales voted to leave.

This geographical divide is one of the reasons that

some worry Britain's vote to leave the E.U. could [result in the United Kingdom breaking down.](#)



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Could Britain still remain in the E.U.?

Adam Taylor · June 24, 5:47 AM

British voters have made themselves clear: They want Britain to leave the European Union.

But does that mean Britain *actually* has to leave the E.U.?

Perhaps not, as a number of experts told [Raphael Satter of the Associated Press](#):

“Leave’ could mean a million different things,” [Tim Oliver, a fellow at the London School of Economics’ IDEAS foreign policy think tank] said, giving Britain’s political establishment considerable scope to loiter in Europe’s lobby as euroskeptics argue over where the exits are. Some believe Britain is likely to end up more-or-less where it started.

Britain, like other nations roiled by euroskeptic revolts, will simply “negotiate a new agreement,

nearly identical to the old one, disguise it in opaque language and ratify it," Princeton University politics professor Andrew Moravcsik predicted ahead of the referendum.

"The public, essentially ignorant about Europe, always goes along."

But could British officials really go covertly against the wishes of a majority of voters? [Read more here.](#)



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Trump: 'They took back their country. That's a great thing.'

Adam Taylor · June 24, 5:46 AM

'The UK took back their country-that's a great thing' [#Trump](#) [#Trump2016](#) [@PA](#)
pic.twitter.com/NBYxnFhYW4

— *Mark McLaughlin (@mark_mclaughlin)* [June 24, 2016](#)

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump arrived in Scotland for the opening of his Turnberry golf course and told reporters that he felt Britain's

decision to leave the European Union was a “great thing.”

Trump had previously offered his support for the [Brexit campaign](#). However, his comments in Scotland may prove controversial.

Most Scots had actually voted to remain in the E.U. And, [as The Washington Post’s Jenna Johnson](#) previously reported, Trump’s previous business ventures in the country have been exceptionally unpopular among locals.

Trump also released a statement, which we’ve included below:

The people of the United Kingdom have exercised the sacred right of all free peoples. They have declared their independence from the European Union, and have voted to reassert control over their own politics, borders and economy. A Trump Administration pledges to strengthen our ties with a free and independent Britain, deepening our bonds in commerce, culture and mutual defense. The whole world is more peaceful and stable when our two countries – and our two peoples – are united together, as they will be under a Trump Administration.

Come November, the American people will have the chance to re-declare their independence. Americans will have a chance to vote for trade,

immigration and foreign policies that put our citizens first. They will have the chance to reject today's rule by the global elite, and to embrace real change that delivers a government of, by and for the people. I hope America is watching, it will soon be time to believe in America again.



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Live blog: Britain leaves the European Union

Adam Taylor · June 24, 5:03 AM



Prime Minister David Cameron speaks outside Downing Street on June 24, 2016 in London, England. The results from the historic EU referendum has now been declared and the United Kingdom has voted to LEAVE the European Union. (Photo by Matt Cardy/Getty Images)

Britain has voted to leave the European Union by 51.9

percent to 48.1.

Here are some of the key developments so far:

- British Prime Minister David Cameron has [pledged to resign](#).
- The value of the British pound has dropped to its [lowest in four decades](#).
- Financial markets all around the world [have reacted negatively](#).
- Brexit leader Nigel Farage: [“The E.U.’s dying.”](#)

Keep watching the liveblog for more updates.



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