

Hello fellow Young Liberals,

I am so excited to share with you my manifesto for the **EYL Vice-Chair for Elections & Campaigns**.

This is probably not the usual way to start a manifesto, but I'm going to tell you the truth regardless... I wasn't politically active until the General Election was announced last year. Having lived in David Camerons Witney seat, and then Phillip Hammond, and then an area that used to be in Teresea May's constituency before moving back to Witney, it didn't feel as though there was much I could do but accept that the Tories would always win wherever I was. I am sorry for this sin, and have since repented.

When Rishi offered the first glimmer of hope by announcing the General Election, I was excited by the idea that there finally might be change in what has previously been such a safe seat. That's when I met Charlie Maynard, did my first ever deep research into the Liberal Democrats, and dived in head-first to the data side of his campaign. Everybody who knows Witney tells me that they never thought Charlie would win, and I'd like to say I believed he would, but it still doesn't always feel real.

Flash forward a few short months and I decided that I would like to make a difference myself and run for the County Council. A few weeks into the campaign, I was asked if I would take on the Campaign Organiser role in Witney. Having never done anything like this before, I was keen to do a good job but had little knowhow. The constituency proved yet again that the Tories are strong here, with us ultimately making just one gain. I know that I won my seat through dedication to the campaign and by giving up every weekend to get across that line – a position I'm determined not be in again, as now I am building a stronger team around Witney that will be ready for any election.

In all honesty, I have already made plenty of mistakes along the way. But I have learnt from them. I now know how to go into an election stronger and help others avoid the very pitfalls that I experienced. Since then, I've been building Witney's first proper delivery team, creating campaign materials after completing my Artwork and Messaging Training from LDHQ, and have started fundraising directly from members - something the local party had never done before.

That experience has shown me just how much young people can achieve when we step up, and that is why we need an EYL campaigns structure that empowers more of us to do the same.

What I'll deliver if elected

1. Celebrating the Successes of Young Liberals

We have so many incredible YL councillors, candidates and activists across the country, but too often their wins go unnoticed. I want to change that by making

sure our campaigns, achievements and action days are promoted, celebrated and shared widely. That visibility will inspire others and remind the wider party just how important the YLs are to its future.

2. Supporting More Young Liberals to Get Elected

I know first-hand how daunting it can be to stand for election as a young candidate, and how overwhelming it feels throughout many points of the campaign. I'll work to ensure no YL has to do it alone by connecting our YL group with local branches, providing campaign resources, and sharing practical training drawn from my own experiences on the ground.

3. Helping Local Parties Engage with Young People

Too many local parties struggle to bring in and onboard younger members – especially those that aren't near to a university. I'll work with them directly to bridge that gap, showing how YLs can strengthen local campaigns and helping build the next generation of councillors and campaigners.

4. Building Stronger Campaign Teams

We know that campaigns are strongest when those involved really feel like they're part of the team. Whether it's through socials, fundraising, or action days, I want to make sure every YL campaigner feels that they belong. I'll focus on ensuring our organisers, activists and candidates always have the support around them to succeed.

I believe the Young Liberals can be a force for growth and inspiration across England. With your support, I'll work to make our campaigns louder, our candidates stronger, and our successes impossible to ignore.

I hope that you will support me, so that together we can support the next generation of politicians and campaigners.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Cllr Toyah Overton