

## **Pols beware.....**

Read what happens when an elected incumbent persists  
in promoting a foolhardy, bad policy that impacts  
constituents in the most inequitable and unfair ways.

# Colorful Tory Beats Laborite to Become Mayor of London

By [SARAH LYALL](#)

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LONDON — Boris Johnson, the floppy-haired media celebrity and Conservative member of Parliament who transformed himself from a shambling, amusing-aphorism-uttering figure of fun into a plausible political force, was elected mayor of London on Friday.

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But it was the mayoral race, in which Mr. Johnson, 43, defeated the experienced Labor incumbent, [Ken Livingstone](#), 62, by 1,168,738 votes to 1,028,966 votes, that was the biggest shock — a sure sign of a deep national weariness with the Labor government. London has been resolutely Labor in recent years, and its loss is a bitter blow to the national party.

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In London, Mr. Livingstone was seen as an authoritarian figure who had become increasingly isolated and prickly. His efforts to write off Mr. Johnson as a lightweight buffoon failed to pay off, and by the time he began attacking his opponent on the substance of issues like the cost of the Tories' transportation program, it was too late.

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While the London mayor does not have as much responsibility as the New York mayor, he or she is in charge of planning, transportation and economic development, and has some influence over the police, explained Tony Travers, director of the Greater London Group at the London School of Economics.

“A funny, engaging and largely untested figure now represents London,” Mr. Travers wrote in *The Evening Standard*. “It is in his best interests — and ours — that he governs well.”

Read the entire story at:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/03/world/europe/03britain.html?\\_r=1&hp&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/03/world/europe/03britain.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin)