

Newspoll: Labor vote highest since Turnbull became PM



Labor has extended its ascendancy.

Phillip Hudson, *The Australian*, 12:07AM November 8, 2016

Labor has extended its ascendancy over the Coalition to lead by 53 per cent to 47 per cent, boosted by a rise in the opposition's primary vote to the highest level since Malcolm Turnbull became Prime Minister 14 months ago.

The latest Newspoll, taken exclusively for *The Australian*, reveals the ALP's core support has climbed to 38 per cent, up one point in the past fortnight and 3.3 points higher than at the July 2 election.

The Coalition's primary vote remains below 40 per cent for the fourth consecutive Newspoll survey, and at 39 per cent is 3.1 points lower than at the election. The Greens are unchanged at 10 per cent, while support for other parties and independents slipped from 14 to 13 per cent.

Based on preference flows from the election, Labor has improved its lead in two-party terms from 52-48 per cent, where it has sat for the past three surveys, to 53-47 per cent.



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The poll represents a 3.4 per cent swing against the Coalition, which if repeated in a uniform fashion at the next election would indicate defeat for the Turnbull government with the loss of 17 seats — seven in Queensland, four each in Victoria and NSW, and one seat in South Australia and Western Australia.

The poll of 1846 people taken from last Thursday to Sunday shows virtually no change in the standing of the leaders.

Satisfaction with Mr Turnbull's performance lifted one point to return to 30 per cent but dissatisfaction also climbed a point to a high of 58 per cent, leaving the Prime Minister's net satisfaction rating unchanged at minus 28 points. Mr Shorten's figures were steady, with 36 per cent satisfied with his performance and 51 per cent dissatisfied, giving him a net satisfaction rating of minus 15 points.

On the question of better prime minister, the rating for the two leaders was also unchanged, with Mr Turnbull remaining at his lowest level of 42 per cent while Mr Shorten was at 32 per cent. Some 26 per cent of voters were undecided.

The poll comes after the government's announcement last week that it would impose a lifetime ban on adult asylum-seekers on Nauru and Manus Island visiting Australia and fresh turmoil in the Senate about the status of two crossbench senators. The Senate yesterday agreed to refer the cases involving Bob Day and Rodney Culleton to the High Court.

The government has also stalled on its move to present to the Senate the key industrial relations bills it used to call the marathon double-dissolution election.

Mr Turnbull yesterday repeated that restoring the Australian Building and Construction Commission and introducing its registered organisations bill was "a critical economic reform" but he would put it to the Senate only when he had the numbers. "My goal is to see it passed. I went to the extent of proroguing parliament and recalling it to ensure we had a double-dissolution trigger for it so no one can doubt my commitment to it. My commitment is not to gesture politics, my commitment is to practical results," he told ABC radio.

Legislation for the government's election promise to hold a same-sex marriage plebiscite on February 11 was defeated in the Senate on Monday night, failing to pass at the second reading stage by 29 votes to 33 votes..

The government had the support of One Nation senators, Jacqui Lambie and David Leyonhjelm.

Those who voted down the plebiscite included Labor, the Greens, the Nick Xenophon Team and Derryn Hinch.