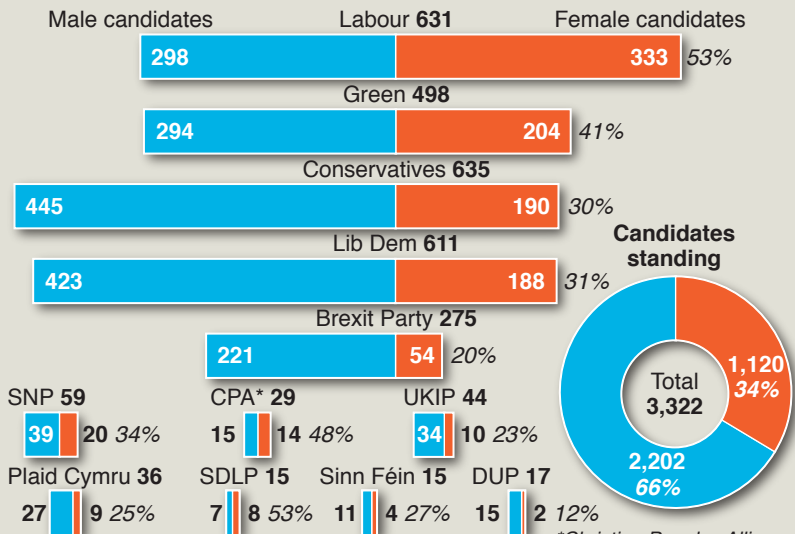


Electing women to the House

A record number of female candidates have registered to take part in Britain's general election. Since first being permitted to stand in 1918, 494 women have taken their seats in the House of Commons

Political parties (Male and female registered candidates)



Dec 1919, Nancy Astor: Viscountess Astor becomes first woman to take her seat in House of Commons



May 1979, Margaret Thatcher: UK's first female prime minister – just 19 women MPs, 2.9%



Jul 2016, Theresa May: UK's second female prime minister. There are 191 women MPs, 29%



Dec 2019: Lib Dem leader Jo Swinson (above left) is only female leader of UK-wide party. **Nicola Sturgeon** (above right) is First Minister of Scotland and leader of SNP – first woman to hold either position

