

# 1918 General election

Before the 1918 general election Parliament passed the Representation of the People Act 1918 which reformed the electoral system in Great Britain and Ireland. It gave the right to vote to men aged 21 and over, whether they owned property or not, and to women aged 30 and over who resided in the constituency or occupied land or premises with a rateable value above £5.00, or whose husbands did. As a result the male electorate was extended by 5.2 million to 12.9 million. The female electorate was 8.5 million. Interestingly the act also institutionalised the first past the post system and rejected proportional representation.

The election was held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918 and resulted in a landslide victory for the coalition government of David Lloyd George who had become Prime Minister in 1916. Lloyd George called for making “**a country fit for heroes to live in**”.

## Local Election Result

In Norfolk this area was part of the constituency of Norfolk East. In the General Election the result was as follows

<b>General Election Norfolk East</b>				
<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>+ -</b>
<b>C</b> Unionist	<b>Michael Falcon</b>	7,030	44.9	+2.6
Liberal	Fred Henderson	6,691	42.8	-14.9
National Union of Farmers	W. B. Taylor	1,926	12.3	N/A
	<b>Majority</b>	339	2.1	N/A
	<b>Turnout</b>	15,647	49.6	-29.4
	Registered Electors	31,578		
	Unionist Gain from Liberal	<b>Swing</b>	8.8	
<b>C</b> indicates candidate endorsed by the coalition government				