



Boris Johnson lost his government's ruling majority ahead of a critical showdown with members of Britain's Parliament, as the Brexit crisis pushed the U.K. closer toward a snap election.

Johnson is battling political opponents who are determined to wreck his plan to deliver Brexit at all costs by Oct. 31, with the first parliamentary [vote in the clash expected around 10 p.m](#) Tuesday night. If he loses, Johnson's officials have said he will set in motion preparations for a poll to elect a new government on Oct. 14.

[What to Expect From the Brexit Showdown in Parliament](#)

The premier's chances of success were dealt a blow when one of his Conservative Party members of Parliament, [Phillip Lee](#), dramatically defected to join the rival Liberal Democrats as Johnson got to his feet to speak in the House of Commons.

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