

OH SNAP

IT'S A

GENERAL

ELECTION

### But what is it?

The Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 restricted snap elections to occasions when the government loses a confidence motion or when a two-thirds majority of MPs vote in favour. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/14/contents/enacted>

### Why now?

Conservative PM Theresa May requested a general election (approved in Parliament by a near-unanimous vote) shortly after the official commencement of the process of withdrawing from the European Union, saying that she needed a clear mandate to lead the country through the ensuing negotiations.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/apr/18/theresa-may-calls-for-general-election-in-bid-to-secure-brexit-mandate>