

Entity: English Democrats

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Semantic Summary

The oldest continuously active English nationalist party, founded in 2002 by Essex solicitor Robin Tilbrook, who has chaired it since and also chairs the associated Workers of England Union. The party campaigns for English independence through a referendum, a sovereign English parliament, and an English prime minister, combining English nationalism with Euroscepticism and anti-immigration politics. It represents the "respectable", constitutional and legalistic wing of English nationalism — Tilbrook requires members to pledge opposition to racism — yet it has accepted British National Party defectors into leadership roles, and former members have criticised informal links with other far-right organisations, leaving it often described as "far-right adjacent". Electorally negligible (its best result was 2.4% in a 2012 by-election), it has nonetheless been a persistent minor presence on the far-right fringe of English politics for over two decades.

Basic Information

- **Type:** Registered political party (English nationalist / far-right adjacent)
- **Status:** Active
- **Founded:** 2002 (registered with Electoral Commission since 1999)
- **Leader:** Robin Tilbrook (solicitor; chairman since founding)
- **Associated org:** Workers of England Union
- **Ideology:** English nationalism, English independence, Euroscepticism, anti-immigration

Role in Ecosystem

The English Democrats are the oldest continuously active English nationalist party, founded in 2002 by Robin Tilbrook. The party campaigns for English independence from the UK through a referendum, a sovereign English parliament, and an English prime minister.

While the party presents itself as constitutional nationalist rather than far-right, it has accepted defectors from the British National Party (BNP) into leadership roles, and former members have criticised informal links with other far-right organisations. The party has never achieved electoral

success (its best result was 2.4% in a 2012 by-election) but has been a persistent minor presence on the far-right fringe of English politics for over two decades.

The English Democrats represent the "respectable" wing of English nationalism — constitutional, legalistic, and distancing itself from overt racism — while maintaining porous boundaries with the explicitly far-right BNP and its successors.

Known Associations

Person/Org	Relationship	Evidence
Robin Tilbrook	Chairman and founder (since 2002)	Wikipedia
Workers of England Union	Associated trade union; Tilbrook also chairs	Wikipedia
British National Party (BNP)	Accepted BNP defectors into leadership	Wikipedia

Notes

- Founded 2002 by Robin Tilbrook, a solicitor from Ongar, Essex
- Campaigns for English independence and a sovereign English parliament
- Registered with the Electoral Commission continuously since 1999
- Accepted BNP defectors into leadership roles, leading to accusations of far-right links
- Leader Robin Tilbrook has stated members must pledge opposition to racism
- Has contested elections consistently but with negligible vote shares
- Sometimes described as "far-right adjacent" — nationalist but not explicitly fascist

Tags

- anti-immigration
- bnp
- brexit
- english-democrats
- nationalist
- organisation
- sovereignty