

Joshua Kim (Joshua Seungkyun Kim) — Reform UK MS

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Full Name: Joshua Seungkyun Kim (Korean: 김수경 / Gim Seung-gyun)
Born: Seungkyun Kim, South Korea
Party: Reform UK (Reform UK Wales)
Constituency: Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni
Took Office: 8 May 2026
Title: Member of the Senedd (MS)
Residence: Machen, Caerphilly County Borough, Wales
Occupation prior to election: Supply teacher in Cardiff

Bio

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Detail	Info
Full name	Joshua Seungkyun Kim
Current office	Reform UK Wales MS

Political Career

2024 UK General Election

Kim stood as the Reform UK candidate for the **Caerphilly** constituency in the 2024 United Kingdom general election, though he did not win the seat.

2026 Senedd Election

He was placed **third on Reform UK's candidate list** for the Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni constituency in the 2026 Senedd election. Under the new proportional voting system (six seats per constituency), Reform UK won three of the six seats in this constituency alongside Plaid Cymru (three seats), with Labour losing their incumbent, Alun Davies.

"Supply Teacher" Viral Moment

Kim gained significant media attention for his unlikely path to becoming an MS:

- He **arrived late to the election count** because he was teaching as a **supply teacher** that day. He opted not to attend the count earlier as it would have meant losing a day's pay.
- Upon winning the sixth and final seat, he was reported by the BBC as being **"distraught, utterly shocked and confused"**, telling reporters he **"did not think for one minute"** that he would be elected.
- However, in his own interview with the *Caerphilly Observer* upon arrival at the count, he gave a more measured account: **"I always knew there was a chance, but I wouldn't say I was confident. And you can see from the result, it was pretty close."**

Election Results — Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni 2026

Party	Seats Won	Vote Share
Plaid Cymru	3	42.0%
Reform UK	3	34.3%
Labour	0	11.1%
Conservative	0	4.8%
Green	0	3.5%
Liberal Democrat	0	1.8%
Others	0	2.3%

Turnout: 47.6% (of 146,732 registered voters)

The six elected MSs for the constituency:

- **Plaid Cymru:** Delyth Jewell, Lindsay Whittle, Niamh Salkeld
 - **Reform UK:** Llŷr Powell, Catherine Cullen, **Joshua Kim**
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Personal

- Of South Korean origin; his birth name is Seungkyun Kim, anglicised to Joshua Seungkyun Kim.
 - Lived and worked in Wales as a supply teacher.
 - Lives in Machen, a village between Caerphilly and Newport.
 - **First Korean-descended member of any UK parliament** (Westminster, Senedd, Scottish Parliament, or Northern Ireland Assembly).
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Key References

1. **The Chosun Daily** (2026-05-11) — "첫 한국계 영국 웨일스 의회 의원 ... 리폼 유크의 조슈아 김" (First Korean-descendant enters UK Welsh Parliament... Reform UK's Joshua Kim) — [chosun.com](https://www.chosun.com)
2. **BBC News** (2026-05-08) — Blaenau Gwent Caerffili Rhymni constituency results — [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com)
3. **Caerphilly Observer** (2024-07-03) — Child poverty, cost-of-living, and food bank use hot topics at election hustings — [caerphilly.observer](https://www.caerphilly.observer)
4. **South Wales Argus** (2024-07-04) — General election: Candidates for Caerphilly — [southwalesargus.co.uk](https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk)
5. **Wales Online** (2026-03-25) — Reform UK publishes full list of candidates for Wales' Senedd election — [walesonline.co.uk](https://www.walesonline.co.uk)
6. **Caerphilly Observer** (2026-05-08) — Plaid Cymru win Senedd Election 2026, but without a majority — [caerphilly.observer](https://www.caerphilly.observer)
7. **BBC News** (2026-05-09) — Live coverage (mentions Kim's "distraught" reaction) — [bbc.co.uk](https://www.bbc.co.uk)
8. **The Asia Business Daily** / **아시아비즈니스데일리** (2026-05-11) — First Korean-British Lawmaker Elected to Welsh Parliament Amid Reform UK Surge
9. **매일경제** (Maeil Business Newspaper) (2026-05-11) — Coverage of first Korean lawmaker in Welsh Senedd
10. **Wales Online** (2026-05-09) — The new Senedd Members joining Wales' Parliament — [walesonline.co.uk](https://www.walesonline.co.uk)

Notes

- Wikipedia page created around 20 May 2026
 - Category tags on Wikipedia: Living people, Reform UK members of the Senedd, Wales MSs 2026–2031, Reform UK parliamentary candidates, South Korean emigrants to the United Kingdom, British people of Korean descent, Welsh people of Asian descent
 - No confirmed personal social media accounts (Twitter/X, LinkedIn) found at time of research (May 2026)
 - Senedd official profile page not yet live at time of research
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Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 27 May 2026

No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period.

Reddit Discussion

“ Source: Eddrit search (via Docker on Windows PC), 27 May 2026

No significant Reddit discussion found for this period.

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