

# BM Political Highlights

Week Beginning 15/07/19

## Top 3 Political Stories This Week

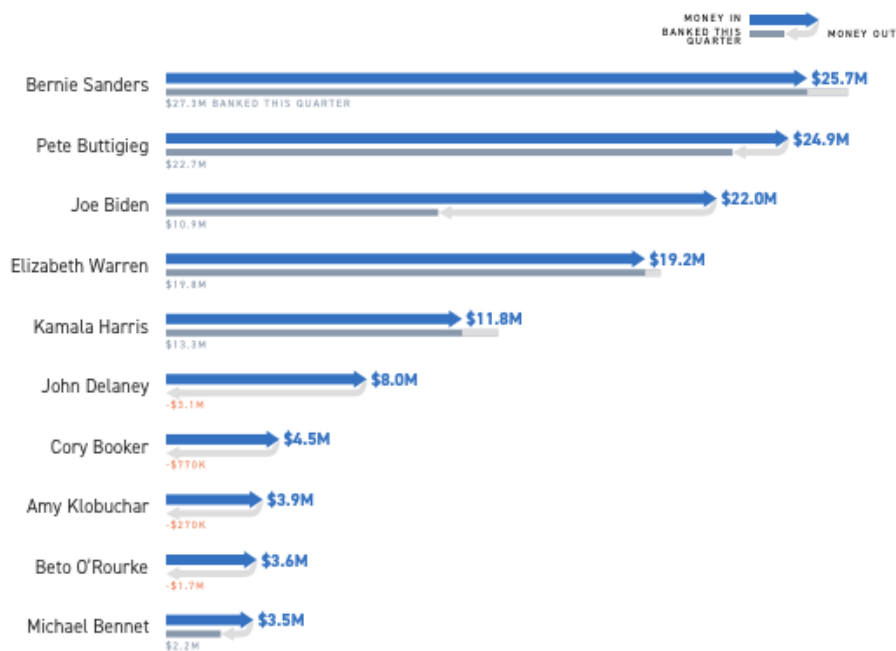
- Both candidates for PM believe the Irish backstop to be [dead](#), even if time limited or with a unilateral exit; Team Boris is considering [proguing Parliament](#) in order to deliver a Halloween Brexit
- Treasury Sec Mnuchin and House Speaker Pelosi talk optimistically of a [debt ceiling deal](#) before Recess
- Ursula Von der Leyen became the first female EU commission Pres, with a majority of just [nine](#)

## BlondeMoney View

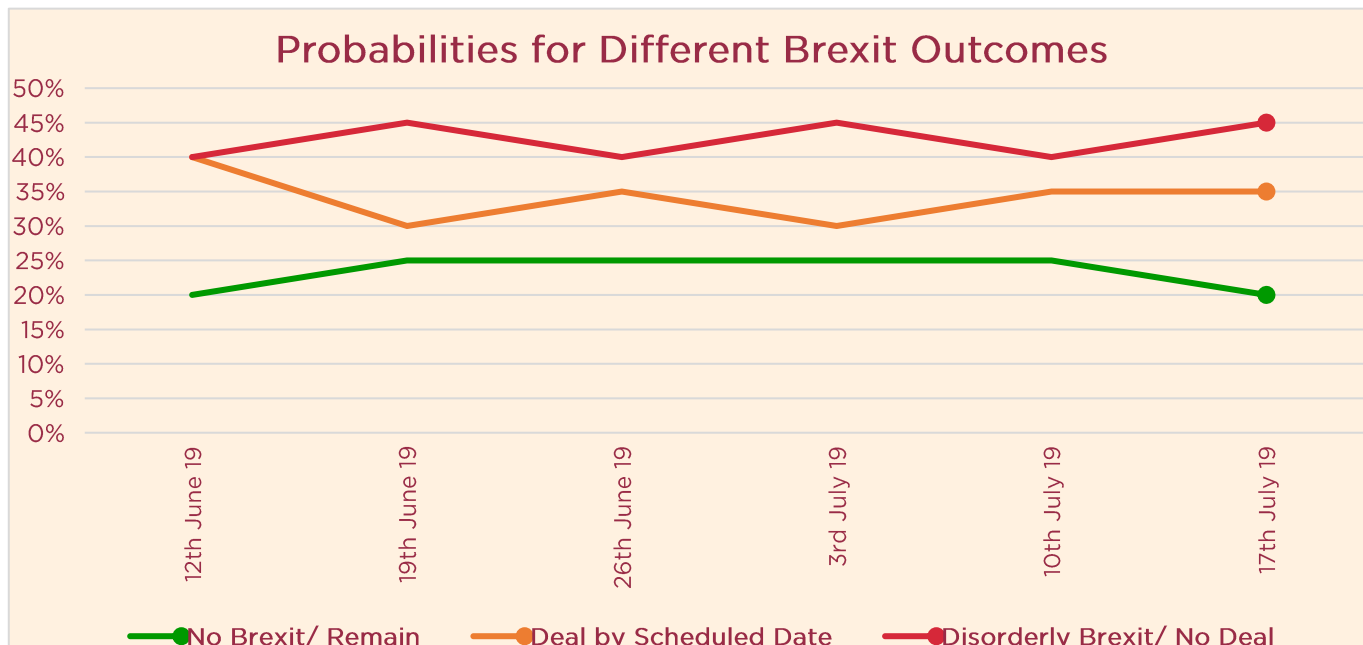
- In a continuation of their strategy thus far, the Johnson campaign is focused on overtures to the hard-Brexiteers which make up a significant proportion of Conservative membership. Boris has demanded the [backstop must go](#), as it is 'an instrument of our incarceration', just as it's leaked that he would consider [proguing Parliament](#) in order to deliver Brexit on the October 31<sup>st</sup> date, 'do or die'. This would risk a vote of no-confidence, with some Tory MPs reaffirming their commitment to [the prevention of No Deal](#) this week, even as the Remain-in-Chief, Dominic Grieve, admits it's [almost impossible](#) to stop it. With Boris confident he can deliver Brexit come what may, it's reported that he is considering [an election](#) before next summer, "while Corbyn is still around". An election is coming one way or the other - whether Boris calls it, or whether he's forced into it by a No Confidence Vote. Which, we believe, he will blame squarely on others for causing.
- The debt ceiling looms, with the Trump administration harrying Congress into reaching an agreement before everyone goes to their own personal Mar-a-Lago summertime retreat for the recess. Smoke signals have been relatively positive, with [reports](#) that Treasury Sec Mnuchin has spoken with House Speaker Pelosi five times in six days. But it's unlikely either side would make a concession until they absolutely have to, thus lining up the classic last-minute debt ceiling denouement for the autumn. The Trump administration continues to provoke on the domestic policy front, with huge national coverage of a visit by VP Pence to a migrant border detention centre in Texas where he admitted that conditions [were unacceptable](#). Bernie Sanders led the way in [second-quarter fundraising](#), allowing the Vermont Senator to continue with a nationwide expansion of his grassroots network. If he gains the nomination, polarisation between the Democrats and Republicans will be complete - and Trump just needs to stay marginally ahead of him in the swing states to be confident of victory in 2020.
- This week saw Ursula Von der Leyen become the first female EU commission Pres, as her position was confirmed by [383 votes to 327](#) - just 9 clear of an overall majority. She can thank the 27 right-wing MEPs of Poland's PiS for helping her get over the line. Germany's Socialists didn't back her, as expected, but Spain's did. That signals a shift in power towards Spain's Socialists, which is good news for Macron as he's been keen to chum up with Spain's Socialist PM Sanchez. Christine Lagarde came one step closer to taking her place as the head of the ECB, as she [resigned from the IMF](#) in preparation for her appointment later this year. Elsewhere the EU foreign policy chief said that Iran's nuclear deal breaches were [not yet significant](#), implying that the EU has not yet given up hope of rectifying the landmark agreement.

## Chart of the Week:

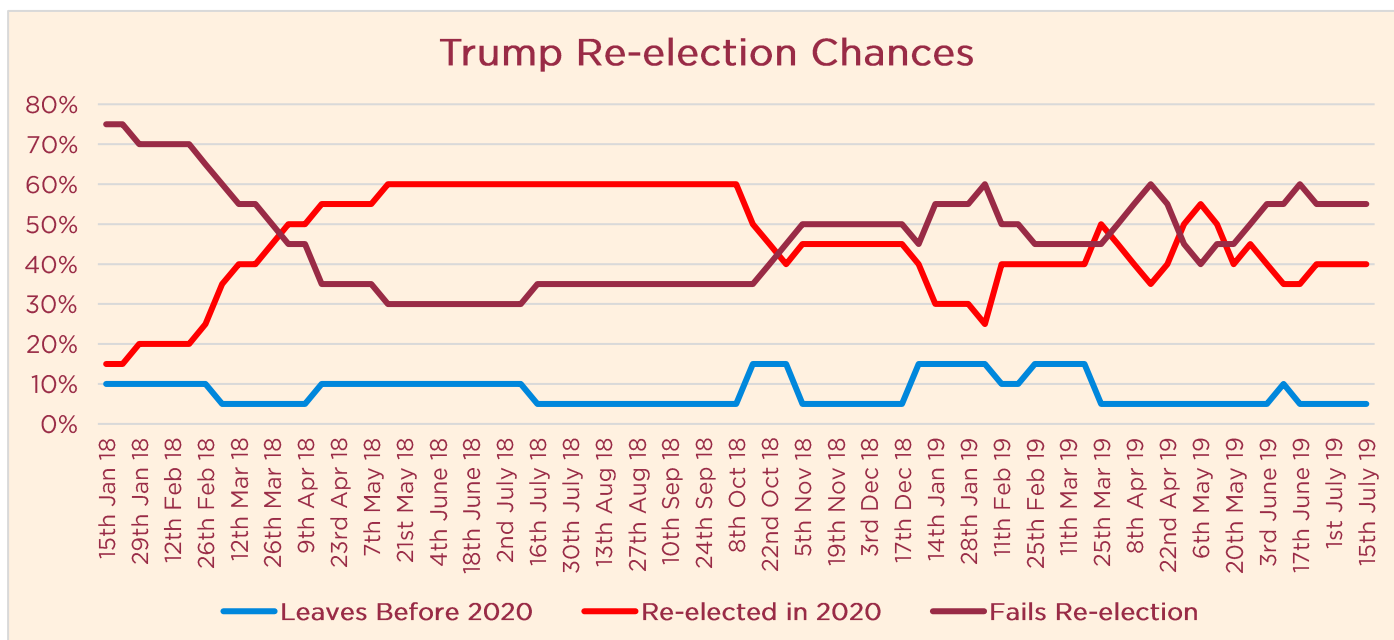
Source: [Politico](#)



## BlondeMoney Probabilities:



- Brexit:** With Boris Johnson poised to become the next PM, and his team suggesting all options are on the table to deliver a Halloween Brexit, a No-Deal scenario looks increasingly likely.



- Trump:** Even after intense negative media coverage of both VP Pence's detention centre visit and his own controversial tweets, Pres Trump remains at a similar level in the polls in head-to-head match-ups with potential 2020 challengers. With a loyal base of support, and a huge war chest, Trump still has a respectable chance at re-election, despite his current poor predicament in the polls.