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Liberal Party Under Sussan Ley Faces Historic Low in First Post-Election Newspoll

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The Liberal Party, led by Sussan Ley, has plummeted to a near-record low in the first Newspoll since the May 2025 federal election, highlighting the steep challenge of rebuilding after a crushing defeat. With only 42 seats in the House of Representatives, the Coalition struggles to regain voter trust. This article examines the poll results, Ley's leadership challenges, and the path forward for the Liberals.

The Newspoll, reported by The Australian, reveals the Liberal-National Coalition's primary vote at a dire 29%, a historic low following their May

3 election loss, where they secured just 42 seats compared to Labor's 93, as per the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Sussan Ley, the first woman to lead the Liberal Party, faces intense scrutiny after edging out Angus Taylor 29-25 in a tight leadership ballot. "We disappointed voters, and we must learn from that," Ley admitted at a press conference, vowing a "fresh approach" to reconnect with Australians, particularly women and young voters alienated by the party's campaign. However, posts on X reflect frustration, with some calling her leadership a nod to "identity politics" and urging a return to conservative roots.

Ley's task is daunting. The Coalition's "Trumpian" policies, including nuclear energy and anti-immigration stances, were blamed for alienating key demographics, as noted by pundits. Former Liberal MP Melissa Price told ABC News, "We shouldn't paper over our loss; it's a chance to rebuild". Ley has distanced herself from predecessor Peter Dutton's agenda, promising no "captain's calls" and a policy review, including net zero commitments. Yet, her narrow victory and reliance on outgoing senators' votes signal internal divisions, with the right faction, led by Taylor, still influential.

The Liberals' path to recovery hinges on addressing voter concerns like cost-of-living and housing, where they trailed Labor in the campaign. Ley's moderate stance aims to win back "teal" voters, but Queensland University of Technology's John Mickel warned that her balancing act between factions could falter without clear policy wins. As the Coalition rebuilds, Ley must unify a fractured party or risk further electoral irrelevance.