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A PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST
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by

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY
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VOICE OVER: On Thursday there are local elections in most of England and Wales. Tonight, we want to show you how your vote does make a difference.

: Two years ago it was the turn of Londoners to vote for a new Greater London Council. They voted for a Labour Council led by moderates. The day after the elections, the moderates found themselves thrown out and a left-wing in power. These left-wingers are now spending two-and-a-half times as much ratepayers' money as when the Conservatives left office. London's left-wingers say they care desperately about unemployment. But if they really cared they would try to keep spending down, not put it up.

VOICE OVER: As Labour's high spending pushes rates up so the high rates are helping to drive jobs like these out of London by the thousand.

: Labour love to push spending up and not just in London.

VOICE OVER: Compare two similar cities. In Manchester, rates are up by 9½% under Labour. In Birmingham, rates are down by 12% under the Conservatives.

: The fact is that living under a Labour Council could cost you up to twice as much as under a Conservative Council.

VOICE OVER: A good example of this is to be found in Framingham Road, Manchester. The families on the left pay their rates to the Labour Council of Manchester. And on the right to the Conservative Council of Trafford. The houses are very similar but under the Labour Council the rates are over £220 higher.

: Yet Councils don't have to spend vast sums of money to provide their services. When the Conservatives took over Birmingham they found they could save millions of pounds without harming services.

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VOICE OVER: For instance, Birmingham's dustmen now provide exactly the same service at a saving of over £3 million a year. In Wandsworth, they are saving 1.8 million. In Wirral, 1.4 million. Millions of pounds are being saved all round the country by Conservative Councils.

And here's how the Conservatives are using the savings in Birmingham. £600,000 for the elderly, including more home helps. An extra 400 teachers for schools. And a reduction of 12% on the rates. But it isn't just at the local level that Conservatives are giving better value for your money. To improve our National Health Service the Conservatives have added 5,000 more doctors and 45,000 more nurses and midwives to care for our sick. Two-million more patients a year are being treated in our hospitals and real spending on the Health Service is now 16% higher than under Labour.

The Conservatives would like to see every family own their own home. That's why they've given Council tenants the right to buy, turning their houses into homes. Half-a-million families have already bought their Council homes and around half-a-million others are in the process of buying.

: The Conservative approach requires courage and honesty. Take unemployment for instance. It's very easy to make promises. Both Labour and the SDP say they will bring unemployment down, but can they?

VOICE OVER: The fact is no Labour government in Britain has ever succeeded in bringing unemployment down. Under every Labour government since the war unemployment has risen by at least 50%. It rose too when the SDP leader, Roy Jenkins, ran the economy as Chancellor.

: But now under the Conservatives we've seen a change of direction as the real causes of unemployment are being tackled. Inflation has been brought down to its lowest level for 15 years.

VOICE OVER: Productivity is at its highest ever. Exports are at record level. House-building is booming. There's new confidence in the country as industrial output begins to climb again and retail sales gather momentum.

: And if we continue this progress of becoming more productive, more competitive then there is real hope at last of turning back the tide of unemployment. What the Conservatives are doing at a national level they also plan to continue at a local level which is to put people first. By respecting the fact that it's your country, your Town Hall and your money.

VOICE OVER: On Thursday, your vote will make a difference. Put a value on your vote. Vote Conservative.

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