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The Guardian

Thornberry vows to stand and hits out at Labour's 'catastrophic folly'

Shadow foreign minister says she warned of perils of backing snap election

Rowena Mason
Deputy political editor

Emily Thornberry has declared she is entering the race to succeed Jeremy Corbyn, revealing she warned the Labour leadership that backing a Brexit election would be an "act of

catastrophic political folly". The shadow foreign secretary set out her pitch to be the next Labour leader in an article for the Guardian, arguing she has already "pummelled" Boris Johnson across the dispatch box and knows how to exploit his failings.

Directly addressing those calling for a new leader from northern England, she made the case that Corbyn's replacement should be chosen on the basis of their "political nous and strategic vision", rather than where they come from or their views on Brexit. Her declaration makes her

the first candidate to confirm she wants to be in the race, although Lisa Nandy, Keir Starmer, Clive Lewis and David Lammy have indicated they are seriously considering it.

Rebecca Long-Bailey, who is backed by a number of Corbyn allies, is highly likely to stand, along with Jess Phillips and possibly Yvette Cooper.

In her article, Thornberry sought to demonstrate her political judgment by revealing that she sent a lengthy written note to the leadership before the election, explaining it would be disastrous for Labour to go to the polls

'I took the fight to Johnson every day and pummelled him'

Emily Thornberry
Shadow foreign secretary

before Brexit was settled in a referendum. She likened the party's decision to back an election to "crackers voting for Christmas" because it gave Johnson a chance to fight an election on a

subject of his choosing at a time of his choosing.

"Listening to Labour colleagues on the media over the last week, I have repeatedly heard the refrain that the problem we faced last Thursday was that 'this became the Brexit election'.

"To which I can only say I look forward to their tweets of shock when next Wednesday's lunch features turkey and Brussels sprouts ... I wrote to the leader's office warning it would be 'an act of catastrophic political folly' to vote for the election, and set out a lengthy draft narrative

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Pray for me, embattled Trump tells supporters

Tom McCarthy
New York

An embattled Donald Trump last night urged his supporters to "say a prayer" for him as Democrats made their final procedural moves on Capitol Hill to impeach, making him almost certain to be only the third US president in history to suffer such a fate.

Members of the US House of Representatives, dominated by the Democratic party, began the hours of contentious debate expected to culminate in a formal vote to impeach Trump, leading to a trial in the Senate over his dealings with Ukraine. But even before the commencement of the debate, Democrats were signalling confidence that they have the votes to trigger the historic trial and send Trump down the same impeachment path as Bill

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