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| **CLAIMANT** | **CLAIM** | **THINGS IN FAVOUR** | **THINGS AGAINST** |
| Harold Godwinsson, Earl of Wessex | Brother in law to Edward. | * He is English
* The most powerful noble in England
* Apparently Edward favoured Harold from his deathbed.
 | * He had rebelled against Edward earlier in his reign.
* Not well favoured by other nobles.
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| Harald Hardrada, King of Norway | ‘Right to rule’ in line of Viking rulers since King Cnut. | * Viking rulers had ruled in England but Edward had seized the throne from them in 1042.
* Many Viking descendents lived in Northern England.
 | * Not a blood relation to Edward.
* A ‘foreigner’
* - An ‘enemy’ as he planned to invade.
 |
| William, Duke of Normandy | Cousin to Edward | * Edward had promised him the throne (apparently)
* Harold Godwinsson had sworn an oath to let William become King.
* William helped Edward in times of trouble with the Vikings and Earls of Wessex.
 | * A foreigner
* Harold’s ‘oath’ to help William become king made under threat (duress). Hence, it was not freely given.
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WHY WAS 1066 A YEAR OF CRISIS? In 1066, Edward the Confessor died without a direct heir – who would succeed him?

**Who should become king?**