"Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments" (PPEG)

Codebook: Parliamentary Elections

Version 2025v1

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General Remarks

The database *Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG)* combines data on election results and governments in 73 democracies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The current version covers the period between 1942 and 2025 (Oct 31) and contains information on 3301 political parties, 1100 parliamentary elections, 402 presidential elections, and 2044 governments.

The data is separated in four different files:

- data on parliamentary elections to the national lower chambers
- data on presidential elections
- data on national governments
- combined data on national governments and corresponding parliamentary elections

You can download each of these datasets on https://www.ppeg.wzb.eu.

The Parliamentary Election Data includes information on political parties' vote and seat counts in elections to the national lower houses. In addition, the data documents political parties' memberships in electoral pacts.

In case of questions or comments, please contact ppeg@wzb.eu.

Coverage

Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Unique Observations
Albania	1991-2025	23	11	115
Armenia	1995-2021	37	8	91
Australia	1943-2025	27	32	291
Austria	1945-2024	23	24	173
Azerbaijan	1995-2024	24	7	83
Barbados	1986-2022	3	9	31
Belgium	1946-2024	46	24	314
Bolivia	1989-2025	58	10	91
Brazil	1990-2022	46	9	233
Bulgaria	1990-2024	50	17	186
Canada	1945-2025	24	26	257
Chile	1989-2021	38	9	162
Colombia	1990-2022	100	10	224
Costa Rica	1990-2022	44	9	138
Croatia	1990-2024	63	11	208
Cyprus	1976-2021	14	10	73
Czech Republic	1990-2025	24	11	106
Denmark	1945-2022	25	29	321

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Unique Observations
Dominican Republic	1990-2024	30	9	117
El Salvador	1988-2024	29	13	115
Estonia	1992-2023	23	9	81
Finland	1945-2023	22	22	232
France	1945-2024	50	22	269
Georgia	1992-2024	77	10	144
Germany	1949-2025	27	21	208
Ghana	1992-2024	18	9	83
Greece	1974-2023	43	20	227
Guatemala	1985-2023	83	11	185
Honduras	1981-2021	11	11	71
Hungary	1990-2022	27	9	114
Iceland	1942-2024	32	26	178
India	1951-2024	140	18	700
Ireland	1944-2024	29	23	223
Israel	1949-2022	83	25	430
Italy	1946-2022	88	20	327
Jamaica	1989-2020	2	8	28
Japan	1946-2024	43	29	251
Latvia	1993-2022	42	10	100
Lithuania	1992-2024	41	9	127
Luxembourg	1945-2023	21	18	123
Malta	1945-2022	13	20	88
Mauritius	1987-2024	22	9	75
Mexico	1946-2024	27	27	200
Moldova	1994-2025	31	11	98
Montenegro	1990-2023	55	12	132
Netherlands	1946-2025	41	25	336
New Zealand	1943-2023	25	28	216
Nicaragua	1990-2021	20	7	44
North Macedonia	1994-2024	46	10	176
Norway	1945-2025	17	21	228
Panama	1994-2024	21	7	68
Paraguay	1989-2023	32	8	85
Peru	1980-2021	68	12	161
Poland	1991-2023	66	10	150
Portugal	1975-2025	38	19	283
Romania	1990-2024	43	10	127
Russia	1993-2021	48	8	105
Serbia	1990-2023	113	14	266
Slovakia	1990-2023	36	11	134
Slovenia	1990-2022	28	10	123
South Africa	1994-2024	32	7	111
South Korea	1988-2024	38	10	77

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Unique Observations
Spain	1977-2023	75	16	340
Sweden	1944-2022	14	24	195
Switzerland	1943-2023	33	21	303
The Bahamas	1987-2021	2	8	27
Trinidad and Tobago	1986-2025	6	11	51
Turkey	1950-2023	37	20	162
USA	1948-2024	8	39	181
Ukraine	1994-2019	58	8	127
United Kingdom	1945-2024	34	22	307
Uruguay	1989-2024	16	8	55
Venezuela	1988-2025	43	9	116

Sources

Election results were collected from the following sources in hierarchical order:

- National election commissions and authorities
- European Journal of Political Research: Political Data Yearbook
- Election Reports in Electoral Studies & West European Politics
- Nohlen, Grotz and Hartmann (2001); Nohlen and Grotz (2004); Nohlen (2005*a*); Nohlen (2005*b*); Nohlen and Stöver (2010)
- Mackie and Rose (1991)
- Political Database of the Americas (Georgetown University) http://pdba.georgetown.edu/
- Interparliamentary Union PARLINE database: http://www.ipu.org/parline-e
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES): http://www.electionguide.org/
- Adam Carr's Election Archive: http://psephos.adam-carr.net/
- Wikipedia: http://wikipedia.org/

Notes on political parties

Political parties were included following three criteria:

1. The party has won a seat in at least one election covered by the dataset.
2. The party has put a candidate in a presidential election. In presidential elections with many candidates (> 10), however, those contestants gaining less than 0.5% of the vote were subsumed in the residual category "Others".

3. The party has been part of or supported a cabinet during the time covered by the dataset.

If political parties contested elections as part of an electoral pact, the votes and seats of the single parties were documented as far as possible. If this information is missing, only the election results of the corresponding electoral pact is documented. See also the variables *estimate* and *estimate_2ndtier* for more information.

Notes on electoral systems

Mixed member majoritarian electoral systems[1] (e.g. Italy 1993-2005, Bulgaria 1990 and 2009, Croatia 1993-2001, North Macedonia 1998) that combine proportional representation in one tier with majoritarian representation in a second tier are indicated by the variable *mmm*. As far as information is available (see variable *mmm_doc*), the data covers election results on both tiers. In these cases, the variables *electorate*, *total_vote*, *valid_vote*, *total_seats*, *votes*, *v_share*, and *seats* give the respective values in the proportional component. The variables *electorate_2ndtier*, *total_vote_2ndtier*, *valid_vote_2ndtier*, *total_seats_2ndtier*, *votes_2ndtier*, *v_share_2ndtier*, and *seats_2ndtier* denote results in the majoritarian component. In all other cases, the latter variables are set to missing. In some cases, the data set lists vote counts for both tiers but only provides aggregate seat counts for the respective political parties.

In systems **combining proportional representation in a nationwide constituency and in multi-member districts** (Nicaragua, Guatemala) the variables *electorate*, *total_vote*, *valid_vote*, *total_seats*, *votes*, *v_share*, and *seats* contain information on the national constituency whereas the variables *electorate_2ndtier*, *total_vote_2ndtier*, *valid_vote_2ndtier*, *total_seats_2ndtier*, *votes_2ndtier*, *v_share_2ndtier*, and *seats_2ndtier* denote results in the multi-member districts. The variables *mmm* and *mmm_doc* are set to "no".

In **mixed member proportional (MMP) electoral systems** (e.g. Bolivia, Germany, New Zealand, Venezuela), proportional tier voting results are reported. The seats document the final distribution in the national parliament including those won by majority vote.

In the case of **two-round electoral systems** (e.g. France), the data documents the votes gained by each party in the first round of the election and the total number of seats gained after the second round.

In the case of **single-transferable vote systems** (STVs), the number of votes gained by each party refers to voters' first preferences, while the number of seats reflects the final distribution after all votes have been transferred.

Electoral systems using **panachage** give voters as many votes as there are seats to be distributed in a district. Here, the documentation of votes varies across countries dependent on the sources available. In Luxembourg, our sources provide a "theoretical number of electoral votes per party" since 1994. In other cases, such as El Salvador (after 2015), the sources only provide percentage values based on the total number of voters. Where possible (e.g. Honduras after 2005, Mauritius), we provide the total number of votes gained by each

[1] See Shugart and Wattenberg (2001) for a detailed definition and discussion of multi-member electoral systems.

party. Here, the variable *valid_vote* reflects the sum of the votes documented per party and *total_vote* indicates the actual number of citizens who cast at least one vote or voted invalidly.

Variable Information

iso3c	*ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 codes* Three-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.
iso2c	*ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code* Two-letter country codes defined in ISO 3166-1.
cname_en	*Country name (English)*
edate	*Date of national lower house election* If the election lasted for several days, the last date was coded. By-elections for single seats or districts are unconsidered.
mmm	*Mixed member majoritarian electoral system* Binary variable indicating whether a mixed member majoritarian electoral system was in use.
mmm_doc	*Mixed member majoritarian electoral system documented* Binary variable indicating whether the data documents the results of both tiers in mixed member majoritarian electoral systems. Set to "yes" if either the votes, the seats, or both are documented for the proportional and the majoritarian tier.
electorate/ **electorate_2ndtier**	*Number of eligible voters*
total_vote/ **total_vote_2ndtier**	*Total number of votes cast including invalid votes*
valid_vote/ **valid_vote_2ndtier**	*Total number of valid votes*
total_seats/ **total_seats_2ndtier**	*Total number of seats in the lower chamber*

party_id

Alphanumeric party code

Code consists of the iso2c country code and the database-specific party code (see coding below). E.g., the code FR9 denotes the French Communist Party (PCF).

Coding:
- 1-599: Political parties
- 600-799: Electoral pacts and electoral pacts that transformed into political parties
- 800-879: Regional/Local electoral pacts
- 880-989: Other parties that are part of an electoral pact
- 993: Special coding, e.g. "Initiative Committee"
- 994: Spoilt votes
- 995: Against all candidates
- 996: Minorities
- 997: Others/Independent candidates
- 998: Independent/Non-partisan candidates
- 998.5: Independent candidates in the cabinet
- 999: Other parties
- 999.5: Members of "other parties" in the cabinet

cmp

Manifesto Project party code

See https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.

Use the variables *cname_en*, *edate*, and *cmp* to join this data with the Manifesto Project data. Currently linked to version 2025a of the Manifesto Project Dataset.

cmp_parfam

Manifesto Project party family coding

See *https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu*.

Coding:
- 10: Ecological party
- 20: Socialist party
- 30: Social democratic party
- 40: Liberal party
- 50: Christian democratic party
- 60: Conservative party
- 70: Nationalist party
- 80: Agrarian party
- 90: Ethnic and regional party
- 95: Special issue party
- 98: Electoral Alliances without a dominant party
- 999/NA: Missing information.

pinitials | *Party name abbreviation*

pname_en | *English translation of party name*

pname_or | *Original party name*

votes/ votes_2ndtier | *Number of votes gained by each party*

v_share/ v_share_2ndtier | *Share of votes gained by each party*

estimate/ estimate_2ndtier | *Estimated election results*

Binary variable indicating whether the number of votes gained by the respective party and the corresponding vote share has been estimated based on the votes gained by an electoral alliance.

Calculated if political parties have been part of an electoral alliance and the seat share of the single parties were known, but not their vote shares. In this case, the vote shares were estimated as follows:

$$(\text{seat_}p/\text{seat_}a) * \text{vote_}a,$$

where seat_p denotes the seats won by the party in question, seat_a the seats won by the corresponding electoral alliance, and vote_a the votes won by the electoral alliance.

In some cases, two or more political parties presented joint lists in single districts (e.g., Belgium 1946-58 or Norway 1949-1981). Here, the votes of the joint lists were distributed to the individual parties according to their total vote share in the respective election.

v_share_wgt

Weighted share of votes gained by each party

Weighted share of votes gained by each party calculated as follows:

$$\text{v_share} * \text{prop} + \text{v_share_2ndtier} * \text{maj},$$

where *v_share* is the vote share gained by proportional vote and *v_share_2ndtier* is the vote share gained by majority vote. *prop* and *maj* denote the corresponding weights defined as the sizes of the corresponding tiers in relation to the absolute number of seats in the national lower house.

$$\text{prop} = \text{seats/total_seats}$$

$$\text{maj} = \text{seats_2ndtier/total_seats}$$

In non-MMM electoral systems, this variable equals *v_share*.

seats/ seats_2ndtier

Number of seats gained by each party

s_share

Share of seats gained by each party

Variable includes seats won in all tiers in the case of segmented electoral systems.

alliance

Categorical indicator for electoral alliances

Coding:
Electoral alliance: Entry is an electoral alliance
Electoral alliance member: Entry is part of an electoral alliance

For members of electoral alliances, the variables *alliance_id*, *alliance_cmp*, *alliance_initials*, *alliance_en*, and *alliance_or* give additional information about the the corresponding electoral pact.

alliance_id

Alphanumeric electoral alliance code

See *party_id* for additional information.

alliance_cmp

Manifesto Project party code

See https://manifesto-project.wzb.eu.

Use the variables *cname_en*, *edate*, and *alliance_cmp* to join this data with the Manifesto Project data. Currently linked to version 2025a of the Manifesto Project Dataset.

alliance_initials	*Electoral alliance abbreviation*
alliance_en	*English translation of electoral alliance name*
alliance_or	*Original electoral alliance name*
region	*Region of country* Regions as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators.
continent	*Continent of country* Continents as defined in the World Bank Development Indicators
eu_member	*Membership European Union*
eu_east	*East European member of the European Union*
eu_since	*Year of entry in European Union*
eu_exit	*Year of withdrawal from the European Union*
oecd	*Membership OECD*
oecd23	*Membership OECD-23*
oecd_since	*Year of entry in OECD*

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