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

Codebook: Parliamentary Elections

Version 2022v1

Citation:

Krause, Werner; Stelzle, Robert; WZB Berlin, 2024, "PPEG - Political Parties, Presidents, Elections and Governments, Version 2022v1", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/XVUPRY, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

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Supported by the WZB Berlin Social Science Center.

Contents

General Remarks **3**

Coverage **3**

Sources **5**

Notes on political parties **6**

Notes on electoral systems **6**

Variable Information **8**

References **13**

General Remarks

The database *Political Parties, Presidents, Elections, and Governments (PPEG)* combines data on election results and governments in 72 democracies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The current version covers the period between 1942 and 2021 and contains information on 3030 political parties, 1011 parliamentary elections, 338 presidential elections, and 1881 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	1991-2021	20	10	108
Armenia	1995-2021	36	8	91
Australia	1943-2019	26	30	262
Austria	1945-2019	21	23	163
Azerbaijan	1995-2020	21	6	60
Barbados	1986-2018	3	8	27
Belgium	1946-2019	46	23	301
Bolivia	1989-2020	51	9	81
Brazil	1990-2018	45	8	202
Bulgaria	1990-2021	42	13	129
Canada	1945-2021	24	25	244
Chile	1989-2021	38	9	162
Colombia	1990-2018	65	9	175
Costa Rica	1990-2018	38	8	118

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Unique Observations
Croatia	1990-2020	57	10	173
Cyprus	1976-2021	14	10	73
Czech Republic	1990-2021	23	10	97
Denmark	1945-2019	23	28	306
Dominican Republic	1990-2020	25	8	89
El Salvador	1988-2021	28	12	104
Estonia	1992-2019	22	8	71
Finland	1945-2019	22	21	220
France	1945-2017	39	20	228
Georgia	1992-2020	66	9	123
Germany	1949-2021	26	20	196
Greece	1974-2019	40	18	203
Guatemala	1985-2019	72	10	160
Honduras	1981-2021	11	11	71
Hungary	1990-2018	24	8	99
Iceland	1942-2021	32	25	169
India	1951-2019	130	17	617
Ireland	1944-2020	27	22	207
Israel	1949-2021	82	24	412
Italy	1946-2018	80	19	311
Jamaica	1989-2020	2	8	28
Japan	1946-2021	40	28	239
Latvia	1993-2018	36	9	86
Lithuania	1992-2020	37	8	111
Luxembourg	1945-2018	21	17	114
Malta	1945-2017	13	19	84
Mauritius	1987-2019	18	8	61
Mexico	1946-2021	25	26	195
Moldova	1994-2021	25	10	83
Montenegro	2006-2020	33	5	58
Netherlands	1946-2021	38	23	298
New Zealand	1943-2020	25	27	204
Nicaragua	1990-2021	20	7	44
North Macedonia	1994-2020	39	9	143
Norway	1945-2021	17	20	216
Panama	1994-2019	18	6	58
Paraguay	1989-2018	30	7	74
Peru	1980-2021	68	12	161
Poland	1991-2019	54	9	120
Portugal	1975-2019	33	16	226
Romania	1990-2020	38	9	112
Russia	1993-2021	48	8	103
Serbia	1990-2020	74	12	157
Slovakia	1990-2020	28	10	111

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Country	Time	Political Parties	Elections	Unique Observations
Slovenia	1990-2018	24	9	109
South Africa	1994-2019	25	6	85
South Korea	1988-2020	32	9	65
Spain	1977-2019	70	15	314
Sweden	1944-2018	14	23	186
Switzerland	1943-2019	32	20	288
The Bahamas	1987-2021	2	8	27
Trinidad and Tobago	1986-2020	5	10	45
Turkey	1950-2018	34	19	149
USA	1948-2020	8	37	167
Ukraine	1994-2019	58	8	127
United Kingdom	1945-2019	32	21	287
Uruguay	1989-2019	13	7	44
Venezuela	1988-2015	33	7	88

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 **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.

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

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 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 consisting of the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code and a party-specifc code (3 digits).

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.

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 coalition.

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 the sum of vote shares gained by proportional and majority vote weighted by the relative sizes of the proportional and majority tier. In non-MMM electoral systems this variable equals *v_share*.

The weighted vote share was 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.

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

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

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 party code consisting of the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country code and a party-specifc code (3 digits)

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.

alliance_initials	*Electoral pact abbreviation*
alliance_en	*English translation of electoral pact name*
alliance_or	*Original electoral pact 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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