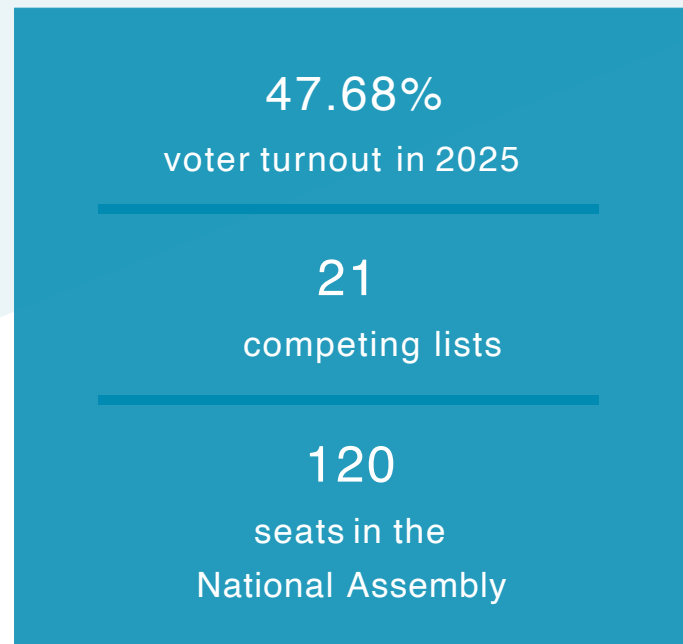


Briefing on
**Parliamentary Elections
in Kosovo**
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Electoral System

According to Kosovo's Election Law, the Southeast European country forms a single nationwide electoral district. All registered citizens of Kosovo who are not legally excluded from voting may participate in elections, regardless of whether they live in the country or abroad.

Parliamentary elections are held in a single round. Of the 120 seats in parliament, 100 are allocated through proportional representation among all parties. The remaining 20 seats are reserved for non-Albanian minority communities. Of these 20 minority seats, 10 are allocated to the Serb minority. The other seats are distributed among different minority groups: one seat each for the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, and Gorani communities; two seats for the Turkish minority; and three seats for the Bosniak minority.

A five-percent electoral threshold applies to Albanian and non-Albanian parties competing for the 100 seats; however, this threshold does not apply to the 20 reserved minority seats.

The Electoral Law also includes a gender quota: at least 30 percent of candidates on party lists must be of the "other gender," which in practice means a mandatory quota for women.

Parliamentary elections since 2010

Kosovo declared independence in 2008, although its statehood is not recognized by all EU member states under international law. The first parliamentary elections in independent Kosovo were held in 2010.

The political landscape was long dominated by two parties: the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), founded by 'state founder' Ibrahim Rugova, and the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), which emerged from the former Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK). Alongside them, the left-nationalist protest party Vetëvendosje (Self-Determination, LVV) and the conservative Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) led by Ramush Haradinaj also played significant roles.

Vetëvendosje, under the leadership of Albin Kurti, emerged as a left-nationalist, social-democratic alternative to the established parties. In 2019, it won the parliamentary elections for the first time and formed a coalition with the LDK. In the snap elections of 2021, the Vetëvendosje-led list achieved a landslide victory: for the first time in the history of independent Kosovo, a single party won an absolute majority of the vote. The previously dominant parties, PDK and LDK, suffered substantial losses.

In the February 2025 parliamentary elections, Kurti's party once again came in first but lost its absolute majority in parliament. Political fragmentation initially made it difficult to constitute the new parliament. The election of the parliamentary presidency failed more than fifty times; only in August 2025 was Vetëvendosje candidate Dimal Basha elected Speaker of Parliament, after five other candidates had been rejected. However, since no representative of the Serb minority was elected to the presidency, the Constitutional Court ruled in September 2025 that the parliament had not yet been lawfully constituted.

The election of a new prime minister also failed due to the lack of a majority. After two unsuccessful attempts, President Vjosa Osmani was constitutionally obliged to call new elections. She scheduled early elections for 28 December 2025.

Parliamentary elections since 2010

Partei	2010	2014	2017	2019	2021	2025
PDK	32,1 %	30,4 %	33,7 % (together with AAK)	21,2 %	17,0 %	20,9 %
LDK	24,7 %	25,2 %	25,5 % (together with other parties)	24,5 %	12,7 %	18,3 %
Vetëvendosje	12,7 %	13,6 %	27,5 %	26,3 %	50,3 %	42,3 %
AAK	11,0 %	9,5 %	-	11,5 %	7,1 %	7,1 %

After the December 2025 elections: new government, but no new head of state

In the early parliamentary elections held on 28 December 2025, Albin Kurti’s Vetëvendosje party won an absolute majority of the vote. Together with its coalition partners, Kurti was able to form a stable government, which also included a Serb minister: Nenad Rašić, whose list “For Freedom, Justice and Survival” (ZSPO), with one seat, presents an alternative to the larger and more nationalist Srpska Lista.

While the question of government formation was thus resolved, a new domestic political conflict emerged over who should become the next head of state and when this election should take place. Although the incumbent president, Vjosa Osmani, had previously been aligned with Kurti’s party, she lost the government’s support – and therefore the prospect of being re-elected in parliament. In addition to domestic political tensions between her and Kurti, Osmani’s pro-Donald Trump foreign policy was also increasingly criticized.

According to Kosovo’s constitution, the president is elected by parliament, requiring a two-thirds majority in each of the first two rounds, as well as a minimum quorum of present MPs. The governing party initially attempted to push through its own candidates – such as Foreign Minister Glauk Konjufca – but opposition parties rejected him and demanded a consensus candidate.

Due to mutual deadlock, no successful vote took place, as Kurti’s party did not have the required majority for a presidential election.

After the constitutional deadline for electing a president expired, Osmani declared parliament dissolved in early March 2026. The governing party challenged this decision before the Constitutional Court. The court suspended Osmani’s decree and granted parliament additional time to elect a president. However, even by the end of the extended deadline, no head of state could be elected. As a result, parliament was ultimately dissolved, leading to yet another snap election – second time within a single year.

Early parliamentary elections

In the new parliamentary elections, Vetëvendosje again runs in alliance with smaller parties such as the Party of Albanian Christian Minority (PSHDK), the liberal Alternativa, and the Guxo-party, the latter founded by incumbent president Vjosa Osmani. Osmani herself also participates in the election this time, returning to her former party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). In the 2019 elections she was LDK’s candidate for prime minister, but later left the party to run with her own Guxo-party in 2021. LDK leader Lumir Abdixhiku remains the party’s official prime ministerial candidate, but Osmani’s candidacy signals her return to parliamentary politics.

Reshitaj also joins the LDK list; she previously moved from Vetëvendosje to Guxo. Given Osmani’s popularity, LDK hopes for a stronger electoral result this time. The party also intends to nominate her again as a presidential candidate in the new parliament. If she fails once more, she could take over leadership of the LDK as opposition leader.

In the opposition, the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) competes under its current leader Bedri Hamza. In the third major Albanian opposition party, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), there has been a significant change: Ardian Gjini has been elected new party leader and list head. Party founder and long-time leader Ramush Haradinaj pushed for internal renewal but has not left politics and remains active in the campaign. Gjini is considered his political protégé, meaning the leadership change does not represent a break with Haradinaj.

Among the Serb parties, which hold ten reserved seats, the nationalist Srpska Lista (SL) continues to enjoy the strongest support. However, its absolute dominance was already weakened in both the February and December 2025 elections, as Nenad Rašić’s more moderate “For Freedom, Justice and Survival” (ZSPO) succeeded in winning one seat.

Polls still show Vetëvendosje in the lead, but this time an absolute majority appears uncertain, which could again complicate government formation. The question of the presidency also remains unresolved. If Kurti fails to win an absolute majority and parliament cannot agree on a compromise presidential candidate, the political instability of recent years is likely to return – with failed government formation (as after February 2025) and/or failed presidential elections (as after March 2026).

The dissolution of parliament also places Kosovo under significant time pressure to secure 96 million euros from the EU Growth Plan. Although an initial tranche has already been disbursed following an agreement with the EU, 13 reforms still need to be implemented by the end of June. Early elections and potential political instability without a clear parliamentary majority could make timely implementation of these reforms more difficult, potentially delaying further EU payments.

Main parties

Party / List	Political Orientation	List Leader
Vetëvendosje (LVV)	Social democratic, left-nationalist	Albin Kurti
Alternativa	liberal	
Guxo	Centre-left liberal	
PSHDK	Christian democratic	
PDK	right-wing nationalist	Bedri Hamza
LDK	conservative	Lumir Abdixhiku
AAK	right-wing populist	Ardian Gjini
SL	Serb nationalist, Belgrade aligned	Zlatan Elek
ZSPO	Serb democratic, Belgrade critical	Nenad Rašić

