

Briefing

Parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic

3 - 4. October 2025

Kamila Bogdanova ,
IDM Fellow

65.43 %

Voter turnout in 2021

26

Running political entities:

200

Seats in the Chamber of Deputies

About the elections

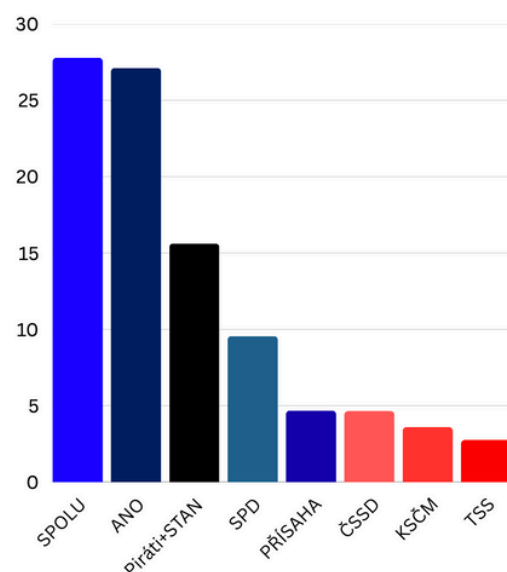
The Czech Republic will elect all 200 members of the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the Parliament, on 3–4 October 2025. The election will determine which party can assemble a majority and secure presidential appointment of a cabinet. Legal challenges to several candidate lists were settled only in late August and early September, which influenced some of the official campaigns. For the first time, citizens living or stationed abroad may vote by post. The 2024 reform widened access for the diaspora, although initial registration numbers were lower than the Foreign Ministry expected.

Deputies are chosen by proportional representation on open party lists in 14 districts. A party must win at least 5% of valid votes nationwide to obtain seats. Two-party coalitions need 7%. Coalitions of three or more need 11%. These thresholds strongly influence how parties negotiate and compose their lists.

Background and political context

The previous parliamentary elections in 2021 resulted in a cabinet led by Petr Fiala (Civic Democratic Party ODS). The centre-right alliance Together (SPOLU), comprising the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the

Christian Democratic Union–Czech People's Party (KDU–ČSL) and Tradition, Responsibility, Prosperity 09 (TOP 09), finished narrowly ahead of ANO 2011 (ANO) and afterwards signed a coalition agreement with the alliance Pirates and Mayors (Piráti a Starostové, PirSTAN), a pre-election alliance formed in 2020 and later dissolved in 2024.



© Election results 2021. Source- Czech Statistical Office - Volby.cz

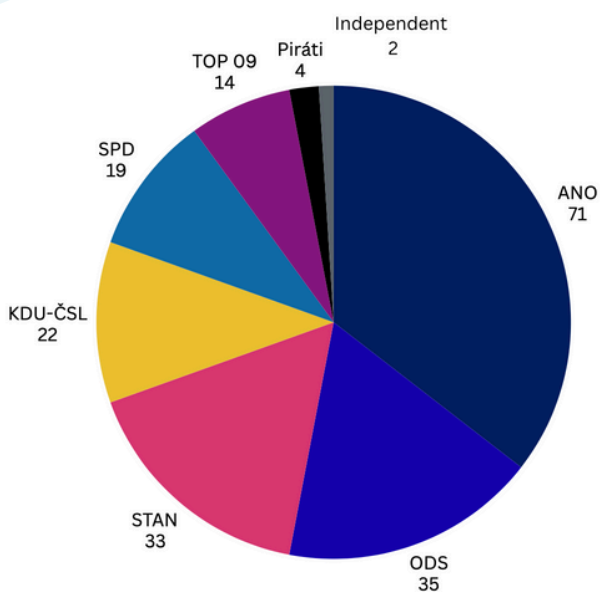
The new government faced a difficult macroeconomic environment. Inflation and energy prices surged, while a consolidation package and utility price adjustments hit household budgets. Support for Ukraine and a firm defence posture defined the stiff foreign policy line. The coalition parties performed poorly in the European Parliament elections in 2024 as well as in the later regional and Senate voting. The Czech Pirate Party (Piráti) performed worst at regional level and subsequently left the cabinet. Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský completed the term as a non-partisan appointee backed by the remaining coalition partners and is now running for SPOLU on behalf of ODS.

These arrangements generated a wave of lawsuits about so called 'non-coalitions': joint lists that were registered as single parties to be eligible for the 5% threshold rather than the higher coalition bars. Regional courts criticised the practice in their reasoning but allowed the lists to appear on the ballot and left any doctrinal change for constitutional review after the vote.

A separate controversy that coloured the pre-campaign involved bitcoin donations linked to the Ministry of Justice. The matter culminated in a no-confidence vote in the Chamber of Deputies, which the government survived, and intensified opposition criticism regarding the cabinet's integrity and administrative oversight.

Running political entities

The ballot contains one coalition list and twenty-five party lists, the lowest number of candidates since the late 1990s, which reflects the spread of electoral alliances. ANO remains the largest single actor. SPOLU continues as a formal coalition of the Civic Democrats, Christian Democrats and TOP 09 with a common national programme. Its leaders reject any post-election cooperation with ANO, Stačilo! and SPD. Mayors and Independents (STAN) is competing on its own and leans on its mayoral networks. The Piráti is running separate lists and include Green Party figures in several regions. On the right populist flank, SPD is leading a joint effort that also places nominees of Tricolour (Trikolora), Law Respect Expertise (Pravo Respekt Odbornost, PRO) and Svobodní (formerly known as Party of Free Citizens) on SPD lists after a memorandum of cooperation signed in March 2025. On the left, Stačilo!, led by Kateřina Konečná, aims to consolidate the fragmented anti-establishment vote and gives space to social democratic candidates in Prague and some regions. Another wildcard is the Oath and Motorists (Přísaha a Motoristé) list, which targets voters dissatisfied with green regulation and fuel prices and sits close to the parliamentary threshold in some polls.



© Current distribution of seats in the parliament.
Source- Czech Statistical Office - Volby.cz

Opposition politics converged around ANO and a cluster of protest parties. Andrej Babiš presented ANO as the standard bearer for voters concerned about living costs and sceptical of the EU climate agenda. Tomio Okamura's Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) tried to attract voters from the smaller conservative and nationalist parties. The left regrouped as the Enough! (Stačilo!) movement, an alliance formed by the leader of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM). In July, the Social Democrats (SOCDEM), previously known as the Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), agreed to place candidates on Stačilo! lists in each region.

The running political entities, their main candidates and political orientations:

Political entity	Main candidate	Political ideology	European party
ANO 2011	Andrej Babiš	Right-wing populism, Liberal conservatism	Patriots for Europe (PfE)
SPOLU	Petr Fiala	Liberal conservatism, Christian democracy	European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) / European People's Party (EPP)
Mayors and Independents (STAN)	Vít Rakušan	Liberalism, Localism	European People's Party (EPP)
Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD)	Tomio Okamura	Right-wing populism, Nationalism	Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN)
Czech Pirate Party (Piráti)	Zdeněk Hřib	Liberalism, Progressivism	The European Pirate Party (PPEU)
Enough! (Stačilo!)	Kateřina Konečná	Left-wing nationalism, Left-wing populism	Non-attached (NI)
Motorists for Themselves (Motoristé sobě)	Petr Macinka (Party President) Filip Turek (Campaign Leader)	Right-wing populism, National conservatism	Patriots for Europe (PfE)

The campaign

The economy dominates the public debate. Headline inflation has fallen from its 2022 and 2023 peaks, yet the cumulative rise in prices, higher mortgage costs and adjustments of administered prices keep real living standards at the centre of voter attention. Parties disagree on the pace of fiscal consolidation and on how to structure household relief. ANO promises tax cuts, selective price interventions and a rollback of parts of the consolidation package. SPOLU argues for fiscal credibility, gradual base broadening and investment in productivity and the defence industry. STAN campaigns on municipal delivery and better absorption of EU funds. The Piráti stress digital public services, civil liberties and housing. SPD and Stačilo! propose deeper price controls and protectionism, calling for looser green regulation and questioning sanctions against Russia and migration

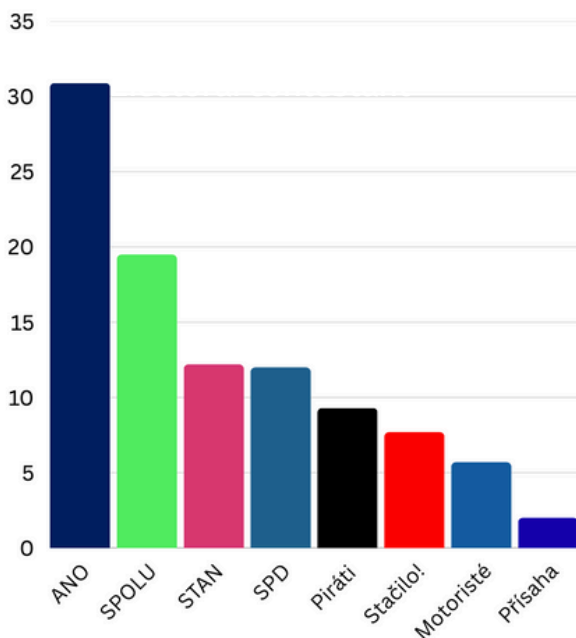
policy. Babiš has also framed his programme around cheaper energy, reduced VAT for restaurants and lower corporate taxes, financed by stronger growth and improved tax collection. His rhetoric places more distance between ANO and Brussels than in the movement's early years and borrows from positions seen in Budapest and Bratislava.

Foreign and security policy does not define the voters' choices, but it shapes coalition arithmetic. President Petr Pavel has recently stated that he will not appoint ministers who advocate leaving NATO and/or the EU. He added that he would not entrust security or foreign policy portfolios to nominees of parties that hold such positions. Any cabinet that relies on parties with hard Eurosceptic programmes would therefore need to find technocratic compromises for those posts or accept a narrower parliamentary base.

A separate controversy that coloured the pre-campaign involved bitcoin donations linked to the Ministry of Justice. The matter culminated in a no-confidence vote in the Chamber of Deputies, which the government survived, and intensified opposition criticism regarding the cabinet's integrity and administrative oversight.

Opinion polls and outlook

Late-campaign polling shows ANO as the leading force, with percentual support around the low thirties, weakening slightly since midsummer. The alliance SPOLU tracks in the high teens to low twenties, while SPD and STAN form a second tier in the low to mid-teens. Stačilo! has moved up into the high single digits after a steady summer climb. The Piráti remain just above the five percent threshold. Motorists for Themselves (Motoristé sobě) and allied protest formations hover near the threshold and thus represent the main source of volatility in seat projections.



© Opinion polls 2025. Source- STEM Institute for Empirical Research.

Across the board, the late-August and early-September models share two key themes. First, undecided and weakly committed voters are disproportionately concentrated among supporters of government-side parties, which raises the importance of turnout and the final week's mobilisation. Second, there is evidence of modest vote reallocation within the government camp rather than gains at the bloc level. These dynamics, together with Czechia's frequent use of preferential voting, point to a fragmented Chamber with six or seven parties and a heightened risk of wasted votes on sub-threshold lists.

On this basis, the central outlook is unchanged. ANO remains well placed to finish first, yet the distribution of seats will hinge on whether one or two threshold-level actors, above all the Motorists and smaller alliances, enter the Chamber. If they do, they will complicate majority arithmetic on both sides. If they fall short, the leading three or four actors will capture a larger bonus in mandates, narrowing coalition options but easing the construction of a relative majority.

Possible coalition scenarios

The most discussed outcome is an ANO-led cabinet. A single party minority tolerated by SPD or by Stačilo! is the path of least resistance if the president does not accept their nominees in sovereign portfolios. A formal ANO majority would require at least one additional partner over 5% and would be difficult to maintain if built from several small parties. On the government side, a renewed SPOLU, STAN and Piráti arrangement is possible but would require each to clear the threshold comfortably and to regain some of the losses from 2024. In that case, the Piráti would bargain from a stronger position than in 2021. Public statements continue to rule out an ANO and SPOLU grand coalition, yet in a blocked lower house there would be pressure for some cross bench accommodation, from a confidence and supply pact to a short technocratic cabinet.

After the elections

The ANO party, headed by billionaire and former Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, won Czech Republic's parliamentary elections by a wide margin, obtaining 34.51% of the vote and securing 80 seats in Parliament - an increase from its previous 72 seats. This marks a decisive lead over the centre-right SPOLU (Together) coalition, led by outgoing Prime Minister Petr Fiala, which obtained only 23.36% of the vote and 52 seats.

Since ANO party did not secure an absolute majority in Parliament, Andrej Babiš has already announced plans to open coalition talks with two far-right parties: Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD), which received approximately 7.8% of the vote, and the Motorists for Themselves party, which earned around 6.8%.

Combined, the three parties would hold around 108 seats, just enough for a majority in the 200-member Parliament. However, forming a stable coalition may prove challenging due to ideological divisions between them. The SPD campaigned on anti-EU and anti-NATO positions and supports holding a referendum on EU membership - a stance that Andrej Babiš has firmly rejected. While Babiš has reaffirmed his commitment to EU membership, his administration is expected to adopt a more nationalist and isolationist tone, particularly on foreign policy. Support for Ukraine is likely to decrease significantly, reflecting a shift in the Czech Republic's stance on international military aid.

