

Briefing on

**Parliamentary elections
in Slovenia**
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70,92%
Voter Turnout (2022)

16
Lists

90
Parliament Seats

Electoral system

The Slovenian Parliament (Državni zbor) is composed of 90 members. Of these, 88 are elected from eight constituencies, while one seat each is reserved for the Italian and Hungarian minorities.

Each constituency contains roughly the same number of voters. Within each constituency, 11 seats are distributed among the parties that have received at least 4% of the national vote. Slovenian voters may also cast a preference vote for an individual candidate on a party list, which can alter the original order of candidates.

The seats reserved for the Italian and Hungarian minorities are determined using a first-past-the-post system, with the candidate receiving the most votes winning the seat.

General overview of the domestic political situation

Since gaining independence in 1992, Slovenian politics has been marked by a strong polarization between a liberal-leaning center-left bloc and a national-conservative center-right bloc.

The center-left was long dominated by the post-communist liberal party Liberal Democracy of Slovenia (LDS), which held power until the 2004 elections, when it lost its majority. Since then, the center-left has consisted of a variety of parties, with a defining characteristic being its frequent reorganization and emergence of new parties. In 2014, Miro Cerar managed to unite much of the former LDS electorate behind him; in 2018, Marjan Šarec became prime minister from a second-party position; and in 2022, Robert Golob won the elections with his newly founded Freedom Movement (GS).

By contrast, the center-right has been more politically stable. The Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), led by Janez Janša, has remained the dominant force, while other moderate-conservative parties, such as the agrarian Slovenian People's Party (SLS) and the Christian-democratic New Slovenia (NSi), appeal primarily to voters critical of SDS. Janša has served as prime minister three times: 2004–2008, 2012–2018, and 2020–2022.

After the 2018 parliamentary elections, center-left leader Marjan Šarec was able to form a government

without SDS. However, he resigned in 2020 amid coalition disputes. Rather than triggering early elections, Janša returned to power with a heterogeneous coalition, as some of Šarec's former partners switched sides. In 2022, Janša lost the parliamentary elections.

The previously small green party Z.DEJ was taken over in 2021 by Robert Golob, a former energy sector manager, and rebranded as the Freedom Movement (GS). Golob's new social-liberal party unexpectedly won the 2022 elections and formed a stable coalition government with the Social Democrats (SD) and the left-radical Levica.

Domestic Political Situation since 2022

The Golob government has pursued a liberal-progressive agenda, focusing on strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, social policy, energy and climate policy, and modernization of the state administration. However, the coalition is ideologically diverse, which has frequently led to internal tensions. Disputes have arisen particularly over pension and tax reforms, energy policy, and state subsidies, reflecting differences between the economically liberal GS, the Social Democrats, and the left-radical Levica.

Within Levica, not all members accepted the compromises; some left to form a more radical party, "We, Socialists", though the government's parliamentary majority remained secure. At the same time, other politicians from Levica—including the former parliamentary group leader, Matej Tašner Vatovec—switched to the Social Democrats.

While Janez Janša retained his position as the leading opposition figure, the conservative camp also experienced internal friction. In 2023, Janša's former foreign minister, Anže Logar, split from SDS and founded a new party, the Democrats. It remains uncertain whether this party will emerge as a genuine

alternative to Janša or primarily consolidate moderate votes in favor of a potential new Janša-led government.

Since 2022, referendums have played a central role in Slovenian politics. Shortly after the government took office, a referendum approved public broadcasting reforms, enabling the Golob government to implement its planned changes. In 2025, a referendum on special pensions for artists ultimately rejected the proposed law. In the same year, voters decided on the "Šutar Act", which expanded police powers in "risk areas"; the law was passed despite criticism from minority representatives. In November 2025, a referendum on assisted dying was held, which was rejected by 53% of voters.

Election campaign and outlook

The 2026 campaign centers on whether Janez Janša, whose SDS leads the polls with 25–30%, can return to power. To do so, he will need multiple coalition partners. Key players include the SDS-split Democrats and the moderate-conservative coalition of the Slovenian People's Party (SLS) and New Slovenia (NSi). It is uncertain whether Janša and other center-right parties would cooperate with the populist, EU-critical party Resnica, should it enter parliament.

Janša's personal profile remains highly polarizing. Center-left parties are campaigning to prevent his return, warning of a potential "Orbánization" of Slovenia. While SDS did not leave the European People's Party alongside Viktor Orbán's Fidesz in 2021, nor join the extreme-right Patriots, Janša maintains close ties with Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán, who has helped secure a media base in Slovenia through allied entrepreneurs.

The current center-left government has lost significant support, with Golob's Freedom Movement facing a drop of more than 10 percentage points. The Social Democrats have largely maintained their support, while Levica—despite initial difficulties caused by splits—has ultimately strengthened its

position through a coalition with the Green party Spring, even possibly performing better than four years ago. However, based on current polling, the three parties together would no longer command a parliamentary majority, making support from other moderate or center-right parties essential. A key question is whether Janša-critical center-right parties, particularly SLS–NSi (7–8%) and the Democrats (4–5%), would be willing to support a center-left government.

In a fragmented and polarized parliament, neither Janša nor Golob can form an ideologically cohesive government alone. Both will depend on centrist forces, which could help moderate polarization. Janša may need to compromise to secure support from moderates, while Golob may have to offer concessions, potentially generating tensions with the Social Democrats and especially Levica.

<i>Party/List</i>	<i>Political Orientation</i>	<i>European affiliation</i>	<i>2022 Result</i>	<i>Cumulative polling (March 12, 2026)</i>
Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS)	Centre-right / conservative	EPP	23.5%	28.6%
Freedom Movement (GS)	Social-liberal	Renew	34.5%	21.7%
Social Democrats (SD)	Social-democratic	S&D	6.7%	7.9%
New Slovenia (NSi) / Slovenian People's Party (SLS)	Centre-right / christian-democratic / agrarian	EPP	6.9% (NSi only)	7.6%
Left (Levica) / Spring (Vesna)	Left-radical / green	European Left/ EGP	4.5% (Levica only)	6.8%
Democrats (D)	Moderate conservative	-	-	4.5%
Truth (Resnica)	Populist / EU-critical	-	2.9%	3.9%
Rebirth – Party of Vladimir Prebilič (Prerod – SVP)	Centre-left	-	-	3.6%
Pirate Party (PSS)	Left-liberal	-	1.6%	2.6%
Slovenian National Party (SNS)	Nationalist / far-right	-	1.5%	2.1%
We, Socialists! (MSI)	Communist	-	-	1.3%