

A guide to the German federal election

What is at stake?

In Germany, the federal election will be held until 26 September to elect an entirely new Bundestag.



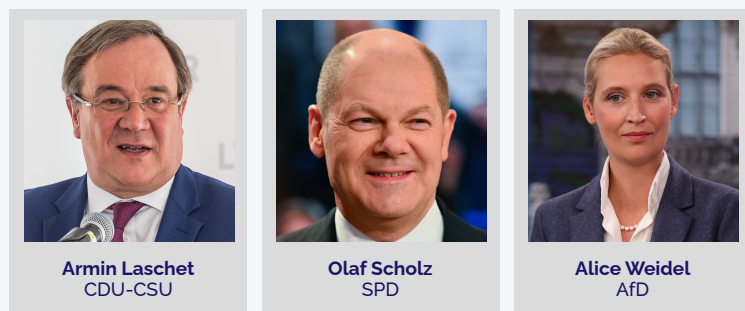
► THE BUNDESTAG

The Bundestag is the lower house of the German federal parliament which exercises legislative power with the Bundesrat (upper house). It elects the Chancellor and controls the government. It votes on the budget, in close cooperation with the Bundesrat.

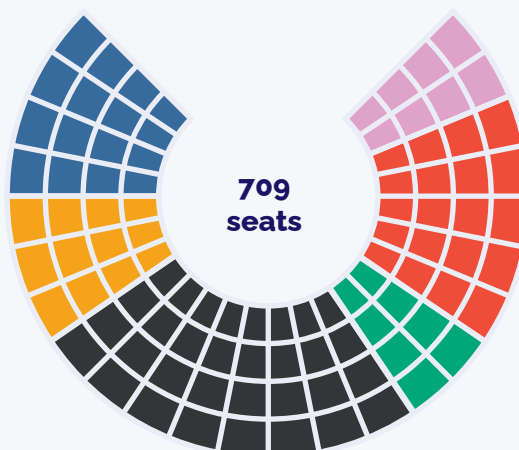
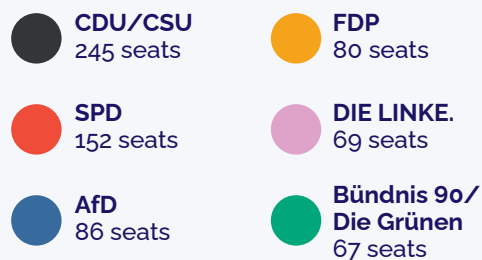


MPs with seats in the Bundestag are elected for four years, as are the government and the Chancellery.

► FIGURES HEADING THE PARTY LISTS



► CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN THE BUNDESTAG



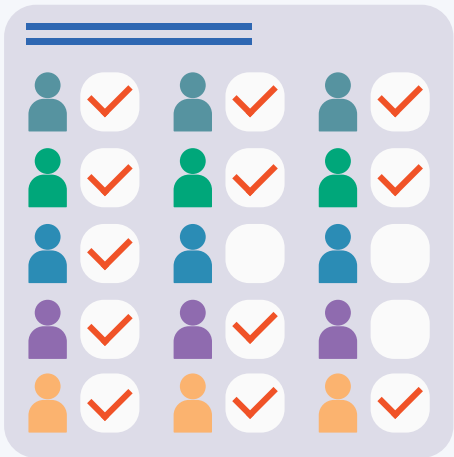
Two votes, one election

FORMATION OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT

When a new Parliament is formed, 299 seats are directly allocated to MPs elected in constituencies. The remaining seats are allocated to political parties through a second proportional voting system.

In total, the Bundestag can have between 598 to 750 MPs.

A compensation system is implemented following the second vote outcome, to balance out the fact that certain parties may or may not be already represented by MPs winning constituencies.



FIRST PAST THE POST VOTING

This first voting system elects 299 MPs directly.

On the left-hand column of the ballot paper, each German citizen votes for a candidate for their constituency, so that all German constituencies have at least one seat in the Parliament.



PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

The second vote determines the number of parliamentary seats allocated to political parties. Seats are distributed among the parties that have gained more than 5% of the second votes.

In the right-hand column, German citizens vote for a political party's national list.

This vote is added to the number of MPs directly elected by the first past the post system.

Source: Wikipedia

Forming a coalition

FORMING THE NEW GOVERNMENT

The German political system is based on compromise and coalitions between parties. To govern, parties must forge alliances and obtain an absolute parliamentary majority. The party with the most MPs is not necessarily the party which forms a government.

It can take time to form a coalition. In 2017, it took five months.



COLOURS OF THE POTENTIAL COALITIONS

- Grand coalition
- Kenya coalition
- Germany coalition

- Black-green coalition
- Jamaica coalition
- Black-yellow coalition

- Red-green coalition
- Traffic light coalition
- Red-red-green coalition