

Comparative Executives of Four Federal Democracies

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February 2026

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Types of government အစိုးရအမျိုးအစားများ

- Presidential government (သမ္မတဦးဆောင် အစိုးရ)
- Parliamentary government/ democracy (ဝန်ကြီးချုပ်ဦးဆောင် အစိုးရ)
- Semi-presidential government (တစ်ဝက်တစ်ပျက် သမ္မတဦးဆောင်အစိုးရ)
- Consociation democracy/ government (ကွန်ဆိုဆီရေးရှင်း အစိုးရ)

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF POWER

A comparative analysis of Executive Branches in the **USA**, **Germany**, **Switzerland**, and **Australia**.

PRESIDENTIAL
UNITARY EXECUTIVE

PARLIAMENTARY
CHANCELLOR-LED

DIRECTORIAL
COLLECTIVE COUNCIL

HYBRID
WESTMINSTER STYLE

United States

PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

- **Head:** President (State & Govt combined).
- **Selection:** Indirect via Electoral College (4 years).
- **Key Power:** Veto, Commander-in-Chief, Executive Orders.
- **Restraint:** Separate from Congress; Impeachment.

Germany

PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC

- **Head:** Chancellor (Govt), President (Ceremonial).
- **Selection:** Elected by Bundestag.
- **Key Power:** *Richtlinienkompetenz* (Guiding Principle).
- **Restraint:** Constructive Vote of No-Confidence.

Switzerland

DIRECTORIAL SYSTEM

- **Head:** 7-Member Federal Council (Collective).
- **Selection:** Elected by Parliament (4 years).
- **Key Power:** Consensus-based decisions.
- **Restraint:** Direct Democracy (Referenda).

Australia

WESTMINSTER HYBRID

- **Head:** PM (Govt), Monarch/GG (State).
- **Selection:** Leader of majority in House.
- **Key Power:** Leads Cabinet; controls House agenda.
- **Restraint:** Senate blocking power; GG reserve powers.

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System Trade-offs

Analyzing how each system prioritizes conflicting democratic values: Independence vs. Accountability, and Speed vs. Consensus.

Country	Exec Independence	Decision Speed	Legislative Control	Consensus Need
USA	9	4	2	3
Germany	4	8	2	3
Switzerland	4	4	7	3

Political Power of the Head of State

Comparing the *de facto* political authority of the Head of State. Note the stark contrast between the US President (Unitary Executive) and ceremonial heads in Parliamentary systems.

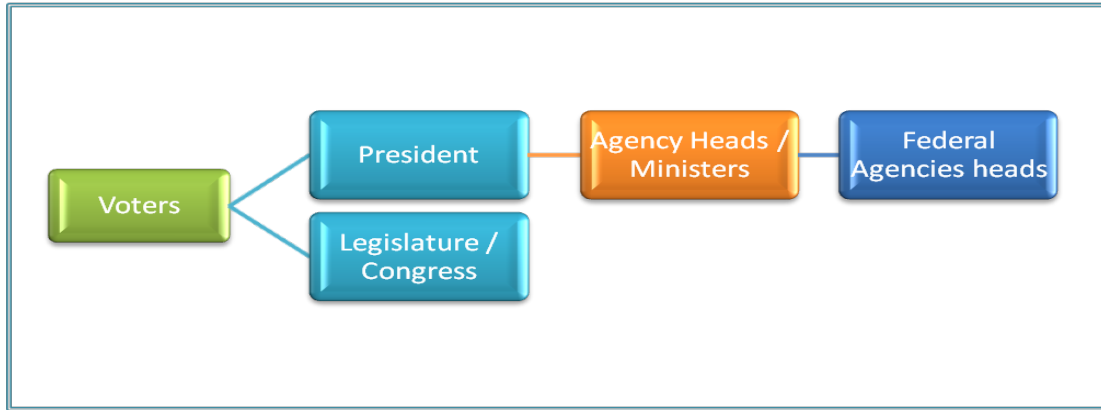
Country/Role	Political Authority (1-10)
US President	10
German Chancellor	9
Australian PM	8.5
German President	2
Aus Governor-General	3

Uniquely Swiss: The "Magic Formula"

Unlike the others, Switzerland has no single leader. The 7 Federal Councillors rotate the Presidency annually, but the President is merely *primus inter pares* (first among equals) with no extra power.

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Presidential government

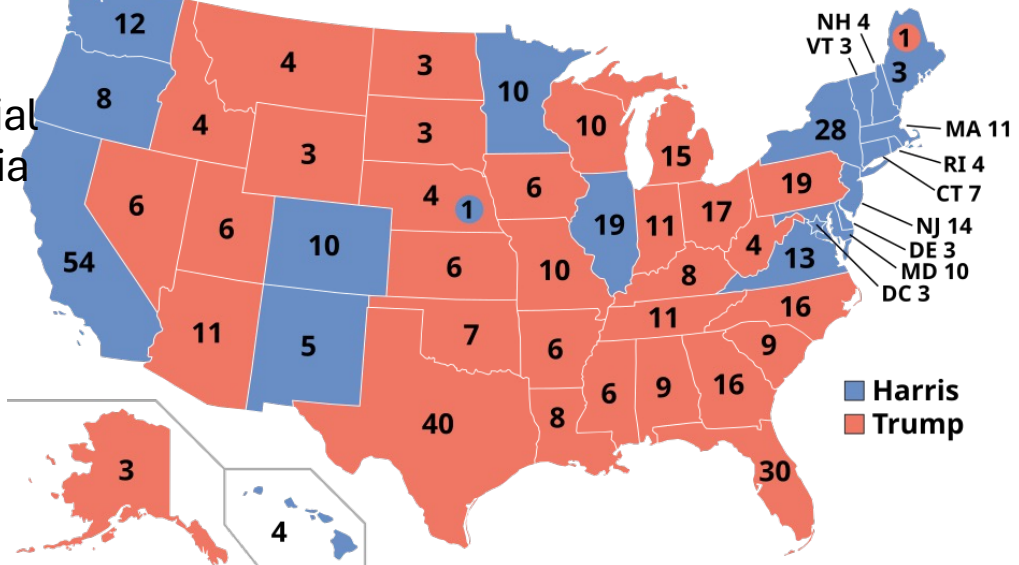


- The president is both Head of State and Head of Government
- No Prime Minister
- Separation of power between legislative and executive branches

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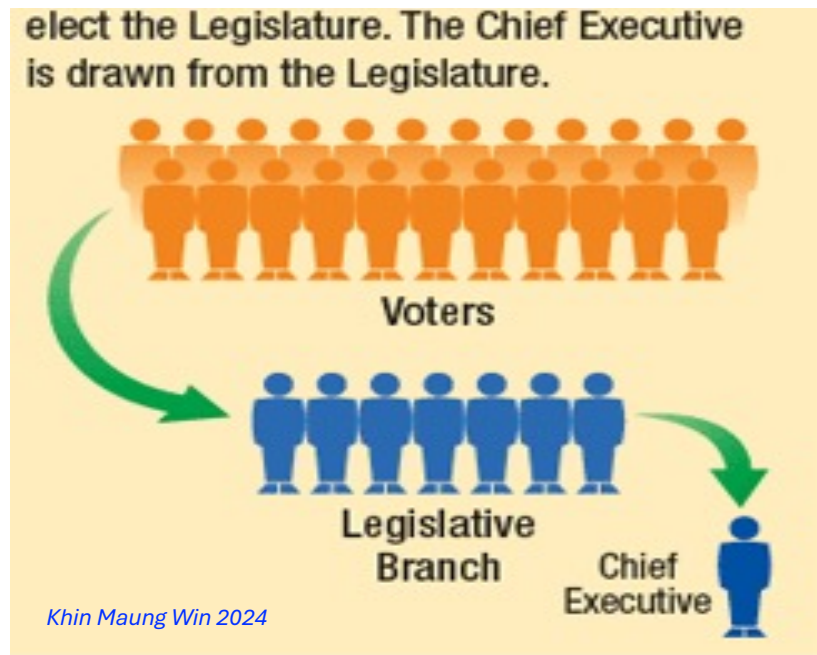
The U.S. Presidential election via the Electoral College in 2024

Electoral college members 435 + 100 + D.C 3 = 538
Trump = 312, Harris 226



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Parliamentary democracy/
Parliamentary government

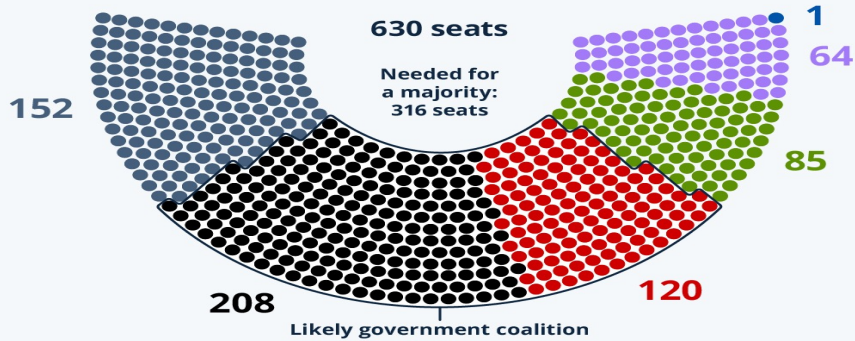


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The Newly Elected German Parliament

Distribution of seats in the German Bundestag following the federal election on Feb. 23, 2025

- AfD
- CDU/CSU
- SPD
- The Greens
- The Left
- SSW



Provisional results as of Jan. 24, 2025

Source: The Federal Returning Officer

[Allocation link](#)




Coalition government in Germany



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Paths to Power


How the Executive is formed in each system




US
Electoral College
Voters → Electors (State Level) → President
Fixed 4-Year Term



DE
Bundestag Vote
Voters → Bundestag MPs → Chancellor
Dependent on Confidence



CH
United Assembly
Parliament elects 7 Councilors individually.
Fixed 4-Year Term (Cannot Dissolve)



AU
House Majority
Voters → House MPs → Party Leader becomes PM
Appointed by GG

The Swiss Exception: Collective Executive

In the US, Germany, and Australia, power ultimately flows to a single individual (President, Chancellor, PM). Switzerland breaks this mold. The Constitution vests executive power in a **seven-member college** where every member has equal say.

- No mechanism to remove the Council (fixed term).
- Decisions made by consensus or majority vote.
- Rotating presidency (1 year only).



Equal Power Distribution (1/7th)

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Swiss Consociation Democracy: Main ingredients အဓိက ဝိသေသများ



- Grand Coalition Government (မဟာ ညွန့်ပေါင်းအစိုးရ)
- Mutual (Minority) Veto (လူနည်းစု ဗီတို)
- Proportional Representation (အချိုးကျ ကိုယ်စားပြုစနစ်)
- Segmental Autonomy (အုပ်စုလိုက် ကိုယ်ပိုင်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး/ ပြဌာန်းခွင့်)

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Federal Council ဖက်ဒရယ်အစိုးရ

- The Federal Council is Switzerland's government. Its members represent the main political parties and reflect the country's different regions and languages. The federal councillors each head their own department, and therefore represent the highest level of the Federal Administration and of the executive branch at federal level.
- ဖက်ဒရယ်ကောင်စီသည် ဆွစ်ဇာလန်အစိုးရဖြစ်သည်။ ၎င်း၏အဖွဲ့ဝင်များသည် အဓိက နိုင်ငံရေးပါတီများကို ကိုယ်စားပြုပြီး နိုင်ငံ၏ မတူညီသော ဒေသများနှင့် ဘာသာစကား များကို ထင်ဟပ်စေသည်။ ဖက်ဒရယ်ကောင်စီဝင်များသည် ဝန်ကြီးဌာန တစ်ခုစီကို ဦးစီးကြသည်။ ဖက်ဒရယ်အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး၏ အမြင့်ဆုံး အဆင့် ဖြစ်သည်။

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Federal Council ဖက်ဒရယ်အစိုးရ

- Switzerland's national government consists of seven members of equal standing. They are elected or re-elected every four years by the United Federal Assembly. Each federal councillor is appointed to serve a one-year term as President of the Confederation by the Federal Assembly in accordance with the principle of seniority (i.e. longer-serving members first). The Federal President chairs the sessions of the executive and undertakes special ceremonial duties, particularly abroad.
- ဆွစ်ဇာလန်အစိုးရတွင် အဖွဲ့ဝင်ခုနစ်ဦးဖြင့် တန်းတူညီတူရပ်တည်သည်။ United Federal Assembly မှ လေးနှစ် တစ်ကြိမ် ရွေးကောက်တင်မြှောက်ခြင်း သို့မဟုတ် ပြန်လည်ရွေးကောက်တင်မြှောက်ခြင်းခံရသည်။ ဖက်ဒရယ် ကောင်စီဝင်တစ်ဦးစီအား ပြည်ထောင်စုလွှတ်တော်မှ သမ္မတအဖြစ် တစ်နှစ်စီ အလှည့်ကျ တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရန် ခန့်အပ်ထားသည်။ ဖက်ဒရယ်သမ္မတသည် အစည်းအဝေးများတွင် သဘာပတိ အဖြစ်ဆောင်ရွက်သည်။ သမ္မတ သည် နိုင်ငံတော်ကို ကိုယ်စားပြုသည်။

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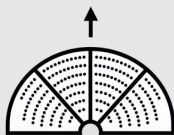
Governing by consensus အားလုံးသဘောတူညီမှုဖြင့် အုပ်ချုပ်ခြင်း

- In keeping with Switzerland's consociational model of democracy, all members of the Federal Council pledge to govern in a spirit of cooperation. As a collegial body, the Federal Council must remain unanimous when presenting a cabinet decision to the public, even if it is contrary to their personal views or to the official line taken by their party.
- ဆွစ်ဇာလန်မှ ချမှတ်ထားသော ကွန်ဆိုဆီရေးရှင်း ဒီမိုကရေစီ မှုနှင့်အညီ ဖက်ဒရယ်ကောင်စီ အဖွဲ့ဝင် မား အားလုံး ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မှု စိတ်ဓာတ်ဖြင့် အုပ်ချုပ်သည်။ ဖက်ဒရယ် ကောင်စီ ဝင်များသည် ၎င်းတို့၏ ပုဂ္ဂိုလ် ရေးအမြင်များ သို့မဟုတ် ၎င်းတို့၏ပါတီမှ ချမှတ်ထားသော တရားဝင် မူဝါဒနှင့် ကွဲလွဲနေသော်လည်း အစိုးရ ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်ကို အများပြည်သူအား တင်ပြ သည့်အခါတွင် တညီတညွတ်တည်း ရပ်တည်ရသည်။



ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

Switzerland's government (Federal Council) is a collegial body with seven members elected for a four-year term by Parliament. The Federal Chancellor acts as Chief of Staff of the Federal Council.



PRIMUS INTER PARES

The President of the Swiss Confederation is elected for one year only and performs special ceremonial duties.



POWER-SHARING

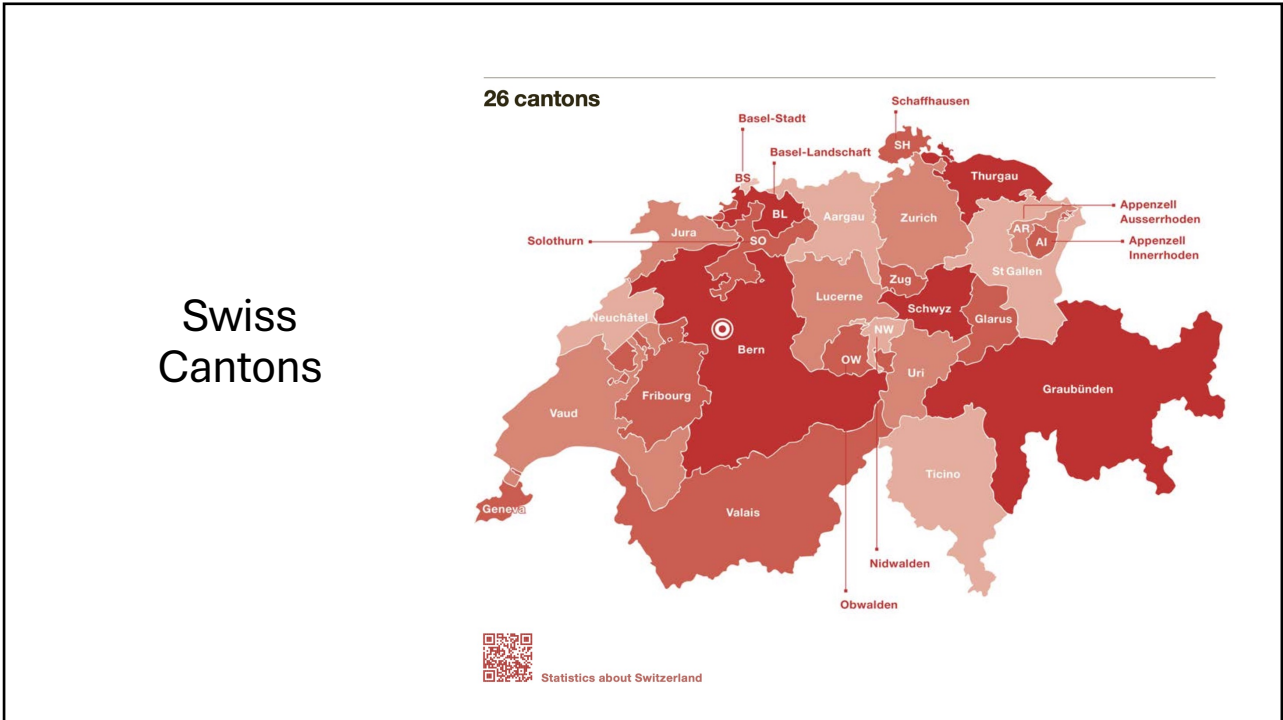
The members of the Federal Council usually belong to the political parties with the biggest electoral base and come from different linguistic regions.

Each member of the Federal Council heads one of the seven departments of the Federal Administration.

The Federal Council is a collegial body in which the members share equal power.

1984 was the first year in which a woman held a seat in the Federal Council. In 2010 there were more women than men in the Federal Council for the first time.





Swiss Cantons

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**Swiss local governments:
Communes**

ဆွစ်ဇာလန်
ဒေသန္တရအစိုးရများ

Source: Swiss government 2024

2131

The 26 cantons are divided into 2131 communes.

The most populous commune is the city of Zurich, where around 423,000 people live. The least populous is Kam-mersrohr in the canton of Solothurn (33 people).

- ဘာသာစကားလေးခုနဲ့ ပထဝီ ကွဲပြားမှုတွေကို စုစည်းကာ အတူယှဉ်တွဲ နေထိုင်တဲ့ စနစ်
- ကန်တွန်တိုင်းမှာ လွတ်တော်နဲ့ အစိုးရတွေ ရှိကြတယ်။
- ကွန်မြူနီ ငါးပုံတစ်ပုံလောက် လွတ်တော်တွေ ရှိကြတယ်။
- ကွန်မြူနီနဲ့ ကန်တွန်တွေ မလုပ်နိုင် တဲ့ ကွန်မြူနီသာ ဖက်ဒရယ်အစိုးရ က ကိုင်တွယ်တယ်။

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ဆွစ်ဇာလန် ကွန်မြူများ၏ လုပ်ပိုင်ခွင့်

- Local governance and administration ဒေသန္တရအစိုးရနှင့် အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး
- Education ပညာရေး
- Social services လူမှုရေးဝန်ဆောင်မှုများ
- Infrastructure and public services အခြေခံအဆောက်အအုံနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဝန်ဆောင်မှုများ
- Land use and planning မြေအသုံးချမှုနှင့် စီမံကိန်းချမှတ်ခြင်း
- Taxation and finances အခွန်နှင့်ဘဏ္ဍာရေး
- Culture and recreation ယဉ်ကျေးမှုနှင့် အများပြည်သူ အပန်းဖြေရေးအစီအစဉ်
- Public safety အများပြည်သူလုံခြုံရေး
- Collaboration with federal and cantons ဖက်ဒရယ်နှင့် ကန်တွန် အစိုးရများနှင့် ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
- သေးငယ်သော ကွန်မြူများကမူ ဝန်ဆောင်မှုများပေးရန် အိမ်နီးချင်း ကွန်မြူများနှင့် ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ကြသည်

Financial equalization: ဘဏ္ဍာရေး သာတူညီမျှမှု

The federal government and 7 of the cantons are net contributors: ZG, SZ, NW, GE, BS, ZH, OW. The remaining 19 cantons receive equalisation payments (net beneficiaries).

In 2024, CHF 5.9bn flow into the fiscal equalisation system: 4bn from the federal government, 1.9bn from the cantons.













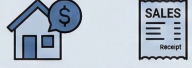
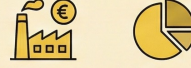

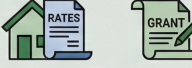
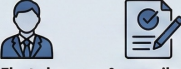
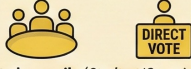

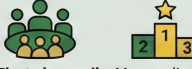
The National Fiscal Equalisation system is an important instrument in ensuring Switzerland's cohesion and reflects its desire for solidarity. The economically stronger cantons and the federal government assist the financially weaker cantons.



● Net contributors (7)
● Net beneficiaries (19)



၂၀၂၄ မှာ ပြည်နယ် ၁၉ ခုကို
CHF 5,9 ဘီလီယံ
USD 6,5 ဘီလီယံ ထောက်ပံ့ခဲ့ရ

	 UNITED STATES	 GERMANY	 SWITZERLAND	 AUSTRALIA
STRUCTURE & AUTONOMY	 Diverse models (Mayor-Council, Council-Manager). State-dependent authority, varies significantly.	 Constitutionally guaranteed local self-government (Selbstverwaltung). Two tiers: Kreisfreie Städte & Kreise.	 High autonomy (<i>Gemeindeautonomie</i>). Fundamental political unit, three-tier system.	 Legally subordinate to States . Powers defined by state legislation, not constitution.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES	 Policing, fire protection, zoning, local roads, parks. Education often separate.	 Local planning, public transport, utilities, culture, implementing some federal laws.	 Citizenship, social welfare, primary education, land use planning, local police.	 Property services, waste management, local planning, community facilities, local roads.
PRIMARY FUNDING	 Property taxes, local sales taxes, user fees, intergovernmental transfers.	 Trade tax (<i>Gewerbesteuer</i>), property tax, share of income/VAT taxes, state grants.	 Independently set local income & wealth taxes, some cantonal transfers.	 Property rates (taxes), government grants (federal/state), user charges.
REPRESENTATION & ELECTIONS	 Elected mayors & councils. Often non-partisan, mix of ward and at-large systems.	 Elected councils (<i>Stadtrat/Gemeinderat</i>). Mayors often directly elected (<i>Bürgermeister</i>). Proportional systems.	 Direct democracy (town assemblies, referendums) alongside elected executives/parliaments.	 Elected councils. Mayors directly or council-chosen. Proportional (STV) or preferential voting.

Note: Specific structures and powers can vary significantly within each country due to federal or state differences.

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Governance by Consensus

While the U.S. relies on "Winner-Take-All," Europe's 50 nations have perfected the art of the *Coalition*.

70% COALITIONS

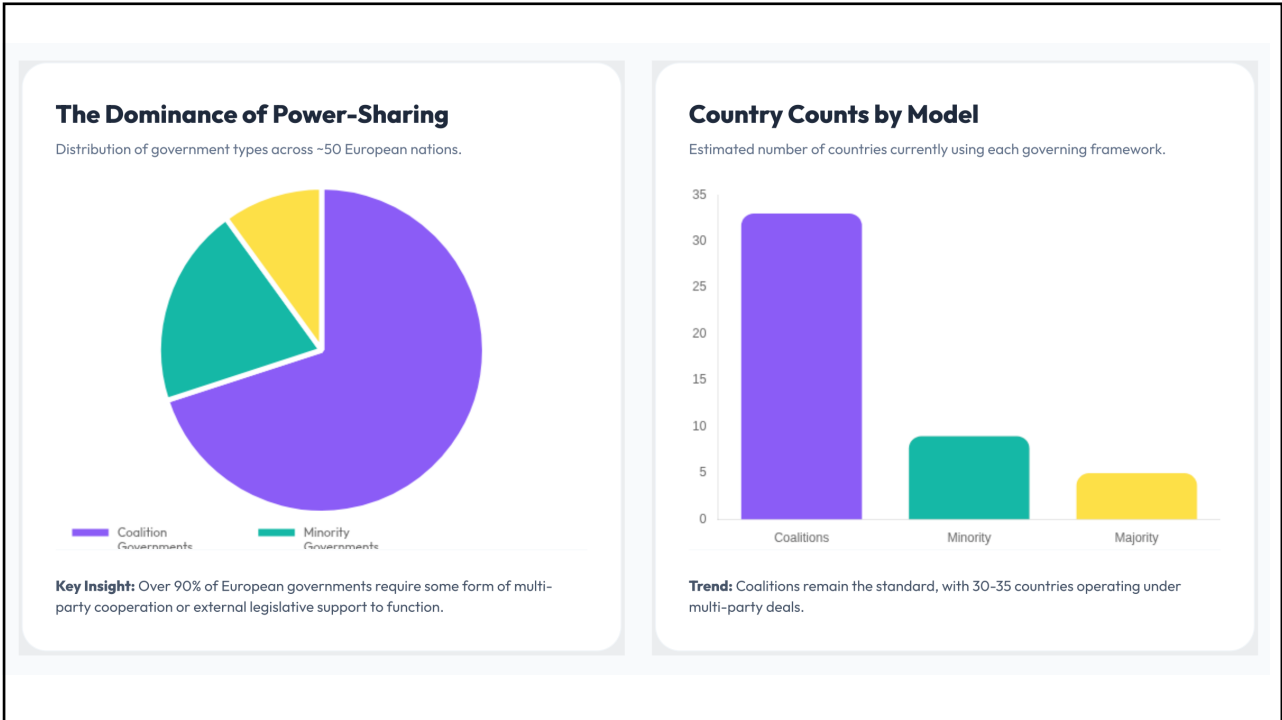
20% MINORITY GOVS

10% MAJORITIES

The End of Single-Party Rule


In Europe, proportional representation ensures that a single party rarely wins an outright majority. As of early 2026, the political landscape favors **Deliberation and Stability** over raw majoritarian competition. This shift forces diverse political rivals to sit at the same table to draft budgets and forge national policy.

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The Governing Trinity



Coalition

Multiple parties join forces to command a majority. Seats are divided in a Cabinet.


Germany • Netherlands



Minority

A single party leads without a majority, relying on "Confidence & Supply" from others.

Sweden • Spain • Denmark



Majority

A single party wins over 50% of seats. Rare outside majoritarian systems.

UK • Hungary • Greece

Diversity over Dominance

As of 2026, the European model proves that political stability isn't found in the crushing of the opposition, but in the negotiation of the middle ground.

SOURCE: COALITION AND MINORITY GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE (2026) • SPA INFOGRAPHIC

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The Logic of the Nordic Minority

In Scandinavia, minority governments are not a sign of crisis, but a feature of political maturity. It allows for "Negative Parliamentarism"—where a government stands as long as a majority does not explicitly vote against it.

- 01 Policy Specificity:** Minority govts must negotiate every bill, leading to wider buy-in.
- 02 Voter Voice:** Smaller parties maintain their identity rather than being swallowed by a coalition.

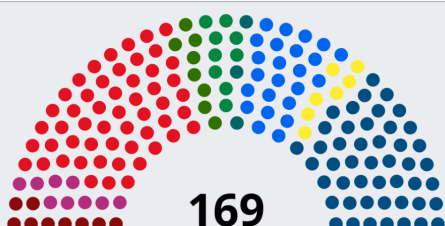
Step 1
Election results produce no majority

STEP 2
Confidence & Supply Agreement Signed

Step 3
Minority Party governs while seeking case-by-case support

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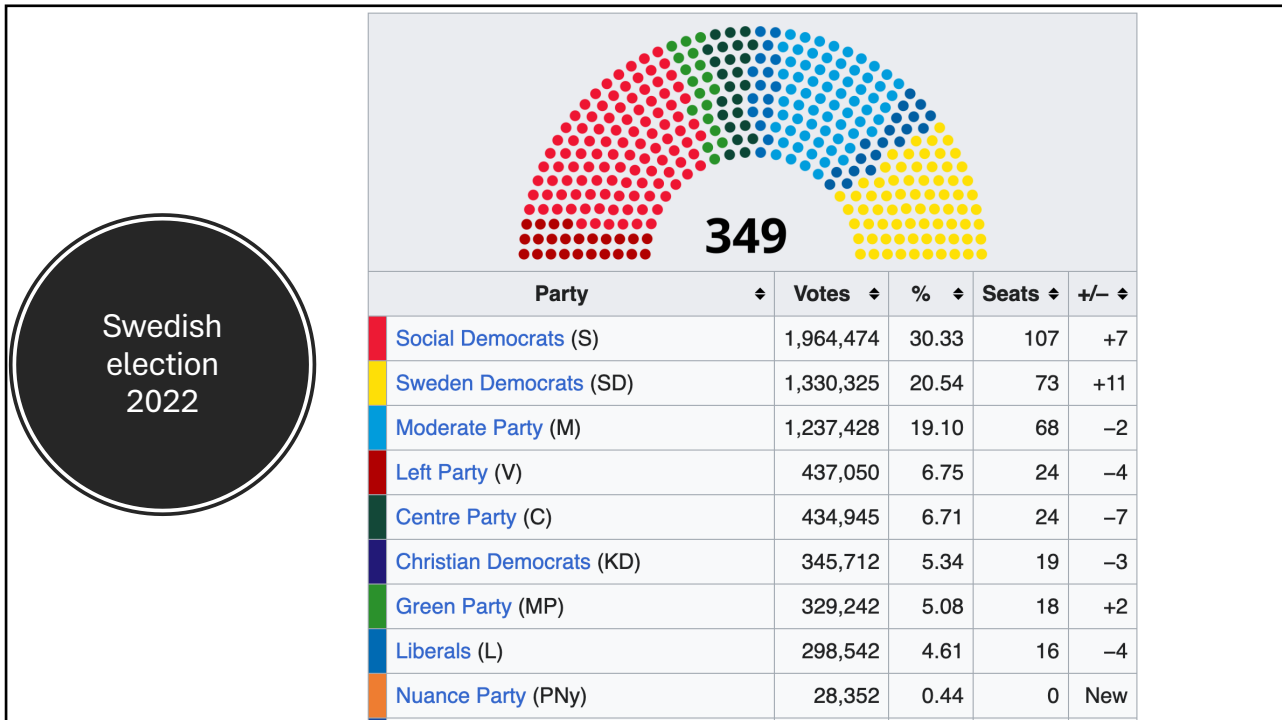
Norwegian
election
2025



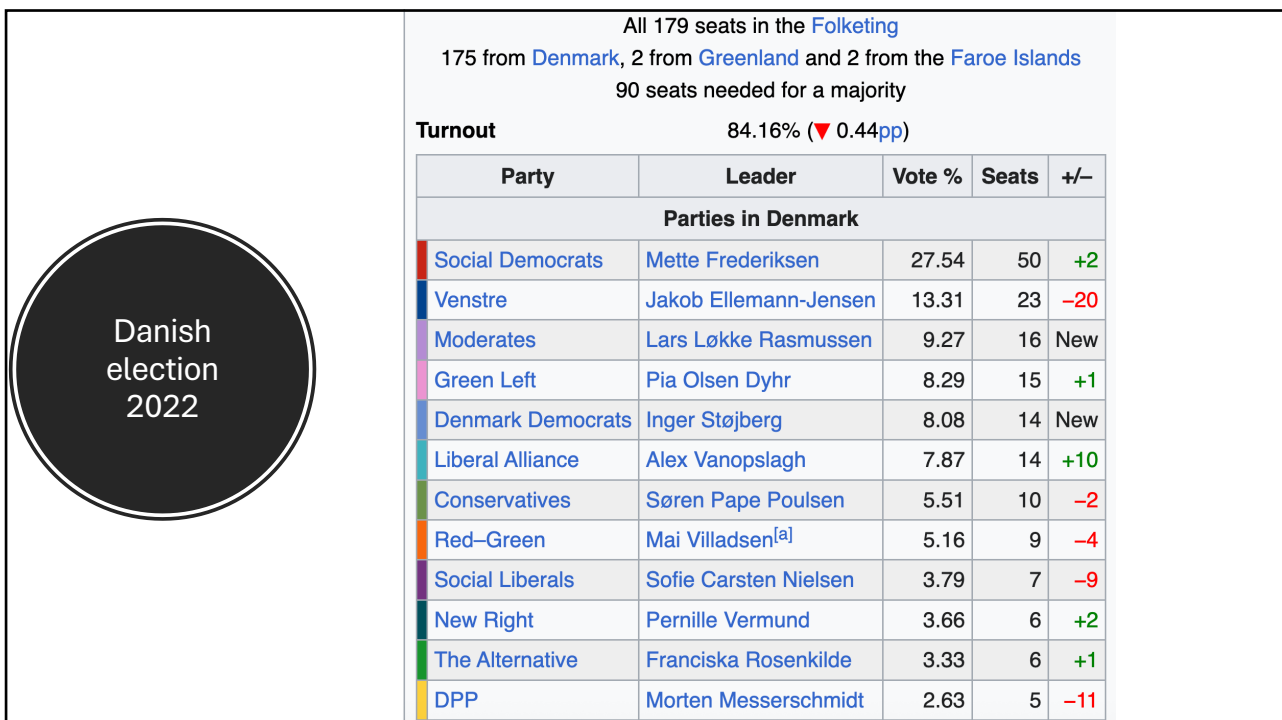
169

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
Labour Party	902,296	28.02	53	+5
Progress Party	767,903	23.85	47	+26
Conservative Party	471,602	14.65	24	-12
Socialist Left Party	181,192	5.63	9	-4
Centre Party	179,994	5.59	9	-19
Red Party	171,342	5.32	9	+1
Green Party	152,782	4.74	8	+5
Christian Democratic Party	135,230	4.20	7	+4
Liberal Party	118,941	3.69	3	-5
Pensioners' Party	26,839	0.83	0	0

93



94



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