



Turkey's **Election**

2018

TRTWORLD
RESEARCH CENTRE

Turkey's **Election**

2018

© TRT WORLD RESEARCH CENTRE

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLISHER

TRT WORLD RESEARCH CENTRE

MAY 2018

Turkey's Election 2018

Contributors:

Alpaslan Oğuz

Edebalı Murat Akca

Hakan Şirin

Muhammed Lütfi Türkcan

Ozan Ahmet Çetin

Photo Credit:

Anadolu Agency Images

Design:

Erhan Ağırçöl

TRT WORLD İSTANBUL

AHMET ADNAN SAYGUN STREET NO:83

34347 ULUS, BEŞİKTAŞ

İSTANBUL / TURKEY

TRT WORLD LONDON

PORTLAND HOUSE

4 GREAT PORTLAND STREET NO:4

LONDON / UNITED KINGDOM

TRT WORLD WASHINGTON D.C.

1620 I STREET NW, 10TH FLOOR,

SUITE 1000, 20006

WASHINGTON DC / UNITED STATES

www.trtworld.com

researchcentre.trtworld.com

C O N T E N T S

Abbreviations **6**

■ **Executive Summary 7**

■ **Introduction: Overview of the Upcoming Elections 8**

2007 Presidential Elections and Referendum **8**

2017 Referendum **9**

Early Election Decision **9**

Reactions of Party Leaders on the Early Election Decision **9**

■ **Anatomy of Turkey's Presidential System 10**

Timeline: Path to the Constitutional Referendum **11**

Party Positions In The Constitutional Referendum Of 2017 **12**

Changes To The Prior System Through Constitutional Referendum **13**

Harmonisation Laws **14**

New Ballot Paper **15**

Alliance Law **16**

■ **2018 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections: The Process 18**

Timeline: Path to the June 24 Elections **18**

Election Calendar **20**

Electoral Integrity **21**

■ **Parliamentary Elections 24**

Formation of People's Alliance **26**

Protocol of People's Alliance: AK Party, MHP and BBP **27**

Formation of the Nation's Alliance **30**

Transfer of 15 MP **30**

Protocol of Nation's Alliance: CHP, Good Party, Felicity Party and Democrat Party **31**

Other Parties **35**

■ **Promises from Party Election Declarations 36**

■ **Presidential Elections 44**

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan **45**

Muharrem İnce **47**

Attempt By The Opposition To Find A Joint Candidate **48**

Meral Akşener **49**

Selahattin Demirtaş **49**

Temel Karamollaoğlu **50**

Doğu Perinçek **50**

■ **What is Next? 51**

Abbreviations

- YSK: Supreme Election Board** (Yüksek Seçim Kurulu)
- HSK: Council of Judges and Prosecutors** (Hakimler ve Savcılar Kurulu)
- TBMM: Grand National Assembly of Turkey** (Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi)
- AK Party: Justice and Development Party** (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi)
- CHP: Republican People's Party** (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi)
- MHP: Nationalist Movement Party** (Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi)
- HDP: Peoples' Democratic Party** (Halkların Demokratik Partisi)
- IYI: Good Party** (İyi Parti)
- SP: Felicity Party** (Saadet Partisi)
- VP: Patriotic Party** (Vatan Partisi)
- BBP: Grand Unity Party** (Büyük Birlik Partisi)
- DSP: Democratic Left Party** (Demokratik Sol Parti)
- ANAP: Motherland Party** (Anavatan Partisi)
- DYP: True Path Party** (Doğru Yol Partisi)
- HÜDA-PAR: Free Cause Party** (Hür Dava Partisi)
- MSP: National Salvation Party** (Milli Selamet Partisi)

Executive Summary

■ Turkish people will go to the polls to elect their president and MPs on June 24, 2018.

■ There are two alliances among the political parties for the parliamentary elections;

• **People's Alliance:** AK Party (Justice and Development Party), MHP (Nationalist Movement Party) and BBP (Grand Unity Party)

• **Nation's Alliance:** CHP (Republican People's Party), İYİ (Good) Party, Felicity Party and Democrat Party.

■ There are six presidential candidates;

- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan - People's Alliance
- Muharrem İnce - CHP
- Meral Akşener - Good Party
- Selahattin Demirtaş - HDP (Peoples' Democratic Party)
- Temel Karamollaoğlu - Felicity Party
- Doğu Perinçek - Patriotic Party

■ The second round of the presidential election, if no candidate receives 50% + 1 of the votes, will be held on July 8, 2018.

■ The number of MPs will increase from 550 to 600 after the June 24 elections.

■ The minimum age to stand as a candidate for parliament has been reduced from 25 to 18.

■ There are over 59 million voters in total. Over 56 million voters reside in the country and over 3 million are based overseas.

■ Overseas voting will take place between June 7 and June 19.

■ Overseas votes will be cast in 123 points in 60 countries and 36 border stations.

■ The June 24 elections will be the first elections, in which 1.6 million young citizens over 18 years old will vote.

■ Voter turnout rate;

- in the last referendum on April 16, 2017: 86.4%
- in the last parliamentary election on November 1, 2015: 85.18%
- in the last presidential election on August 10, 2014: 73.72%



Introduction: Overview of the Upcoming Elections

Turkey's political system has undergone several major changes since 2007, which consequently paved the way for the transition from a parliamentary system to a presidential one. In this regard, the upcoming elections on June 24 will be the start of a new period, whereby a popularly elected president will hold the executive power, while the parliament will be solely responsible for legislation. In a move that will usher in a new era with the June 24

election, amendments to electoral and political party laws have been made in accordance with the latest constitutional changes. The new system introduced many modifications to governance, such as enabling political parties to form electoral alliances in the pre-election period, and allowing the president to maintain an affiliation to his/her party once elected. Such changes brought about a significant transformation in Turkish politics.

2007 Presidential Elections and Referendum

Turkey has long been governed by a parliamentary system whereby the cabinet was formed from among the members of the parliament, while the president was elected by the MPs. Even though the presidential function, was mostly symbolic, it still enjoyed a vast array of privileges without being subject to a higher threshold of legal responsibility. On the other hand, the prime minister's function was the real power holder within the executive branch. The ensuing political dilemmas that resulted from the 2007 presidential election led to a process, which aimed to change the government system of Turkey from the parliamentary system to a presidential system.

In 2007, the Constitutional Court made its notorious 367 decision and the Turkish General Staff issued an e-memorandum to prevent the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) from nominating a presidential candidate who would not fit the standards of the two powerful institutions. The Constitutional Court and the Turkish General Staff, the strongholds of the secular elites in Turkey, used their undemocratic and de facto powers to dispossess AK Party, which headed the government and was the majority party in the parliament, of its right to nominate a candidate. AK Party decided to bring the issue to the people by holding first, an early election which led to a 13% increase in its votes and second, a referendum in October 21, 2007, which ensured that future presidents would be elected via direct popular

voting rather than parliamentary voting. Receiving the vote of confidence from the public as a 13% increase in its votes, AK Party moved forward and elected Abdullah Gül, the then foreign minister, as president through a parliamentary vote. Based on the latter change, in the 2014 presidential elections, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan became the first president elected by the public.

The election of the president by popular vote created dilemmas in the executive branch, which could not be accommodated within the parliamentary system. Firstly, there was the risk of a political deadlock due to the risk of a potential confrontation between the prime minister and the president, both of which took their legitimacy from the people as both were elected by the public. Even though there were no conflicts of authority due to the close relationship between the prime

minister and the president at the time, the risk of such crisis was rooted in the system. Secondly, the president enjoyed more privileges than the prime minister did without being subject to similar levels of accountability and responsibility. Such situation created deep issues for democracy in Turkey and undermined the separation of powers. Thus, one can say that the post-2007 political system in Turkey had many anomalies that could lead to potentially enduring political crises.



2017 Referendum

Willing to address the systemic contradictions, president Erdoğan expressed his will to switch the system to a full presidential model similarly to other Western democratic presidential systems. Championing the presidential system, AK Party received the support of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the two parties campaigned together in Turkey's constitutional referendum on April 16, 2017. The referendum proposed changes, such as abolishing the position of the prime minister, increasing the number of MPs from 550 to 600, and giving the president the authority to appoint ministers and vice presidents. The referendum won the approval of the Turkish people with 51 percent voting in favour of changing the constitution.

Though the system had changed, an interim period was necessary so that the required legal changes were amended and necessary arrangements were made. This also meant that the new system would be fully implemented after the 2019 parliamentary election. In this regard, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said: "2019 elections will be as critical for our country and our party as the November 3 elections of 2002. The system change which was accepted in the April 16 referendum will be in full swing after the November 3, 2019 elections."

Elections were to be held on November 3, 2019 as agreed. Based on their previous alliances and mutual understanding in a common vision for Turkey, AK Party and MHP initiated talks to cooperate in the upcoming elections. Meetings gained momentum after February 2018 and culminated into an electoral alliance called People's Alliance (Cumhur İttifakı).

Early Election Decision

The Turkish public was caught off guard when the head of the Opposition MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli brought up the issue of early elections on the MHP weekly group meeting on April 17. Bahçeli invited the country to elections on August 26, 2018, the anniversary of two important events in Turkish history: The Malazgirt Victory of 1071 and the Great Offensive of 1922. Bahçeli said: "Turkey can no longer bear this burden and wait until November 3, 2019 for the polls. Under current circumstances, in which there are efforts to suffocate Turkey with system-related debates, it is becoming hard to achieve stability and balance until November 3. The elections should be held on August 26, 2018."

Following this announcement, President Erdoğan met with Bahçeli and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım on April 18 to discuss the surprise call for early elections. After the meeting, Erdoğan declared the date of the early election as June 24, 2018: "There is an increasing urgency for transition to the new system of government for decisions regarding our country's future to be taken and implemented more effectively. We reviewed and discussed Mr. Bahçeli's call bearing this fact in mind. We have agreed that we need to approach this call for early elections positively. The busy domestic and foreign agenda of Turkey compel us to remove the uncertainty emanating from the early elections as soon as possible. It is imperative to eliminate the idea of elections from our agenda while there are very important decisions on issues such as the fast-paced developments in Syria as well as microeconomic issues and large investments. Thus, as a result of consultations made also with Bahçeli with whom we agreed to enter elections in alliance, we decided to hold early elections on June 24, 2018, Sunday."

First reactions to the early elections from opposition parties were also positive. In order to not appear soft and weak, most parties' emphasised their readiness and accepted the challenge. Upon these developments, the country will therefore head to the polls on June 24, a year and a half ahead of schedule.

Reactions of Party Leaders on the Early Election Decision

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan



Chairman of Justice and Development Party

"There is an increasing urgency for transition to the new system of government for decisions regarding our country's future to be taken and implemented more effectively. We reviewed and discussed Mr. Bahçeli's call bearing this fact in mind. We have agreed that we need to approach this call for early elections positively."

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu



Chairman of Republican People's Party

"We are ready for the elections. Erdoğan's remarks indicate he will lose."

Pervin Buldan



Co-chairman of People's Democratic Party

"If you have made a decision, we as HDP say to you: 'Bring it on!' Count us in!"

Devlet Bahçeli



Chairman of Nationalist Movement Party

"I wish that the decision of early election will be good for our nation, country

democracy and political parties."

Meral Akşener



Chairman of İYİ (Good) Party

"As of tomorrow, the number of cities I visited will be 54. Therefore, we are here to stay. I am a candidate in the presidential race."

Temel Karamollaoğlu



Chairman of Felicity Party

"Regardless of the date, we are ready for elections. Best wishes to our country."

Anatomy of Turkey's New Presidential System

The debate on the presidential system was not entirely new on the political agenda. Previous leaders from different party backgrounds and political ideologies, including Necmettin Erbakan, Süleyman Demirel, and Turgut Özal had also proposed transition to a presidential system. The country's past negative experience with short-lived coalition governments, and the subsequent efforts to ensure a degree of continuity in the executive branch were presented as problems attached with the parliamentary system. A shift to the presidential system provided the solution to the aforementioned systemic problems.

Since Turkey has shifted from a parliamentary system to a presidential one through a constitutional referendum in 2017, necessary changes in the related laws became more urgent for the alignment and standardization of the whole political system in accordance with the constitutional changes. In this regard, AK Party and MHP proposed harmonisation laws - which include provisions for the presidential and parliamentary elections - to align existing laws with the presidential system. Additionally, the alliance law was also approved in parliament to allow political parties to enter elections in alliance.



Timeline

Path to the Constitutional Referendum

2007

April 27, 2007

E-memorandum; Turkish General Staff released a statement on its website to weigh in the debate about the Presidential election. It is considered a military intervention in civilian politics.

October 21, 2007

The referendum on the constitutional amendment was held to address whether the president should be elected directly by the public or by parliament. The constitutional amendment brought the following:

- Elections to be held every four years rather than five
- The president is to be selected by popular vote

2010

September 12, 2010

The AK Party government proposed a package of constitutional amendments and presented it in the referendum. The amendment provided the following key changes:

- The Provisional Article 15 of the Constitution, which has provided protection for the coup leaders, will be abolished. Civilian courts will be in charge of military personnel who commit crimes during his/her period of office.
- Broader economic and social rights and individual freedoms
- Changes to the structure of judiciary

2014

August 10, 2014

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was elected as the first president of Turkey through popular vote.

2016

July 15, 2016

FETÖ terrorist organisation attempted a coup to topple the democratically elected government.

December 10, 2016

AK Party and MHP introduced a package of constitutional reform proposals to the Assembly. The proposal mainly included the provisions for the presidential system.

2017

January 21, 2017

The constitutional amendment package composing of 18 changes passed in parliament with the votes of 339 MPs. This allowed AK Party and MHP to bring constitutional amendment package to the referendum.

February 10, 2017

President Erdoğan approved the constitutional amendment package and April 16 was set as the constitutional referendum date.

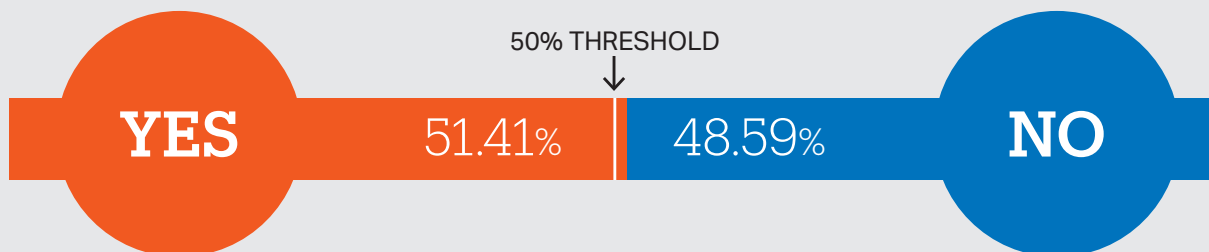
April 16, 2017

The Turkish people embraced the constitutional amendment package with 51 percent of votes in favour of a presidential system as a new system of government for Turkey.



Erdoğan addresses supporters during 2014 presidential election campaign. (Kayhan Özer - Anadolu Ajansı)

Turkey 2017 Referendum Results



Party positions in the Constitutional Referendum of 2017

The AK Party's Arguments



- The presidential system provides fast resolution process for Turkey's economic and democratic development.
- The presidential system is a way to preclude the forming of coalitions, which have a notorious past in Turkey.
- Contrary to popular belief, legislation is going to be stronger under the separation of powers.
- The government is not going to seek vote of confidence from parliament and instead will be elected directly by the vote of the people.

The CHP's Arguments



- The proposed presidential system paves the way for disproportionate increase in the president's authority.
- The proposed system is drafted for regime change rather than a change for system of government.
- There is a lack of checks and balances in the proposed system. The necessary regulations for restriction of president's jurisdiction is absent.
- The proposed system abolishes separation of powers and weakens the legislation power by removing vote of confidence and questioning of the Council of Ministers.

The MHP's Arguments



- Turkey is in an extraordinary existential situation and the presidential system, with its strong executive branch, will save the nation from this situation.
- Turkey has already had a de-facto presidential system. The constitutional changes will abolish this de-facto situation.
- The presidential system is necessary for the national security of Turkey.
- The presidential system is compatible with the historical roots of Turkish culture.

The HDP's Arguments



- HDP boycotted the vote on the amendments in parliament and expressed that the proposed constitutional changes were illegitimate since a quarter of HDP parliamentarians were still in prison.
- HDP argued that the new system would lead to a one-man rule.

Changes to the prior system through constitutional referendum

The main tenets of the presidential system of Turkey were introduced with the April 16, 2017 referendum. Some of the key changes are:

■ The number of MPs in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) was increased from 550 to 600.

■ Eligible age of candidacy was dropped from 25 to 18.

■ Elections for the parliament will be held every five years, on the same day.

■ The duties and powers of the parliament are changed. To scrutinise the Council of Ministers and to issue decrees on certain matters, were abolished from the duties and powers of the Assembly. The right to enact, amend and repeal laws, to debate and adopt proposals of budget bills and final accounts, to decide to issue currency, declare war and to approve the ratification of international treaties, continues.

■ The questioning and censoring of Council of Ministers by the parliament were abolished. However, the Assembly will continue to exercise its supervisory power by means of parliamentary inquiry, general debate and parliamentary investigations.

■ In the new system, the president is elected directly by the public, not by the members of the parliament.

■ The president's relationship with his/her party does not need to be severed in the new system. However, the president cannot be a member of the parliament.



■ The new system provides new duties and powers to the president. The president appoints vice presidents, ministers, and senior public executives, and dismisses them. He/she regulates the procedures and principles of their appointment by presidential decrees.

■ The president can issue decrees regarding his/her executive power. However, the basic rights, personal rights and political rights that are in the constitution cannot be regulated by presidential decrees.

■ In the new system, vice presidents and ministers cannot be MPs at the same time.

■ If the parliament issues a law on the same topic, the presidential decree becomes obsolete.

■ Both the president and the Assembly can renew elections. In the previous system, the president alone may decide to renew elections if the government could not get vote of confidence.

■ The president can be sent to the high court with 400 votes.

■ The structure of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSK) is changed. The HSK is comprised of the minister of justice, the undersecretary, seven members appointed by Parliament and four members appointed by the president.

Harmonisation Laws

On April 25, 2018, harmonisation laws were approved in the Assembly in order to provide the harmonisation of the current election and party laws with the presidential system. Laws about general electoral regulations, parliamentary, and presidential elections are regulated in the legislative package.

General Provisions about the Elections

■ With the regulation, overseas voters are able to cast their votes until three days before the election day. Additionally, voting by appointment for overseas voters is abandoned.

■ Political parties will be able to report a separate ballot box member for each voting day overseas in order to avoid the difficulties associated with length of voting.

■ A presidential candidate cannot stand as an MP in parliament at the same time.

■ Voters can only sign for one candidate. Their signatures will be given to the local election committee and registered digitally.

■ The president can only be elected for two terms but if the parliament decides early elections in the second term, the president can be a candidate for another term.

■ There will be names and pictures of each candidate on the ballots but no party affiliation will be given.

How can someone be a presidential candidate?

There are 3 ways to become a presidential candidate:

■ Political parties who have at least 20 MPs in the current parliament, in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, can suggest a name for the candidacy.

■ Political parties who individually or collectively gained at least 5 percent of the total votes in the last election can suggest a name for the candidacy.

■ 100 thousand citizens who are able to vote in the election can sign for a presidential candidate

How is the president elected?

■ The president is elected through popular vote in a two-staged election.

■ If a candidate gets 50% (plus one votes of the total valid votes cast) in the first round of elections, he/she becomes the president.

■ If no candidate gets over 50% of the votes in the first round, the first two candidates compete with each other in the second round and the person who gets the most votes becomes the president.

■ If a candidate who proceeded to the second round cannot run for it, the candidate who gets the most votes after the first two candidates in the first round replaces that candidate in the second round.

■ If, for any reason, there is only one candidate in the second round, the election will take place as a referendum. The candidate must obtain more than 50% of the votes to become the president. If the candidate fails, the election for presidency will be renewed and the old president remains in office until a new president is elected.



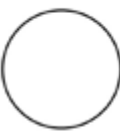
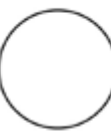
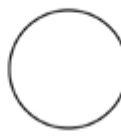
NEW BALLOT PAPER

In the June 24 elections, 8 political parties and 2 alliances will be on the ballot paper .
For the presidential race, there are 6 candidates. Below are the ballot formats designed for the new system's elections.

BALLOTS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

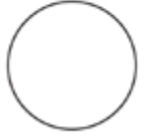
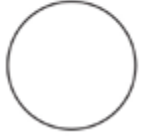
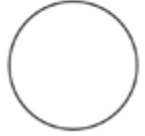
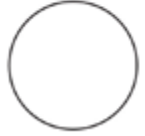
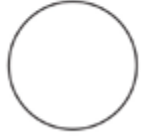
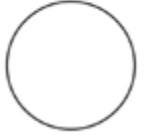
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

NATION'S ALLIANCE

							
AK PARTY	MHP	HUDA PAR	VATAN PARTY	HDP	CHP	FELICITY PARTY	IYI PARTY
							

BALLOT FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

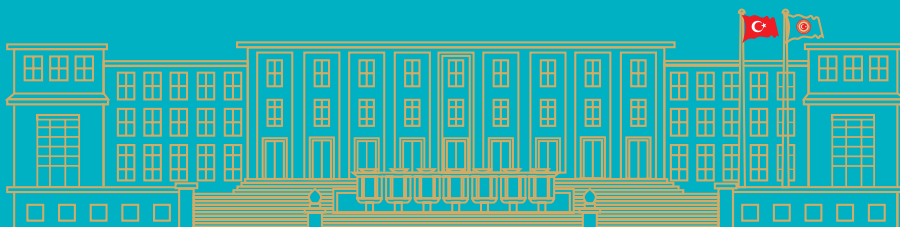
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

					
MUHARREM İNCE	MERAL AKŞENER	RECEP TAYYİP ERDOĞAN	SELAHATTİN DEMİRTAŞ	TEMEL KARAMOLLAOĞLU	DOĞU PERİNÇEK
					



ALLIANCE LAW

- The provision banning political parties to support another political party in an election is annihilated.
- Political parties who form an alliance for an election have to submit their "alliance protocol" to the Supreme Election Board (YSK) with the signatures of their presidents within the first 7 days after the election calendar is announced by the YSK.
- Names of each alliance will be written on the ballots. If no name is given to an alliance, only "Alliance" will be written on the ballots. If there are more than one alliance with no names, each alliance will be separated with assigned numbers, such as "Alliance 1" and "Alliance 2" and so on.
- The total valid votes of an alliance will be calculated by adding the common votes of the alliance to the total votes obtained by each individual political party forming the alliance. Common votes of an alliance will be distributed to the political parties forming that alliance. The share of the common votes will be calculated by multiplying the total common votes with the ratio found, by dividing each political party individual votes by the total individual votes that each political party in the alliance obtained.
- The number of common votes gained by each alliance will be shown separately in each ballot box report.
- If the total vote of an alliance is over 10 percent countrywide, each political party forming that alliance will be considered to pass the 10 percent election threshold.
- The total votes of the alliance will be taken into consideration when determining the number of MPs that each political party in an alliance will have. First, the total number of MPs obtained by an alliance will be determined, then, this number of MPs will be distributed to the political parties in that alliance according to the votes that they gained.
- Disabled citizens would use mobile ballot boxes to vote.
- Age of candidacy in local elections is also lowered to 18.
- Ballots for the presidential and parliamentary elections will be put in the same envelope.
- Watermarked papers will be used for the envelopes, with the emblem of "Supreme Election Board" on each envelope. Even if there is no seal of ballot box committee on an envelope, envelopes with watermarked paper and emblem of "Supreme Election Board" will be considered as valid.
- A member of a political party can be presented as a candidate from another political party with a confirmation letter of himself/herself and his/her political party, should his/her original party decide not to run in the elections even if they are eligible to run.





President Erdoğan signing the People's Alliance Protocol.

2018 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections:

The Process

Timeline: Path to the June 24 Elections

■ February 21, 2018

AK Party and MHP brought the draft law - which allows the alliances of political parties in the elections to the Assembly.

■ March 13, 2018

The 26 articles of the draft law on alliances among political parties were approved in the parliament and sent to the president.

■ March 16, 2018

President Erdoğan approved the alliances law.

■ April 17, 2018

MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli unexpectedly called for early elections. Bahçeli made his snap election statements by saying that "Turkey can no longer bear this burden and wait until November 3, 2019 for the polls. Under current circumstances where there are efforts to suffocate Turkey with system-related debates, it is becoming hard to achieve stability and balance until November 3. The elections should be held on August 26, 2018."

■ April 18, 2018

President Erdoğan and MHP leader Bahçeli met in the Presidential Complex to discuss snap elections. After the meeting, Erdoğan announced the elections would be held on June 24.



■ April 18, 2018

Meral Akşener, leader of the İYİ Party, announced that she would be a presidential candidate with one hundred thousand signatures - the necessary number for being a candidate.

■ April 20, 2018

The Grand National Assembly of Turkey approved the snap election decision proposed by AK Party and MHP.

■ April 21, 2018

Rumours about Abdullah Gül's possible candidacy appeared in national media.

■ April 21, 2018

Temel Karamollaoğlu began his shuttle diplomacy with opposition leaders for Abdullah Gül's nomination.

■ April 22, 2018

With the instruction from CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, 15 MPs of CHP shifted to the İYİ Party. Therefore, the İYİ Party reached the twenty seats in the parliament, the threshold for participating in the elections.



■ April 22, 2018

Supreme Election Board (YSK) announced the ten parties available for the upcoming snap elections. The İYİ Party is on the list after further debates about its availability for the upcoming snap election.

■ April 25, 2018

Felicity Party leader Karamollaoğlu came to Abdullah Gül's office, materializing rumours about Karamollaoğlu's efforts.

■ April 25, 2018

The parliament approved the harmonisation laws.

■ April 25, 2018

Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) decided that HÜDA-PAR could participate in the elections.

■ April 26, 2018

Supreme Election Board announced the election calendar.

■ April 28, 2018

Former president Abdullah Gül announced that he would not be running for presidency because of the failure of the opposition to reach a national consensus over his name.

■ May 01, 2018

Temel Karamollaoğlu, leader of Felicity Party, made public his candidacy for the presidential elections with a hundred thousand signatures.



■ May 02, 2018

MHP's group in the Assembly declares that its presidential candidate is President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

■ May 02, 2018

CHP, İYİ Party, Felicity Party and Democrat Party agreed on the election alliances for the parliamentary elections.

■ May 03, 2018

AK Party's parliamentary group declares its decision for Erdoğan's candidacy for the elections.

■ May 03, 2018

Supreme Electoral Board accepts the applications of Doğu Perinçek (Patriotic Party), Meral Akşener (İYİ Party), Temel Karamollaoğlu (Felicity Party) and Vecdet Öz (Justice Party) for presidential candidacy.



■ May 03, 2018

President Erdoğan signed the protocol of People's Alliance.

■ May 04, 2018

HDP's co-leader Pervin Buldan announced Selahattin Demirtaş, who run in the previous presidential elections, as party's presidential candidate.

■ May 04, 2018

CHP nominated Muharrem İnce, CHP deputy, as their candidate for the presidential elections.



■ May 04, 2018

Bahçeli, MHP leader, signed the protocol of People's Alliance.

■ May 04, 2018

The process for collecting signatures for presidential candidacy started.

■ May 09, 2018

The period for gathering signatures for presidential candidacy ended. Meral Akşener, Temel Karamollaoğlu and Doğu Perinçek collected adequate signatures.

■ May 10, 2018

15 MPs who were transferred from CHP to İYİ Party came back to CHP.



■ May 13, 2018

Supreme Election Board (YSK) declared candidate list for presidential election. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Muharrem İnce, Meral Akşener, Selahattin Demirtaş, Temel Karamollaoğlu and Doğu Perinçek are on the final candidate list.

ELECTION CALENDAR

Turkey's Supreme Election Board (YSK) announced the calendar for early elections in the country on June 24.

.....

April 30

The submission of alliance protocol to the YSK for the political parties that forms a coalition in the elections starts and continues till **May 6**.

May 1

Applications for party candidates running for the presidency start and continue till **May 5**.

May 2

Candidates to be nominated by 100,000 voters submit their applications to the YSK. The final list, including the names of the approved candidates, is announced on **May 3**.

May 4

The period to collect signatures for the presidential candidates to be nominated by 100,000 voters starts and continues till **May 9**.

May 10

A temporary list containing names of candidates running for the presidential elections is announced. The final list is announced on **May 13**, which also initiates the election campaign for presidential elections.

May 21

Political parties must give the YSK their lists of MP nominees by 5 p.m.

May 26

The temporary list of names for MPs is announced. The final list is announced on **May 27**.

June 7

Balloting abroad and at customs begins and continues till **June 19**.

June 14

Campaign restrictions begins except for a candidate's campaigning. Election propaganda ends on June 23, one day before the elections.

June 24 Election day

Restrictions are lifted and temporary results for presidential elections announced at midnight.

June 29

The YSK announces the final results for the parliamentary polls.

Second Round

If no candidate running for the presidency can get an absolute majority of votes, the second round of elections will be held on July 8.

June 25

Election campaigning for the second tour presidential polls begins and continues till **July 7**.

June 30

Balloting abroad and at customs begins and continues till **July 4**.

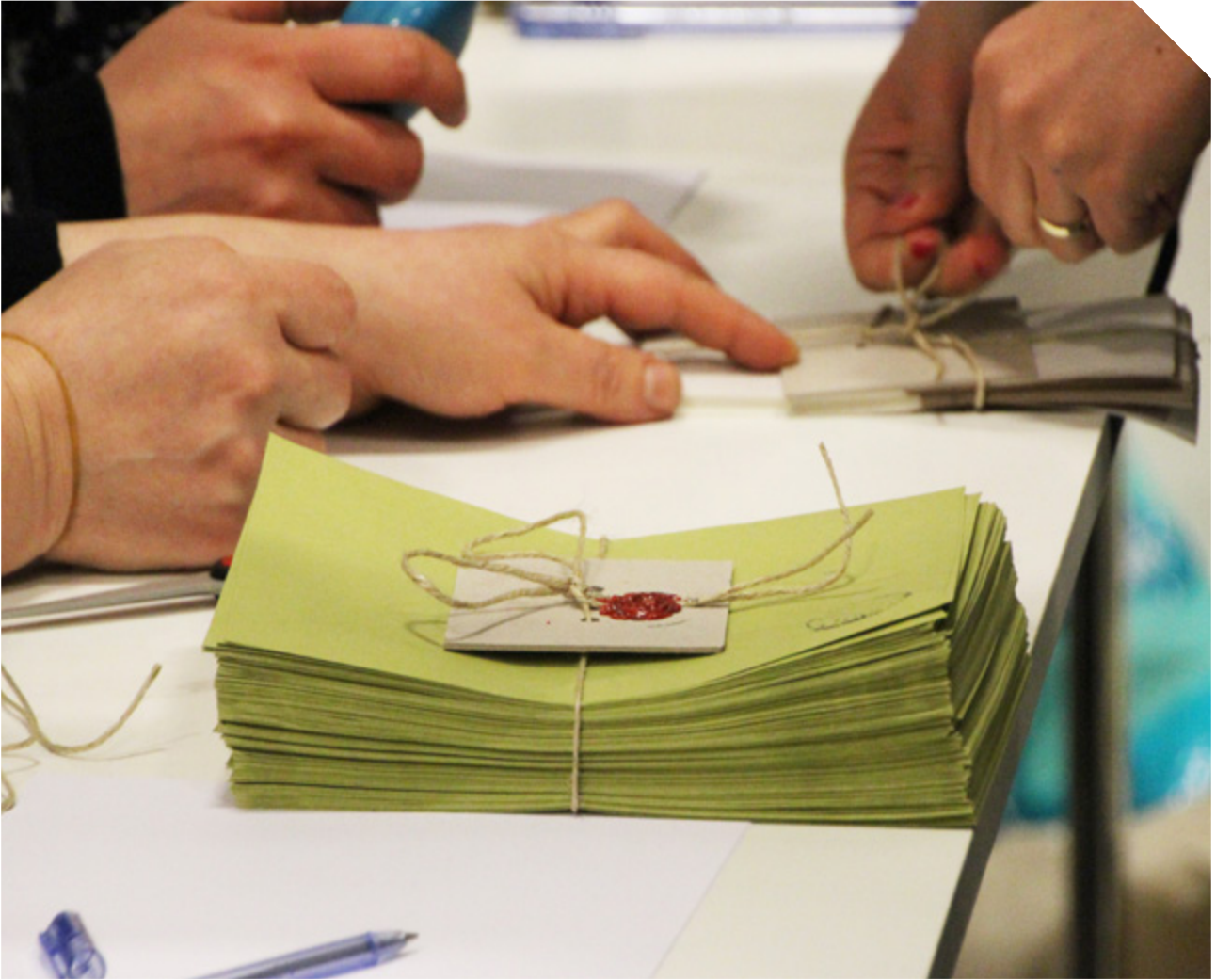
July 8

Election day

Restrictions are lifted at midnight.

July 9

Temporary results for presidential elections announced. Final results declared on July 12.



Electoral Integrity

■ All Turkish citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote in elections and to take part in referenda, with the exception of privates, corporals, sergeants, cadets and sentenced persons in penal institutions.

■ For a strictly up-to-date voter database, the Address Registration System and Identity Sharing System of General Directorate of Civil Registry and Nationality continuously updates the electoral register by storing personal data of Turkish Citizens over the age of 18.

■ The Supreme Election Board (YSK), which acts as the highest legal authority on electoral matters, is responsible for overseeing and conducting the elections and for all other relevant issues.

■ Elections in Turkey are strictly monitored by international and domestic observers.

■ In order to ensure that free and fair elections are held,

sophisticated systems are designed and multiple precautions are taken.

■ All activities related to electoral works (pre-election, on election and post-election) during an electoral calendar realised by district election boards throughout Turkey, are undertaken under the roof of SECSIS software which is an electronic election management system.

■ The SECSIS system directly involves 70% of the population and is one of the biggest e-state projects of the country.

■ Political parties are eligible to monitor and audit the election results, which are shared electronically, in accordance with electoral Law 298.

■ Tallying and counting operations prepared by ballot box committees are transferred to the electronic environment following the end of the voting process and all information and documents on political parties are simultaneously shared.

The SECSIS system

■ Turkey's electronic election infrastructure – has been developed with the aim to enable voters to monitor the information-registered systems, such as identity, addresses and polling stations where they will exercise their voting rights.

■ The system has also been used in eliminating duplicate electoral records, announcing election results in very short periods of time, allowing political parties to simultaneously monitor ballot results delivered by district election boards, informing the public about decisions and regulations of Supreme Election Board, shortening the work processes and increasing the efficiency and productivity with its interactive services – thereby acting as a tool to enhance the transparency of elections.

■ Once ballot box results data have been entered into the SECSIS system, temporary results of the elections are transmitted simultaneously via web services over a safe and closed line to Supreme Election Board and headquarters of political parties.

■ The minutes of the counting process signed by ballot box committees are screened by district election boards and entered into the system, which are also simultaneously shared by headquarters of political parties.

■ To maintain transparency, the temporary results presented by district election boards are published on www.ysk.gov.tr address so that the public can also view the results based on electoral region. As of date of finalization, summary of election results are published on the Official Gazette.

How are electoral votes cast and regulated?

Domestic Ballot Box Committees:

■ Ballot box committees form the building blocks of the electoral system during elections.

■ Composed of 1 president, 6 original members and 6 reserve members, the committees are responsible for supervising the process, documenting all steps and assisting citizens when needed.

■ Before the elections, district election boards ask the five most popular political parties in recent elections to assign one original and one reserve member for each of the ballot in that district.

■ After the elections, the committee members enter the results of each ballot box into the SECSIS system to obtain speedy results.

■ The results are then made accessible to political parties and pre-selected media as early as possible.

Overseas Ballot Box Committees

■ Overseas election board is set up to supervise voting procedures for overseas voters to exercise their voting rights.

■ The committees are composed of one president, one public officer and members of three most popular political parties. Reserve members are determined along the same lines

■ Overseas Ballot box committee members are nominated by public officers who are stationed at the polling sights.

■ In order to protect the votes used overseas and to transfer them safely to Overseas Election Board (Ankara), protection ballot box committees are established at every diplomatic mission. This commission is composed of one head of mission, and members of three most popular political parties.

■ Sealed sacks are put in diplomatic bags, sealed again, and then sent to Overseas District Election Board with a diplomatic courier.

■ In order to undertake the transactions of counting, tabulating and writing minutes for the votes coming to Overseas Election Boards, counting ballot box committees are established – composed of one president, one public officer and representatives of three political parties. This commission opens the sealed sacks, counts, and records citizens' votes.

Political Party Portal

■ It is an interface providing all kinds of necessary information related to electoral integrity for participating political parties before, during , and after the elections.

■ It provides open access to all political parties eligible to attend elections.



Transparency

■ Prior to the elections, citizens living in Turkey or overseas are recommended to visit www.ysk.gov.tr to check their registration status and where and in which ballot they will vote from.

■ Domestic and overseas electoral registries are shared also with political parties eligible to attend elections.

■ In the run-up to the parliamentary elections, meetings are organised with informatics experts of political parties to evaluate the state of preparations and to discuss technical issues of monitoring and sharing of electoral results.

■ On the day of voting, informatics experts of political parties are invited to SECSIS Informatics Centre.

■ During an electoral cycle, the following are simultaneously shared with political parties over SECSIS and are kept under record:

- Domestic voters lists on public review,
- Overseas voters lists on public review,
- Voters changes within public review period,
- Voters changes within the period of objections,

- Information on ballot result minutes entered into Electoral Informatics System (SECSIS),
- Scanned signed ballot result minutes,
- Province-district consolidation minutes, counting and tally sheets.

Result of Elections

■ Ballot result minutes with original signature by ballot box committee - that composes of one president, one council of elders and members of five political parties - are entered in to SECSIS by personnel of district election boards.

■ With the amendment on Law 298 on Basic Provisions of Elections and Voters Registers in 2010, results are monitored by members of Supreme Election Board and members of political parties and simultaneously shared electronically with political parties attending elections.

■ This process also acts as a verification mechanism whereby political parties have the opportunity to compare the results scanned onto SECSIS and the results obtained manually.

Source: Supreme Election Board

Parliamentary Elections

Member of parliaments are elected through direct popular vote, using a system based on proportional representation for the parliamentary elections.

With the introduction of alliance law in 2018, the Turkish political system has entered into a new phase where political parties can officially form election alliances. The laws allow parties to appear in the ballot box under the same alliance while preserving the name and emblem of their party.

With this new system, small parties can have a chance to enter into parliament by circumventing the 10 percent threshold by joining an alliance. According to the law, the sum of the total votes in the allied parties will be calculated as a condition to pass the threshold. This allows small parties to gain seats in the parliament.

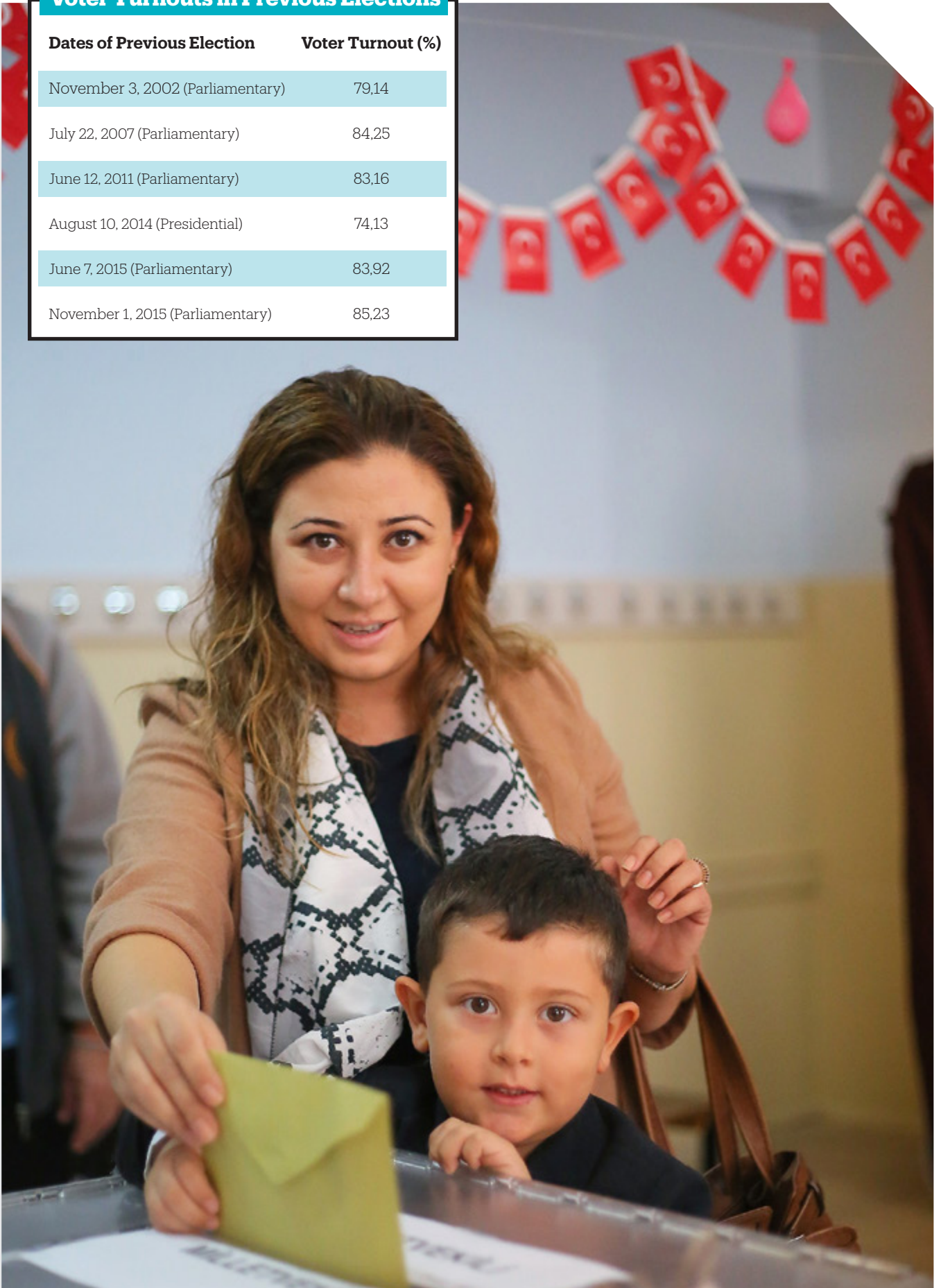
Alliances	Party		Ideology/ Position	Leader
People's Alliance	AK Party	Justice and Development Party	Conservative Democracy	Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
	MHP	Nationalist Movement Party	Turkish Nationalism	Devlet Bahçeli
	BBP*	Grand Unity Party	Turkish Nationalism and Political Islam	Mustafa Destici
Nation Alliance	CHP	Republican People's Party	Social Democracy	Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu
	IYI	Good Party	Centre-Right Nationalism	Meral Akşener
	DP**	Democrat Party	Centre-right	Gültekin Uysal
	SP	Felicity Party	Political Islam	Temel Karamollaoğlu
None	HDP	Peoples' Democratic Party	Leftist Kurdish Nationalism	Pervin Buldan Sezai Temelli
	VATAN	Patriotic Party	Kemalist Nationalism	Doğu Perinçek
	HÜDAPAR	Free Cause Party	Kurdish Nationalism and Political Islam	Zekeriya Yapıcıoğlu

* BBP deputies will be in AK Party's list.

**DP deputies will be in IYI (Good) Party's list.

Voter Turnouts in Previous Elections

Dates of Previous Election	Voter Turnout (%)
November 3, 2002 (Parliamentary)	79,14
July 22, 2007 (Parliamentary)	84,25
June 12, 2011 (Parliamentary)	83,16
August 10, 2014 (Presidential)	74,13
June 7, 2015 (Parliamentary)	83,92
November 1, 2015 (Parliamentary)	85,23



Formation of People's Alliance

The rapprochement between the AK Party and MHP started after the July 15 coup attempt in 2016. As with all other political parties, MHP condemned the coup attempt and displayed a strong stance against it. The rationale behind the establishment of the People's Alliance was to emulate the unity displayed by Turkish people against the coup plotters.

On August 7, 2016, all the major political parties gathered at Democracy and Martyr's Rally to address the crowd at Yenikapı and show solidarity in the face of the attempted coup. It was a unique moment when rival political parties set their differences aside and adopted a common stance. As time went by, political parties returned to their original positions and traditional politics. Devlet Bahçeli's MHP was the exception. Bahçeli said Turkey faces an existential threat and the government must be supported against organisations trying to undermine the integrity of the state. AK Party and MHP refer to this episode as the Yenikapı spirit.

FETÖ had been defeated that night but has been manoeuvring to undermine the state and the society though in a weaker shape. In addition, the struggle against the terror group PKK has also been in full swing. The AK Party's fight against these terror organisations has been strengthened with MHP's support.

On the first days of 2017, Devlet Bahçeli started to talk of an alliance between AK Party and MHP. Regarding the future presidential election, Devlet Bahçeli said that MHP would move in line with the Yenikapı spirit. Following this, both leaders came together on January 10 in Ankara and started to talk of an alliance between the two political parties.

Acting on this common ground, the AK Party and the MHP campaigned together for the April 16 constitutional referendum that aimed at a government system change from parliamentary to presidential. This was the second step that laid the ground for the People's Alliance. In a TV interview on November 30, Devlet Bahçeli pointed to the possibility of the continuation of the political cooperation of the Yes bloc to the next elections and named its alliance with the AK Party the 'People's Alliance'.

On February 21, 2018, AK Party and MHP brought the draft law, which allowed the alliances of political parties in the elections, to the Assembly. On March 13, 26 articles of the draft law suggesting alliances among political parties were approved in the parliament and sent to the President. Erdoğan approved the law on March 16. On May 3, Erdoğan signed the Alliance protocol of the People's Alliance, which included the AK Party, the MHP and Grand Unity Party (BBP).



President Erdoğan with MHP Chairman Devlet Bahçeli.

Protocol of People's Alliance: AK Party, MHP and BBP

I The Justice and Development Party (AK Party) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) have decided to enter the 27th term parliamentary elections which will be held on June 24, 2018 through an electoral alliance called "People's Alliance," in accordance with the law no. 2839, article 12/A and with this protocol.

With an understanding that holds Turkey's independence and future above all else, People's Alliance aims to create a strong and stable parliament structure and to ensure establishment of the presidential system with all its institutions and rules in the next five years. The Grand Unity Party (BBP) that supports People's Alliance with the same understanding is also a part of this alliance.

AK Party and MHP which came to an agreement through listening to the voice of the people and which crowned this agreement with People's Alliance will enter elections with People's Alliance by preserving their judicial personalities and submit separate MP candidate lists based on the principles of the MP election law and other regulations.

II The People's Alliance's agreed candidate for the presidential elections of June 24 is Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The People's Alliance will work together for Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's election with strong popular support, in accordance with the new government system.

III The People's Alliance essentially came into existence as a result of the national stance against attacks Turkey was subjected to after FETÖ's heinous attempted coup and invasion on July 15, 2016.

July 15, 2016, has been a turning point for our country from every aspect and it signals a new beginning. "The national agreement" which came into existence on August 7, 2016 at Yenikapı has transformed into a 'national consciousness' after the change of government system adopted by the people on April 16, 2017 referendum and later concretised with the People's Alliance established through a moral and political reconciliation that is based on national survival.

The People's Alliance is not only an electoral alliance, but also a national and ethical stance, as well as a historic unity movement against domestic and foreign hostile initiatives targeting Turkey.

IV The People's Alliance is the will to sustain the Republic of Turkey - which is a national and unitary state - and Turkish people with an ambition to catch the goal surpassing contemporary civilisation. AK Party and MHP acted on the national resurrection spirit at Yenikapı, bringing forth a strong government system as a result of a constitutional amendment which strengthens the will of the state and the nation. Hereby, Turkey has entered a new political process with no return.

The People's Alliance is determined to put a common stance against attacks targeting Turkey regardless of party interests and petty politics and, to stand against every activity, which weakens Turkey and makes the country vulnerable to international interference. With this determination and cooperation, our alliance, along with realising 2023 goals - which will make Turkey a regional power and a leader country - is going to lay the ground for 2053 and 2071 vision for Turkey to become a global power.

V The presidential and parliamentary election on June 24 is of vital importance for Turkey. These elections are an opportunity to provide a strong response to systematic attacks against Turkey. It is an occasion when Turkey will be free from its chains to dispel these attacks permanently and carry the country to a bright future. On June 24, we believe our people will favour the People's Alliance which set off to create a great and strong Turkey and which is transparent, independent, and distant from murky calculations.

The road of the People's Alliance is clear, and Turkey's horizon is bright.

The work is on us; success is from Allah.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Devlet Bahçeli

AK Party's Manifesto for the Upcoming Elections

Erdoğan declared AK Party's manifesto for the upcoming elections at his party's congress in Istanbul on May 6, 2018. He emphasised the importance of the establishment of an even stronger justice system with the new government system. Erdoğan claimed that, "Turkey will be on the rise without restraint in the new period after June 24 elections and we, as AK Party, aspire to realise this." Regarding the economy of the country, he promised that he would reduce the interest rates, inflation and current deficit. Lastly, he highlighted the significance of Turkish youth for the future of the country.

Economy

Erdoğan promised that "dependence on external sources for energy will be reduced. Domestically produced cars and defence industry projects will maintain their pace. We will build new factories, which will create new job opportunities with which the unemployment rates will be reduced. In addition, inflation, current deficit and interest rates will be reduced after the elections. We will reduce the tax rates for people whose income is low, and we will make their lives easier in the new term."

Democratic Turkey

Erdoğan stated that "As always, we are on the side of a strong and independent Turkey, democracy and freedom. Abolishing the obstacles in front of freedom of religion and conscience is as important as making our country prosper. We are happy and ready to walk along with those who considers our political, ideological, religious, sectarian and ethnic differences as part of our rich culture. All in all, We want a full democratic Turkey."

Strong Justice

He emphasised on making the justice system stronger in every corner of the state, stating that, "after June 24, state institutions will be reframed in order to realise a strong justice. The new system makes our separation of powers even stronger. The parliament will only focus on legislation and checking the executive while the judiciary, as independent and impartial, will focus on realising a strong justice."

National Will

Erdoğan said that, "Turkey has witnessed military coups in its near history, such as the February 28 postmodern coup in 1997 and 2007 e-memorandum. However, we have always tried to protect the national will during these attacks on our democracy."

The World is Bigger Than Five

Erdoğan stated that, "we stand against the injustices of the current global order. We say that the world is bigger than five... in accordance with this stance, we sided with Syria, Palestine, Somalia, and Bosnia."

July 15 Coup Attempt

He mentioned the failed July 15 coup attempt, saying that, "251 people were martyred and 2193 people were wounded on the night of July 15." In addition, he told participants "You stopped death on that night."

Security

Referring to the PYD/YPG presence in northern Syria, Erdoğan said, "they tried to establish a terror belt along our borders," adding that, "we have spoiled their game and will go forward on this direction."



AK PARTI

Justice and Development Party Profile

- Justice and Development Party (AK Party) is a conservative democratic party that was founded by a reformist fraction within the Virtue (Fazilet) by in 2001.
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is among the founding members and the current leader of the party.
- AK Party has won all elections that they took part in since 2002.
- They gained 34,5% in 2002, 46,5% in 2007, 49,8% in 2011, 40,9% in June 2015 and 49,5% in November 2015 general elections.
- AK Party, with the exception of the period between June 7 and November 1 elections, has been able to form single party governments since 2002 general elections.
- AK Party spearheaded the constitutional referendum in 2017, which resulted in "yes" with 51,4% of the votes.
- Accession negotiations between the EU and Turkey has started during the AK Party's rule in 2005.
- AK Party, in its 16 years-rule, has touched upon several chronic problems in Turkish politics, including normalising civilian-military relations, regulations about minorities, Kurdish and Alevis openings.
- AK Party has led the establishment of the People's Alliance for the upcoming June 24 elections.
- AK Party is the largest political organization in Turkey with more than ten million members.



Nationalist Movement Party Profile

■ The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) is a Turkish nationalist party established by Alpaslan Türkeş in 1969 with the name of Republican Villagers Nation Party.

■ Devlet Bahçeli is the leader of the party since 1997.

■ Under Bahçeli's leadership, MHP gained 18% of the vote and 129 seats in the 1999 general elections. With these results, MHP formed a coalition government with Democratic Left Party (DSP) and Motherland Party (ANAP) after 1999 elections.

■ MHP obtained 16.3% and 11.9% of the votes in June 7, 2015 and November 1, 2015 general elections respectively.

■ MHP campaigned for "yes" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.



President Erdoğan with BBP Chairman Mustafa Destici.



Grand Unity Party Profile

■ The Grand Unity Party (BBP) is a Turkish nationalist and conservative party, founded by late Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu in 1993.

■ Yazıcıoğlu, founder and long-time leader of the party, died in a controversial helicopter crash in 2009.

■ Mustafa Destici is the current leader of the party.

■ BBP gained 0.2% and 0.6% of the votes in June 7, 2015 and November 1, 2015 general elections respectively.

■ BBP sided with "yes" campaign in the constitutional referendum in 2017.

Formation of Nation's Alliance

After intense negotiations, four opposition parties agreed to form an alliance in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Despite their failure in putting forward a joint candidate for the presidential elections, this time, opposition parties CHP, İYİ (Good) Party, Democrat Party and Felicity Party managed to establish an electoral alliance for the parliamentary election under the name of "Nation's Alliance."

According to the alliance's protocol, the aim of the Nation's Alliance is to ensure fairness in representation and to put forward the true will of the nation, by gathering parties with different worldviews around democratic principles. The protocol also states that each party will continue to preserve their distinctive worldviews and party programmes. However, it is noted that Democrat Party will contest in the elections from the MP lists of İYİ Party.

CHP played an important role in the formation of the alliance by negotiating with the other opposition parties. However, CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu's attempt to form "zero threshold alliance" could not be fully realised as the HDP, the second major opposition party, was kept out of the alliance. Kılıçdaroğlu declared on several occasions that he was trying to bring together seven parties that said "no" in the presidential referendum in 2017 to form the broadest alliance. However, given the objection of other parties, this goal did not materialize.

Transfer of 15 MP

When the date of June 24, 2018 was declared as the Election Day, questions were raised as to whether İYİ Party would be able to participate in the elections. This became an issue of discussion because according to Political Parties Act, "a political party has to either finalise its organisation process in more than half of the provinces across the country while holding its first congress six months before the election date or it has to have a group in the parliament in order to participate in the elections." Upon the controversies over the date of the first congress of İYİ Party, some claimed that İYİ Party would not qualify to enter the elections. In response to these claims, İYİ

Party leader Meral Akşener made a written statement saying: "we completed the congress on December 10th. Sixty-eight provincial and district organisations were established. From that day on, we are ready to enter the election as of June 10th."

Against this backdrop, CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu has made a controversial move on April 22 and requested 15 CHP deputies to quit their party and join İYİ Party in an attempt to secure İYİ Party's participation in the elections. It is stated in the press conference that this move came upon the instruction of CHP leader Kılıçdaroğlu as a precautionary measure to prevent any possibility that would keep İYİ Party out of elections. As a result of this move, İYİ Party that already consisted of 5 deputies, increased its deputy numbers to 20 and became eligible to enter elections – thereby fulfilling the condition of having a group in the parliament.

Supreme Election Board approved İYİ Party's participation in the elections on April 22, after the announcement of the transfer of 15 MPs from CHP to İYİ Party. In response to CHP's decision, İYİ Party leader Akşener said, "The position that the CHP and its dear chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu adopted is to be appreciated. It is a historic democratic position."

The transfer of 15 CHP deputies to another party has sparked a fierce debate and caused harsh criticisms from the AK Party and MHP. President Erdoğan, in his criticism of the CHP's move, stated that, "you are expelling 15 lawmakers from their homes to a place where they did not want to go, and made them cry. Only dictators would do such a thing." In a similar vein, AK Party spokesperson Mahir Ünal said, "Kılıçdaroğlu, whose will has been hijacked, sent his 15 members to another party in an authoritative move, disregarding the choice of his voters in general elections on Nov. 1, 2015." Additionally, by describing this action as a dirty game, MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli slammed the CHP and İYİ Party by stating that, "CHP is doing the exact opposite of what they say about democracy and principled alliances by engaging in murky chatter and politics."



IYI Party Chairman Meral Akşener with CHP Chairman Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.

Protocol of Nation's Alliance: CHP, IYI Party, Felicity Party and Democrat Party

The reconciliation on the basis of democratic principles by social groups with different lifestyles and political views is a precondition for the peace, tranquillity and stability that our nation needs. The constitution and electoral laws enacted based on the rule of law are the fundamental building blocks of democracy and source of legitimacy for the administration.

Changes in laws on political parties and elections on the eve of an early election decision constitute obstacles in front of the true manifestation of national will and justice in representation. Removing these obstacles that face the will of

the nation is the first and fundamental task of any political party that respects the healthy functioning of democracy. True manifestation of national will and the building of a powerful Turkey with a strong parliamentary based on the separation of power is the joint interest of our nation.

For this purpose, we think that it is important that political parties who have different point of views and who offer different solutions in line with their party programs shall make "election alliance," in order to ensure justice in representation and to represent the will of each individual in the parliament without being influenced or guided.



Meral Akşener with Felicity Party Chairman Temel Karamollaoğlu.

We, aware of the difficult conditions our country is in today, in the presence of our great Nation, in the witness of all our citizens, came together for electoral cooperation:

I To end social decomposition and polarisation, to contribute to the holding of a fair and safe election within an environment of peace, fraternity and trust that our people desire,

II To normalise the political system of our country as soon as possible, to rebuild the competitive and democratic political atmosphere according to the principles of pluralistic democracy,

III To ensure rule of law, independence of judiciary and its impartiality according to the principle of separation of powers,

IV To ensure the basic rights and freedoms - especially the freedom of expression in the media - are benefited by all citizens and institutions.

As the Republican People's Party, the Democrat Party, the IYI Party and the Felicity Party, we decided to cooperate in the 27th General Elections to be held on June 24, 2018, by preserving our different programs and worldviews and with the aim of representing the political preferences of our citizens and ensuring the justice in representation.

Within the framework of this cooperation, the Republican People's Party, the IYI Party and the Felicity Party will go to the polls with their emblems under the name of the "Nation's Alliance", and the Democrat Party will be a part of the Nation's Alliance by showing its candidates from the list of IYI Party's.

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, Meral Akşener, Temel Karamollaoğlu and Gültekin Uysal

Faction in MHP and the establishment process of the İYİ (Good) Party

■ After the MHP's votes decreased by two million votes in the election of November 1, 2015, a group of delegates in MHP, with the leadership of Akşener, demanded an extraordinary congress to elect new leadership in the MHP.

■ The existing leadership of the MHP rejected these demands and appealed in court against any extraordinary congress. MHP officials accused dissidents within the party of being tools of a FETÖ conspiracy.

■ The extraordinary congress could not be carried out after a year-long judicial battle between the opposition and the leadership of MHP.

■ In the constitutional referendum process, while the MHP campaigned for the "yes" vote, Meral Akşener, contrary to her former party, campaigned for the "no" vote.

■ She also declared that she will establish a new party with some of her other comrades who oppose the existing MHP leadership.

■ Meral Akşener formally established the İYİ Party in October 25, 2017.



Republican People's Party Profile

■ Republican People's Party (CHP) is a social democrat party that was founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was the founder of Turkish Republic, in 1923. It is also the oldest party in Turkey.

■ CHP ruled the country under a one-party system until 1946 when the first multi-party elections were held. In 1950, CHP lost its long-lasting status as the single ruling party. CHP has since never succeeded in coming to power alone.

■ Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu is the current leader of CHP, elected in 2010.

■ Since 2002, CHP has served as the main opposition party in the parliament against AK Party.

■ Six fundamental pillars represent the ideology of CHP, which are: Republicanism, Populism, Nationalism, Secularism, Statism, and Reformism.

■ CHP obtained 24.95% of the votes in June 7, 2015 general elections and 25.32% of the votes in November 1, 2015 general elections.

■ CHP campaigned for "no" in the constitutional referendum of 2017.



İYİ (Good) Party Profile

■ The İYİ Party is a recently founded party in Turkish politics, founded on October 25, 2017.

■ The leader of the party is Meral Akşener.

■ The party officials promised from time to time that they would change the government system of the country back to the parliamentary system.

■ The main figures of the İYİ Party are composed of central-right, national and conservative wings of Turkish politics.

■ Former MPs of MHP such as Koray Aydın, Ümit Özdağ and Yusuf Halaçoğlu, former MP of CHP, Aytun Çıray, and former head of the Central Bank of Turkey, Dursun Yılmaz are among the founders of the party.

■ Meral Akşener campaigned for "no" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.



Felicity Party Profile

■ Felicity Party is a political Islamist party.

■ It was founded in 2001 after the Constitutional Court closed down its predecessor, the Welfare Party.

■ The party represents the ideas of "National View" (Milli Görüş) movement that was founded and led by Necmettin Erbakan, which envisaged close cooperation and unity among Muslim countries.

■ Temel Karamollaoğlu is the leader of Felicity Party since 2016.

■ Felicity Party received 2.1% of the votes in June 7, 2015 general elections and 0.7% of the votes in November 1, 2015 general elections.

■ Felicity Party campaigned for "no" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.



Democrat Party Profile

■ The Democrat Party is the current successor of Süleyman Demirel's the "True Path Party" (Doğru Yol Partisi-DYP), Turgut Özal's the "Motherland Party" (Anavatan Party) and Adnan Menderes's the "Democrat Party" which continued its political life from 1946 till 1960.

■ The Democrat Party emerged in 2007 after the merger of DYP and Motherland Party, under the leadership of Mehmet Ağar, who is a popular figure in Turkish politics.

■ The party has never been represented in the parliament since its establishment.

■ The party, in the same direction with its predecessors, is based on conservative centre-right ideology.

■ The current leader of the Democrat Party, Gültekin Uysal, declared that the party is going to support Meral Akşener, the leader of the İYİ Party, for presidential election.

■ Democrat Party is one of the fractions that constitute Nation's Alliance.

■ Democrat Party campaigned for "no" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.



Democrat Party Chairman Gültekin Uysal with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu

Other Parties



Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)

Profile

- Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) was founded on October 27, 2013 as being the successor to a long line of pro-Kurdish parties.
- HDP is based on the ideology of leftist Kurdish nationalism.
- The leadership of the HDP is conducted through co-presidential system. The current co-chairs are Sezai Temelli and Pervin Buldan.
- Selahattin Demirtaş, former co-chair of the HDP, was nominated as HDP's presidential candidate.
- Selahattin Demirtaş is currently in custody, pending trial.
- HDP's election promises are kindness, peace, change, unity and pluralism.
- HDP won 13.12% in the elections on June 7, 2015 and 10.75% in the elections on November 1, 2015.
- Many MPs, mayors, administrators of HDP have been put on trial and some of them have been convicted on charges of being associated with the terror group PKK.
- HDP campaigned for "no" in 2017 referendum.



Patriotic Party (Vatan

Party) Profile

- Workers' Party (İşçi Partisi) held an extraordinary congress on February 15, 2015, and changed its name to Patriotic Party.
- Doğu Perinçek, who is the founder and the current leader of the party, is the presidential candidate of the party.
- The Party aims to unite the nationalists, socialists, and supporters of Neo-Eurasian thought.
- The Vatan Party received 0.35% in the elections in June 2015 and 0.25% in the elections in November 2015.
- Kemalists and leftist nationalists support the Patriotic Party.
- Vatan Party campaigned for "no" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.



Free Cause Party (HÜDA-PAR) Profile

- Free Cause Party (HÜDA-PAR) follows the ideology of Islamism and Kurdish nationalism.
- The party finds ground among conservative Kurdish people in South-eastern and Eastern Anatolia.
- It is founded in 2012 by Mehmet Hüseyin Yılmaz, who is the former chairman of Mustazaf-Der.
- Current leader of the party, Zekeriya Yapıcıoğlu, said they could not reach any agreement to form alliance in the upcoming elections.
- HÜDA-PAR participated the June 7, 2015 elections with independent candidates and did not take part in the last general election, held in November 1, 2015.
- HÜDA-PAR campaigned for "yes" in the constitutional referendum in 2017.

Promises from Party Election Declarations

JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY

■ Stable and Strong Economy

- Growth through an innovative and entrepreneurial private sector will be prioritised. Private investments will be incentivised in deference to cost efficiency, accountability, transparency, predictability, flexibility and productivity.
- Fiscal discipline will be fully implemented. Current deficit will decrease, domestic savings will increase.
- Share of public spending in overall national income will not increase. State institutions will be subjected to austerity measures.
- Inflation will fall to single-digit figures.
- Long-term foreign investment will be attracted to high-tech and more productive areas through political stability, predictability and investor-friendly policies.
- The number of exporters will increase from 71.265 to over 120.000. The share of high-tech products in export will increase from 4% to 15%.
- Public procurement legislation will be updated and functioning international examples will also be taken into consideration to find solutions to practical problems.

■ Strong Democracy

- Democracy, rule of law, rights and freedoms of citizens will be expanded.
- All segments of society will continue to be respected and the imposition of collective identity and lifestyle on others will be prevented.
- The law will also continue to protect the rights and freedoms of non-Muslim citizens.
- Cemevis – houses of worship for Alevis – will be granted legal status.
- NGOs will play greater role in the service sector and their relations with the public sector will be organised.
- The number of specialised courts and courts of appeals

will be increased in order to bring faster and more effective justice.

- The punishment of the sexual crimes committed against children will be increased.

■ Turkey-Centred Multilateral Foreign Policy

- The objective of EU membership will continue.
 - Effort will be put forth to overcome challenges with the US. Necessary diplomatic initiatives will be taken in order to make the US take concrete steps with regards to YPG and FETÖ.
 - Strong ties with Russia will be forged in the field of energy and trade.
 - The efforts to consolidate stability, peace and security in the Middle East, particularly in Syria and Iraq will continue to be supported.
 - The support will continue for the cause of restructuring the UN Security Council in a more democratic, transparent and effective way.
 - Annual diaspora meetings will be held in order to gather overseas Turkish citizens to discuss their issues.
 - The fight will continue proactively against all terrorist elements, especially terrorist organisations such as FETÖ, PKK and Daesh.
- ### ■ Human and Society
- Providing personalised medical treatments by introducing the gene pool of our country's population as part of Turkey Genome Project.
 - Providing new jobs for the youth in the fields of politics, social politics, education etc. Thus, unemployment of youth in particular and unemployment in general will be reduced with these new jobs.
 - The role of women in decision-making mechanisms

will be enhanced. In this context, additional projects will be implemented aiming to incorporate more women into business.

- Fight against poverty will continue in the next term; distribution of total revenue will be further enhanced and social protection policies for those in need will continue to be in place.
- Sport centres, stadiums and other facilities will be improved and Turkey will be candidate for international sport organisations.
- A database on migration and migrants will be set up and the institutional capacity will be enhanced. Turkey will be a destination country for young people.

■ Environment, Urbanism and Local Administrations

- The zero waste management will generalise in Turkey. In this context, this system will be important primarily at public buildings, schools, hospitals and shopping centres.
- Water basins will be put under protection. Furthermore, the national water security plan will be published.
- The size of forest lands will be enlarged to contain one third of Turkey.
- Local administrations will be made more powerful. For that purpose, new warrants and duties will be entrusted to local authorities. Moreover, some powers and resources of the central administration will be transferred to local management.
- City parks will be constructed on the area where Istanbul Atatürk International Airport is currently located.
- Rural developments will be strongly supported. In this regard, investments will be made and financial support will be provided.

■ New Administration Model

- Strong parliament, strong government and an independent and impartial judiciary are the key features of the new administration model.
- The government will work fast and effectively to reduce bureaucracy and to provide economic growth, welfare and development.

■ Strategic Sectors and Innovative Production

- Turkey will be transformed into a high-income nation by producing knowledge and transforming it to a value-added function. Creating economic infrastructure based



on national technology requires both innovative and high technology and this is one of AK Party's goals for the new-term.

- In line with the goal of making Turkey a country exporting high technology products, "National Technology Advance" will commence by increasing economic stimulus in Research and Development.
- Digital transformation for existing industries will be procured by investing human resources for this transformation. Furthermore, Informatics Valley will be developed for the integration of digital technologies to existing industries.
- In the defence, aviation and space industries, mass production of ALTAY National Tank will begin.
- National and renewable energy sources will be used to the highest level. For this, AK Party aims to increase natural gas storage capacity, decrease carbon emission with energy efficiency and take necessary legal steps for the future of mining industry.
- "Joint Production Model" will be implemented in 81 provisions and 250 villages in the framework of food and agricultural policies. Therefore, the activities for increasing agricultural production will be supported and number of livestock will be increased.
- Transport infrastructure will be developed in advanced countries. In this regard, traffic density problem will be solved with new divided roads. Railway network will be increased to 25 thousand km and construction of new airports will be completed.

REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

■ Democracy: Rights, Law, Justice

- All the fundamental rights which are suspended after the July 15 coup attempt will be restored. State of emergency will be terminated. Unless it includes a call to hatred and violence, right to peaceful meeting and protest will under no circumstances be restricted.
- A new constitution will be prepared based on the principle of separation of powers, universal human rights, social justice and equal citizenship.
- The powers of the president will be curbed into symbolic position. The presidential post will be independent and above politics.
- The practice of omnibus bill which impedes working of the parliamentary commissions and quality discussion at the General Assembly will be terminated.
- Electoral law and political parties law will be modified to increase pluralism and participation. 10% electoral threshold will be abolished. The concept of "Turkish MP" will be instated to allow political parties with more than 1% vote to be represented in the parliament. Decisions of the Supreme Election Board will be opened to supervision of the Supreme Court.

■ Economy: Production and Just Distribution

- In the short term; the Central Bank and other regulatory institutions will be independent, public austerity measures will be implemented, minimum wage will be 2.200 TL and all public policies will be based on digital transformation.
- In the medium and long term; more-value added products and services will be created, the quality of the workforce will increase, all business ecosystem will change, inter-regional inequalities will decrease and all the needy will be under Family Insurance.
- Current deficit and inflation will decrease and currency stability will be provided. Turkey will transform from an



agricultural importer to exporter. Single value-added-tax will be imposed on textile industry. The private sector will be incentivised for production of electrical cars.

■ Free, Qualified, Equal Education

- Education will be free for all. The education system will be restructured into 1+8+4 model. 9 years being continuous, 13 years of education will be mandatory.
- The share of total expenditure devoted to education will be increased to EU levels. For all levels, spending per student will increase. Schools' internet infrastructure will be improved.
- Council of Higher Education will be abolished. University presidents will be elected by university personnel. A safe and free working environment will be provided to academics.

■ Social Peace, Kurdish Issue

- No segregation based on culture, belief, language, identity, political view, gender, sexual orientation and

lifestyle will be allowed. Polarising politics will not be tolerated.

- Secularism which is the most basic insurance of freedom of faith and worship will be fully implemented. Religion and politics will be kept separate and religion will not be an instrument of politics.
- The Kurdish issue will be solved on the basis of equal citizenship and dialogue without giving in to absolute securitisation. The issue will be addressed with participation of all political parties in a sincere and transparent way.

■ Foreign Policy: Stability and Prestige

- The EU negotiation process will be reinvigorated. The negotiations for full membership will be pursued by prioritising visa liberation, agricultural subsidies and scientific cooperation. Without waiting for the EU to open frozen negotiation chapters, reforms will be implemented.
- Relations with the US will not be restricted to the strategic and military domain but they will be expanded to economic, scientific and cultural interaction. Cooperation will be based on common values and interests rather than conjunctural, regional and international developments.
- Transparent and sustainable relations with Russia will be established in energy trade and security. Turkish businessmen enterprises in Russia and Eurasian Economic Union will be supported. Rights of Tatars in Crimea will be defended.

■ Public Administration and Public Services

- A new system of public administration will be introduced in a comprehensive reform package. Balanced and functional power-sharing will be established; transparency and accountability will be increased in the public domain; recruitments to public institutions will be based solely on merit; corruption will be fought until overcome completely in Turkey.
- Independent judiciary will be restored, and the mechanisms which restrain the judiciary from checking government and related bureaucracy will be removed. The power and authority of public advocates will be increased.
- Local administration units will be empowered. Turkey's reservations to the European Charter of Local Self-Government will be lifted.

■ A Just and Dignified Work Life

- Discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, language and race in the workplace will be eradicated.
- Minimum wage will be raised to 2,220 Turkish Liras. Income tax will not be applicable to those earning the minimum wage.
- Unemployment will be reduced to under 5 percent in 5 years.

■ Segments of Society

- Initiatives promoting the equality of genders such as women education will be encouraged. With this in consideration, a "Ministry for Women" will be established.
- Youth will be supported throughout their education in many ways. Scholarships will be increased, and new dormitories will be built.
- "Ministry of Tradesmen" will be established.

■ Culture and Art

- A "Supreme Board of Art" will be established to support cultural and artistic activities, to maintain the independence of relevant institutions and to ease the coordination among them.
- Cultural and artistic activities will be prevalent across the country. Taxation on cultural and artistic events will either be removed or decreased.
- "Ministry of Culture" will be established thereby separating the current Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

■ Rights to the City

- All segments of society, starting with children, youth, woman, elderly and the disabled have rights to use and enjoy all the benefits that city life provides.
- Construction law will be aligned with international standards.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- HDP aims to reach a democratic, pluralist, libertarian and egalitarian constitution, which reflect the various identities, languages, beliefs and cultures of Turkey.
- HDP has proposed a 'democratic decentralisation' model, which does not contradict with Turkey's unitary state structure and democratic parliamentary system.
- The party demands a strengthening of local democracy to promote political stability and areas of public life.
- HDP sees the solution of the Kurdish question as fundamental in the creation of a fully-fledged democracy in Turkey.

Justice

- HDP pledges abolishing state of emergency, re-arranging the structure of the Council of Judges and Prosecutors and making legal regulations for an independent and impartial justice system.

Political Parties Laws

- Election threshold will be abolished.
- Political party laws will be changed to ensure the direct participation of all party members in the decision-making processes.

Rights and Freedoms

- High Council for Faith Services will be established and this institution will provide services for all faith groups in Turkey. Cemevis will be recognised as places of worship.
- Truth Commission will be established and atrocities of the past will be investigated.
- The right to conscientious objection will be recognised by the state.

Economy

- The Social Rights Programme will be implemented to cope with poverty.
- The minimum wage will be 3000 TL.
- The "Fair Distribution Programme" will provide a fair tax system.

Labour Rights

- Official working hours will be dropped to 35 hours a week.
- Minimum wage workers will be exempt from taxation.

- Necessary age for pension will be decreased.

Foreign Policy

- Supports the efforts to reach a democratic government in Syria.
- Necessary support will be given for a free, sovereign Palestinian state.
- Solution offers will be supported to end the dispute between Turks and Greeks in Cyprus.
- Economic embargo on Armenia will be abolished.
- The EU's fundamental values - human rights, rule of law, local democracy and separation of powers - will be promoted.
- Cooperation with the aim to develop solutions against racism, anti-Semitism, human trafficking, refugee problems and drug trafficking.

Education

- University entrance exams will be abolished.
- Quality differences between schools will be eliminated.

Children and Youths

- Ministry of Children will be established.
- Juvenile detention centres will be removed.
- Child labour will be abolished.
- Solutions for youth employment will be developed.
- The fight against drug addiction will be strong.

Women

- Ministry of Women will be established.
- International Women's Day on March 8 will be declared as official holiday.



NATIONALIST MOVEMENT PARTY

■ National Revival, Blessed Uprising

- The primary goal of MHP is to ensure peace and security, to consolidate national unity and make the state everlasting.
- Peace and prosperity in the world can be achieved only through the formation of a new civilisation, centred on Turkey.
- All segments of society who share a similar concern for Turkey and the Turkish people should come together.
- An amnesty that will exclude those who are convicted by terrorism-related crimes - including PKK and Fetullah Terrorist Organisation (FETÖ) members, child abusers, rapists and woman murderers will be granted.
- University entrance exams will be removed.

■ Justice

- Justice is the basis of the state and the guarantee of civil liberties and rights.
- MHP's policy to combat corruption is based on the understanding of bringing corruption cases into courts and trying them, as well as taking preventive measures.

■ Economy

- Economic reforms that will alleviate the economic problems of farmers, retired people, families of the disabled, martyred people and veterans will be made.
- An employment-friendly, sustainable growth environment will be established.
- Inflation will be reduced permanently.
- Seven percent annual growth will be achieved.

■ Multifaceted and multi-dimensional foreign policy

- The United Nations system needs to be reformed and



Turkey should be one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

- Relationship with the EU is not regarded as a matter of identity and fate.
- The Turkish world is a prime and privileged interest in MHP's foreign policy.
- Bringing Turkey to the position of global power and leading country until 2053 will be pursued as long-term strategic goal.

■ Industrialisation

- Investment banking should be supported in order to improve the high-tech industry.
- Tax-free fuel for transport businesses and farmers will be provided.
- The taxes on minimum wage or on part of salaries corresponding to the minimum wage will be lifted.

IYI PARTY

■ Democratic Republic, Societal Consensus and Strong Citizenship

- Freedom of thought, belief, opinion, religion and expression will be upheld. Participatory and pluralist democracy will be consolidated.
- A new constitution that is fair and that guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms will be drafted.
- A democratic parliamentary system that is based on accountability and separation of powers will be returned to within the first year. The election threshold will be reduced to 5 percent.
- The judiciary will be independent and impartial. Universal principles of law will be the basis of the trials. The Supreme Court will be restructured.
- State of emergency will be lifted.

■ Just, Strong and Human-centred State

- "Public Administration Reform Act" that will build a fast, efficient, transparent and accountable state structure, will be enacted.
- Public institutions that have lost their functions such as YÖK (Higher Education Council) will be abolished.
- Access to the internet will be granted a status of fundamental human rights.
- The implementation of a "Good city Model" that maintains the harmonious relationship between human and nature, and preserves the Anatolian culture of Turkey.

■ A Powerful Foreign Policy Aiming for Peace in the Region and the World

- National, reputable, peace-oriented and realistic foreign policy will be carried out.
- Negotiation process with the EU will be accelerated.
- In countering global terror, a close cooperation with the international community will be implemented.

■ Productive Economy and Comprehensive Growth for a Better Future

- A development-centred approach to production and employment, and a new model of economic growth will be implemented. Equality in the distribution of income will be ensured. Structural Reform Programme will be materialised.



- The independence of Central Bank will be reinforced. The international standards in financial stability and banking will be fully complied.

- The level of unemployment will be reduced to the OECD average, 5.6 percent.

- Tax reform and reduction will be implemented. Taxes on minimum wage will be lifted.

■ Agriculture and Food Security

- Strategy of conversion and productivity will be carried into effect in agriculture.

■ Tourism

- Turkey will be amongst the top 5 countries in the international tourism market. Income from tourism will be expected to reach 45 billion dollars.
- The report of National Tourism Strategy will be prepared with public-private sector cooperation.

■ Energy and Mining

- The Energy Policy will be accorded to EU's Energy Policy.
- The Technology Research University will be established.

■ Welfare Policy

- "Turkey Solidarity Fund" will be established. The debts of all unemployed people, retired people and minimum wage workers will be erased.
- There will be an increase in the employment of disadvantaged groups.

FELICITY PARTY

■ Public Administration and Services

- Public funding will be invested in manufacturing and employment, thereby increasing productivity and development.
- A merit-based system will be established.
- A strong internal and external audit mechanism will be instituted. Furthermore, audit reports will be presented to the public.
- A defined benefit pension scheme will be established.

■ Democracy and Justice

- The party will adopt inclusionary policies and aim to eradicate polarisation.
- There will be a refinement of the judicial system; the party will ensure the equality of prosecutors and attorneys to enable a stronger defence in court. In addition, there will be a budget increase for the judiciary.
- The separation of powers will be implemented.
- Lasting solution to the "Kurdish issue" on the basis of democracy and justice.

■ Kurdish Issue

- Obstacles against the teaching of the Kurdish mother language and its usage will be lifted, and these right will be protected under the constitution.
- Election threshold will be removed to guarantee fair representation.
- Local administrations will be made stronger by supporting transparency and accountability.
- Special development programmes will be initiated in the East and Southeast regions.
- New policies will be implemented to enable those people who had to leave their villages to return to their homes.

■ Economy

- Tax incidence will be reduced, thus securing tax justice in Turkey. In this regard, employees who receive a minimum wage will not pay tax.
- There will be a deliberate push to involve youth in investment, employment and manufacturing.

■ Education Policy

- Improving the quality of education. Furthermore, School time will be reduced so that the youth are introduced to the workforce at an earlier stage.
- The Council of Higher Education (YÖK) will be abolished.

■ Foreign Policy

- Turkey will readdress its relations with the EU.
- The Developing Eight (D8) Countries for Economic Cooperation will be activated.
- Turkey will develop economic cooperation with countries in the Black Sea basin.



Presidential Elections

Turkey is going to the polls for the presidential and parliamentary elections on June 24. With the constitutional changes in 2017, the newly elected president will be both head of state and head of government, leading the executive branch of the state.

The president will be elected in a two round elections. To be a president, the candidate must take more than half of the votes. If this does not happen in the first round, then, two candidates that took the highest votes in the first round will run in the second round. The one who gets the higher votes will be the president.

Political parties that have a parliamentary group, which requires at least 20 deputies in the parliament, can nominate their own presidential candidates. AK Party and MHP decided to nominate Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as their presidential candidate. BBP also announced their support

Erdoğan as their joint candidate for president. The CHP named Muharrem İnce as their candidate for president, while the HDP nominated its former leader Selahattin Demirtaş to run for president.

Another way of becoming a candidate for president is to obtain at least 100 thousand signatures in a six-day period. Temel Karamollaoğlu and Doğu Perinçek, whose parties do not have parliamentary groups, became presidential candidates after collecting more than 100 thousand signatures. Although İYİ (Good) Party could have nominated Meral Akşener as their candidate for president, after the party became eligible to put forward its own candidate by forming a parliamentary group due to the transfer of 15 deputies from CHP, Akşener preferred to be nominated with 100 thousand signatures. She became a candidate for president with obtaining more than 100 thousand signatures.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

					
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan	Muharrem İnce	Selahattin Demirtaş	Meral Akşener	Temel Karamollaoğlu	Doğu Perinçek
AK Party, MHP and BBP	CHP	HDP	İYİ	SP	VP
Parliamentary nomination	Parliamentary nomination	Parliamentary nomination	Public signature nomination	Public signature nomination	Public signature nomination

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Fervently campaigning for the country's transition to a presidential system, observers regarded Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's bid for presidential race almost certainly. On April 18, the AK Party's electoral ally, MHP, declared that their candidate was going to be Erdoğan. On May 4, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli officially declared their presidential candidate as Recep Tayyip Erdoğan by submitting necessary documents to the Supreme Board of Elections.

Erdoğan has been one of the most popular leaders in modern Turkey's history. In his campaign for 2018 elections, he emphasized that during his service as prime minister and president, Turkey's national income has more than tripled, inflation has shrunk to single-digit levels, Turkey's 23.5 billion dollar debt to the IMF has been paid, Central Bank reserves has been increased from \$27.5 billion to \$114 billion and several mega projects were introduced. Also, his government has put forward the strongest action towards Turkey's bid for the EU membership since the first efforts were initiated in 1963, starting official negotiations for membership.

Erdoğan is originally from Rize, a city in the Black Sea region. He was born in Kasımpaşa, İstanbul, in 1954. From a very early age onwards, Erdoğan had two passions: football and politics. He was an active football player from 1969 to 1982. As a young and conservative person, he had a flair for politics and a disposition for leadership.

As his first political leadership position, he served as National Salvation Party's (MSP) Head of the Beyoğlu Youth Branch starting from 1976. Later, Erdoğan's charm quickly brought him to the position of the Head of the MSP İstanbul Youth Branch the same year. The MSP was shut by the military rule of 1980 and Erdoğan took part in the establishment of MSP's political

successor: the Welfare Party. He first served as the Welfare Party's Beyoğlu District Head in 1984 and eventually became the İstanbul Provincial Head of the party in 1985.

In the 1994 local elections, the Welfare Party nominated Erdoğan as the mayoral candidate for İstanbul. Although he was regarded as the underdog, he succeeded in winning the election. He was elected as the Mayor of Metropolitan İstanbul, which was a major turning point in his career. During his tenure, Erdoğan immediately addressed some of the city's chronic problems, such as roads, garbage and clean water. During his term as the Mayor of İstanbul, he was able to build himself a strong legacy, which would later carry him to the position of the prime minister and then the president.



HIS PROMISES

■ With the full transition to the presidential system, Erdoğan says, the separation of powers will be strengthened, the national will safeguarded, and democracy fully enforced.

■ Thanks to the new system that he advocated, Erdoğan believes, stability would be permanent. With fast decision-making systems, economic growth will gain pace. Economic inequality between different income groups will become smaller.

■ He says that in the new period Turkey will become a global power, exports will increase, dependence on foreign energy will decrease, and the share of domestic input in high-tech products will surge.

■ New jobs will be created, interest rates will drop, and current deficit will decrease. Turkish economy will be more resistant in the face of financial attacks.

■ More incentives will be provided for the agricultural sector.

■ Low-income families' standard of life will be increased and they will be taxed less.

■ The main pillars of Turkey's foreign policy, independence, national interest, national security and conscientious stance, will remain to be the same.

■ National military industry will be strengthened. The goal is to have 100% domestic defence systems.

■ The struggle against the terror groups, PKK, Daesh and FETÖ, will continue.

■ The fight against corruption and poverty will continue.



Erdoğan was sentenced to prison for reading a poem of a well-known poet, Ziya Gökalp, while addressing the public in the Turkish city of Siirt in 1997. In 1999, he served four months in prison. In retrospective, he considered his time in prison as the conception of the AK Party project. With other notable figures from all sides of the political spectrum in Turkey, Erdoğan established the AK Party in August 2001. He was able to create a strong team and give the electorate hope for a way out of the protracted economic crisis. The party won the very first elections it entered in November 3, 2002, with a two-thirds majority in parliament. Due to the political restrictions imposed on him, he was appointed prime minister only on March 14, 2003. After serving as the prime minister for more than 10 years, in 2014, he became the first president elected by popular vote. In 2017, he spearheaded a campaign, which changed the country's government system from parliamentary to presidential.

Erdoğan is running for the presidential post again in 2018. He considers these elections as vital for a successful transition to a full presidential system and for maturing the components of the new system. In his campaign, Erdoğan brought forth what his party had achieved so far:

■ His party successfully fought against the terror group, FETÖ, and ended its infiltration to state institutions.

■ His government successfully preserved the country's security and preserved its independence and prominent role in such turbulent times for the region and the world.

■ AK Party has followed a multi-faceted foreign policy and cooperated with international partners in many areas ranging from counter-terrorism to international commerce.

Muharrem İnce

Muharrem İnce, who was born in 1964, is a former physics teacher. He started his political career in CHP's party board in Yalova province, became lawmaker for the first time in the 2002 elections, and continued to serve as MP since then. He began to attract attention after becoming Deputy Chairman of the CHP in 2007. He served as the CHP's deputy group leader in the parliament between 2010 and 2014. He is currently MP from the Yalova province. He ran for CHP leadership twice in 2014 and 2018 against current leader Kılıçdaroğlu and he lost in both.



After the main opposition CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu made it clear that he would not be running for the presidential candidacy in the upcoming elections, it took some time for CHP to determine its candidate. After a period of ambiguity, Muharrem İnce was announced as the presidential candidate of CHP on May 04.

CHP was the last party to announce its presidential candidate. The party's head Kılıçdaroğlu declined his candidacy and called out on other political parties to unite in the elections. This message increased the expectations for a joint candidate against Erdoğan by the opposition parties.

After engaging in intense talks and exchange of ideas with the opposition parties, including İYİ Party and Felicity Party, the name of former president Abdullah Gül came forth as the potential joint candidate. Yet, this prospect dwindled as Abdullah Gül announced that he would not be running for the presidency because of the lack of strong consensus.

Failing to come up with a joint candidate, the profile of the potential CHP presidential candidate that could bring success in the elections became matter of discussion. Several names appeared as potential nominees in the media while representative of the CHP made contradictory statements. Some claimed that the candidate should have a conservative background in order to attract rightist voters while others opted for a more leftist candidate. Finally, CHP İstanbul deputy İlhan Kesici, Mayor of Eskisehir province Yılmaz Büyükerşen and CHP Yalova deputy Muharrem İnce appeared as the most likely candidates for the presidency. Subsequently, Muharrem İnce was announced as the presidential candidate with the votes of all 110 MPs in the CHP Assembly group.

HIS PROMISES

■ To be the president of 80 million and to be impartial. He said, "I will be the president of those who are not only supporters of CHP but also 80 million people, including supporters of AK Party, MHP, HDP, Felicity Party, rightists, leftists, Kurds, Turks, Alevites and Sunnis."

■ To transform presidential complex into a place used for academic purposes and will instead use Çankaya (previous presidential palace) as the presidential palace.

■ To increase the scholarships of youth. İnce says, "youth will receive 1000 TL in two national holidays, in every May 19 Youth and Sports Day and Oct. 29 Republic Day."

■ To abolish all exam fees. İnce says, "youth are entering many exams before they get a job. If elected as the president, I will immediately abolish all exam fees. There cannot be a state that asks exam fee from people who haven't a job yet."

■ To ensure judicial independence. İnce says, "economy and justice are the most important problems of Turkey. My first task will be to ensure judicial independence."

■ To prevent the politicisation of the judiciary. İnce says, "the necessary steps will be taken to assure security of judges. The Council of Judges and Prosecutors will be restructured. The structure of the higher judicial bodies will be changed."

■ To abolish the state of emergency.

■ To take bold and courageous steps in order to solve the Kurdish Problem.

■ To put an end to the economic policies which make the rich richer and the poor poorer. İnce says, "the only way out of this (economic) crisis is to have a legal state and a secular democratic regime because problems in the social and political arena are the main reasons for this crisis, alongside bad economy management."

Attempt by the opposition to find a joint candidate

Following the declaration that AK Party's and MHP's candidate would be Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the leaders of opposition parties, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu from CHP, Meral Akşener from İYİ (Good) Party and Temel Karamollaoğlu from Felicity Party, have agreed to put forward a joint candidate who has the potential to win the election against Erdoğan.

During this period of intense negotiations, the name of the former president Abdullah Gül came forth as a potential candidate. Being a conservative figure and one of the founders of the AK Party, alongside his services as foreign minister and prime minister in AK Party governments in the past, and being shown as presidential candidate by Erdoğan in 2007, Abdullah Gül was considered as a candidate who could gain substantial support from the AK Party base. Yet, his legacy with AK Party has also caused severe criticism from the supporters and representatives of the movement.

The leader of the Felicity Party, Temel Karamollaoğlu led the process of Abdullah Gül's possible candidacy and pushed hard to reach a consensus with the other leaders by holding talks with the leaders separately in different times. Although neither Gül nor other leaders publicly revealed their intentions, speculations about Gül's possible candidacy became rife as Karamollaoğlu and Gül appeared together in an award ceremony during this period.

However, the attempt to nominate Abdullah Gül lost momentum as the negotiations progressed. İYİ Party leader Meral Akşener refused to drop her candidacy in favour of Abdullah Gül and continued to reiterate that she would run for presidency for her party. She also stated that every party should run with their own candidates in the first round of the presidential elections. Although CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu did not close the door for Abdullah Gül's candidacy and remained silent, this drew criticism from the CHP's party basis and lawmakers. Amid the internal bickering, CHP spokesperson stated: "CHP has never had Abdullah Gül's name on the table. It doesn't have it now and it won't have it in the future."



Resulting from these developments, on April 28, 2018, Abdullah Gül said in a press conference that Felicity Party leader Temel Karamollaoğlu was the person who put forward the proposal of becoming a joint candidate for the opposition, but he denied this offer after it became clear that there was no strong consensus behind it. He stated, "I told him that I would take the necessary steps if a very strong consensus was reached, but that wasn't the case."

Following this statement, it became clear that the opposition's joint candidate project had collapsed. CHP, İYİ Party and Felicity Party, all presented their own candidates.

These attempts also found reflections in ruling AK Party because of the past Gül had with the party. Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım criticised Gül on the ground that Gül should have stood with AK Party rather than being at the centre of rumours over his potential presidential candidacy.

Meral Akşener

Meral Akşener was born in İzmit, Turkey in 1956. She is a graduate of Istanbul University where she studied history. She completed her PhD at Marmara University's Institute of Social Sciences. Before becoming a politician, she had served as an academician at Yıldız, Kocaeli and Marmara Universities. She started her career in politics when she became a member of parliament (MP) from the True Path Party in 1995.

She became the first female interior minister of Turkey in 1996 when Tansu Çiller was serving as the first female prime minister in Turkey. She served as an MP for the True Path Party for two consecutive terms. She, then, joined the MHP and ran for Istanbul Municipality elections in 2004 but lost. She became an MP for the MHP in 2007 elections from Istanbul district and was re-elected in the 2011 and in June 2015 general elections.

MHP lost almost 2 million votes in November elections in comparison with the votes it gained in the June elections. Amid the political turmoil in relation to the bad performance during the November elections, Akşener and some other prominent figures within MHP such as Koray Aydın, Sinan Oğan and Ümit Özdağ, declared their candidacies to become the leader of MHP. She called for an extraordinary meeting for the party on November 30, 2015, which was refused by the MHP administration. After a year-long judicial battle, the extraordinary meeting to hold an early election for the leadership of the party, which Akşener and her comrades required, did not happen. Subsequently, the MHP leadership terminated the party membership of Akşener and her peers.

Akşener, Aydın and Özdağ decided to establish their own political party, naming it IYI (Good) Party and declared Akşener as their leader. The party was officially established on October 25, 2017. The founding members were mainly from right wing, nationalist, and conservative backgrounds. There have also been claims in the media linking IYI Party with FETÖ which Akşener adamantly refuses.

When the constitutional referendum, held on April 17, 2017, resulted in "yes," meaning to shift from parliamentary system to a presidential one, Akşener was among the first who declared their candidacy for president in the upcoming elections which was scheduled for 2019. When Turkey announced the early presidential and parliamentary elections, she was again the first to declare her candidacy for president.

HER PROMISES

- Make Turkey one of the 10 biggest economies in the world.
- Make National Income Per Capita 14,450 US Dollars at the end of the first 5-year term.
- Put Turkey within the first 40 countries in the Global Welfare Index in the first 5-year term.
- Reduce the unemployment rate under 7 percent within the first 5-year term.
- Increase the investments and initiatives to foster technological developments.
- Increase the number of tourists visiting the country each year.
- Restructure the debts of 4.5 million Turkish citizens, worth 8 billion liras, through a project called the "Turkey Solidarity Fund."
- Restructure the debts of 4.5 million Turkish citizens, worth 8 billion liras, through a project called the "Turkey Solidarity Fund."



Selahattin Demirtaş

Selahattin Demirtaş is a Turkish politician and lawyer. He was elected as deputy of Diyarbakir in 2007, in 2011 as deputy of Hakkari and in 2015 as deputy of Istanbul. Demirtaş was also a candidate for the presidential election in 2014, and he received 9.76 percent of the votes. He had been the co-chair of the HDP until February 11, 2018.

He was arrested on November 4, 2016 with the accusation of "establishing an organisation to commit a crime", "being a member of a terrorist organisation", "being a member of an armed terrorist organisation" and "committing a crime on behalf of an organisation," together with HDP Co-



Chairman Figen Yüksekdağ and nine HDP deputies. Demirtaş's imprisonment is based on his alleged links to the PKK, the terror group and on his connection to October 6-7 events in Turkey. Demirtaş called his followers to the streets and take action as part of the Kobani protests. The chain of events that started with Demirtaş's call has resulted in the death of 46 people and injury of 682 people. Death of Yasin Börü, 16 years old teenager, has been the symbol of the level of violence unleashed in the incident. PKK members had attacked Börü, who had been on the field working as a charity volunteer, and had thrown him from three-story building. In the aftermath of the events, 323 people were arrested between October 7-12, 2014.

HDP nominated Demirtaş as their candidate for president in the June 24 elections.



Temel Karamollaoğlu

Temel Karamollaoğlu, who was born in 1941, is the current head of the Felicity Party since 2016. Karamollaoğlu served as Mayor of Sivas province between 1989 and 1995 from the Welfare Party (RP), which was the successor of Felicity Party. Furthermore, he served twice as a deputy of Sivas province from 1977 to 1980 and from 1996 to 2002 in the parliament. He was among the founding members of the Felicity Party, after the Virtue Party (FP) - the previous successor of the Felicity Party - was banned.

Straight after the snap election decision, Karamollaoğlu brought the idea of putting forward

former president Abdullah Gül as "joint candidate" of the opposition parties. He led the process by having intense talks with the leaders of the opposition. However, this proposal was not unanimously approved by the opposition parties.

Following this, Felicity Party nominated Temel Karamollaoğlu as the presidential candidate on May 1, 2018. Since Felicity Party did not have a parliamentary group, Karamollaoğlu was nominated with the signature of more than 100 thousand voters.

Karamollaoğlu represents the idea of National View (Milli Görüş) movement that was founded and led by Necmettin Erbakan. He is considered to appeal to the conservative and rightist voters in the upcoming elections.

HIS PROMISES

- Consolidating the separation of powers.
- Enhancing the culture of consultation.
- Establishing trust on the justice system.
- A merit-based administration.
- Investments will focus on industry and technology, in contrast to the current focus on infrastructure and construction.
- Stopping the privatisation of the sugar industry.
- Preventing social polarisation.
- State of emergency will not be extended.

Doğu Perinçek

Doğu Perinçek has been the Chairman of the Patriotic Party since February 15, 2015. Prior to this, he was the president of the Workers' and Peasants' Party of Turkey between the years 1978-1980 (TIKP), president of the Socialist Party between 1991 and 1992, and president of the Worker's Party (IP) between the years 1992-2015.

Perinçek became a candidate for president with more than 100 thousand signatures.



What is Next?

On June 7, balloting process will begin abroad and will continue until June 19. Media campaigns are allowed until June 23, one day before the elections. It is expected that provisional results will be available towards the midnight June 24. If the presidential election is not finalised in the first round, a second round of elections will be held two weeks later on July 8.

The June 24 elections are the first elections that will take place after the constitutional changes that were approved last year, and even before taking place the elections has already changed Turkish political culture in many ways, including the option of forming electoral alliances. Although, formal post-election alliances (coalition governments) and informal election alliances (a party going into elections from another party's list) had their places in Turkish politics, the legal framework allowing the parties to build alliances without having to give up their parties' formal identities is new. An early outcome of this structural change is that political parties now seeking more reconciliation with other parties to increase their chances to pass the 10% electoral threshold which is necessary to have deputy in the parliament.

Blaming coalition governments for their conflictual and weak nature, Erdoğan has always pledged electorate, economic and political stability, continuity and fast decision-making as part of his campaigns. This has ensured victories for Erdoğan's AK Party in every election it has entered. Most indicators show prospects of stability will be important also in June 24. Therefore, opposition candidates' performance will be influenced by how convincing they are in offering stability and continuity.

The June 24 elections will be closely monitored by the Middle Eastern and European states because of their implications for Turkey's foreign policy. Since 2002, AK Party governments have followed an active foreign policy, especially in the hitherto neglected Middle East. Turkey has weighed in the problems of the region and has been vocal, especially about humanitarian violations in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Palestine. Therefore, whether there will be a continuation or break-up in Turkey's foreign policy, concerns other players in the Middle East and in Europe.

According to the recent election surveys, the presidential election is likely to be completed in the first round. Although the predictions regarding each political party's vote in the parliamentary elections are not certain yet, survey companies such as A&G, Optimar and Andy-Ar indicates that current president Erdoğan's share in the presidential election will be between 52 and 55 percent, making him the president after the first round. CHP's candidate Muharrem İnce's takes the second most vote according to these survey company's researches. Sonar and Gezici, other survey companies, estimates Erdoğan's vote to be between 42 and 46 in the first round. Sonar claims that İnce be in the second position which will result in Erdoğan and İnce's contest in the second round of the election while Gezici estimates that the Meral Akşener will receive the most votes after Erdoğan in the first round.

Regardless of the election results, the Turkish political system will undergo major changes. One of the most significant questions regarding the next phase is how the president will use presidential powers. All candidates have a different vision of presidential system and on the campaign fields they commit to exercise a different version of presidential system. Though very unlikely, some even pledge a return to the parliamentary system.

The other issue is about the parliament's political remit. The parliament will continue its legislating duties and provides checks and balances vis-à-vis the president and ministers. Yet, specifics pertaining to the relationship between the executive and legislative branches remain to be seen. Furthermore, the makeup of the parliament will also have a big impact in the dynamics of the next phase. If the president and parliamentary majority are from the same party/alliance, Turkey will have a much different political outlook than when the legislative and executive branches stand in opposition.

NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

NOTES:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



