

# 2015 Turkish Parliamentary Elections: An FDD Guide

Turkey's June 7 elections will determine the composition of the parliament for the next four years. Polls show the AKP, in power since 2002, potentially suffering significant setbacks.

## Major parties

### **Justice and Development Party (AKP)**

- Conservative, Islamist-rooted

### **Republican People's Party (CHP)**

- Kemalist, secularist, social democrat

### **Nationalist Movement Party (MHP)**

- Right-wing, nationalist

### **Democratic People's Party (HDP)**

- Left-wing, pro-Kurdish

## Key issues

**Presidential system:** The AKP seeks to amend the constitution to replace Turkey's parliamentary system with a presidential one. Critics [accuse](#) the party of attempting to institute authoritarian, one-man rule.

**The Kurds:** If the HDP fails to reach the 10% threshold, parliament will have no explicitly Kurdish representation, potentially prompting unrest in Turkey's Kurdish-majority southeast. But the party faces challenges, mostly due to its former connections to Kurdish separatist movements.

**The [economy](#):** Inflation and the current account deficit is high; growth is low. The AKP's longstanding image as Turkey's economic [savior](#) has grown tarnished, and opposition parties have made economics the focus of their campaigns.

## Current composition

Total seats available: 550

Total seats occupied: 535

AKP: 311

CHP: 125

MHP: 52

HDP: 29

Independents: 13

Other parties: 5 (1 deputy each)

## Three magic numbers

[276](#): Minimum seats to form a government (simple majority)

[330](#): Minimum seats to change the constitution via referendum: (three-fifths majority)

[367](#): Minimum seats to change the constitution unilaterally (two-thirds majority)

## Seat distribution

Turkey uses a complicated [system](#) to calculate electoral results that mixes proportional, region-based representation (known as the D'Hondt method) with a nationwide 10% threshold.

## Latest Opinion Poll Results and Projections

### Percentage

### Projected seats\*

#### Konda (May 26)

AKP: 40.5	260
CHP: 28.7	149
MHP: 14.4	71
HDP: 11.5	70

#### Andy-Ar (May 21-24)

AKP: 41.9	271
CHP: 25.8	136
MHP: 16	83
HDP: 10.7	60

#### Metropoll (May 8-11)

AKP: 42.8	313
CHP: 27	145
MHP: 17	92
HDP: 9.2	0

#### ORC (May 4-7)

AKP: 47.5	341
CHP: 23.9	133
MHP: 15	76
HDP: 8.1	0

#### Gezici (May 23-24)

AKP: 39.3	245
CHP: 28.5	149
MHP: 17.2	86
HDP: 12.4	70

#### Average of All Latest Polls

AKP: 42.3	268
CHP: 26.6	137
MHP: 16.4	87
HDP: 10.3	58

\*Projections are approximate, derived from 2011 seat allocation results

## Implications

- Most recent polls indicate that the AKP's number of seats in parliament will fall below 330, meaning the AKP is unlikely to bring its presidential proposal to referendum.
- The AKP may have to rule Turkey with a slim majority of 276-290 seats, which could limit its capacity for unilateral policy moves.
- The HDP is likely to pass the threshold, giving it around 60 seats and harming AKP odds for a simple majority.
- The AKP's number of seats may even fall below a simple majority of 276, requiring the formation of a coalition government.
  - If the AKP joins with the MHP or HDP, it will likely try to convince its partner to call for a referendum on its presidential system initiative.

### Coalition scenarios:

- AKP with MHP
  - This scenario could prompt a set-back on the Kurdish peace process.
- AKP with HDP
  - These parties are already involved in the Kurdish peace process. The HDP may partner with the AKP to maintain the process.
- CHP, MHP and HDP
  - All parties have ruled out a coalition with the AKP, but the MHP and HDP have ideological disagreements that complicate forming a coalition.
- AKP with CHP
  - The CHP draws its support from a strongly anti-AKP electorate. Thus, such a coalition could be detrimental to the party's secularist image.