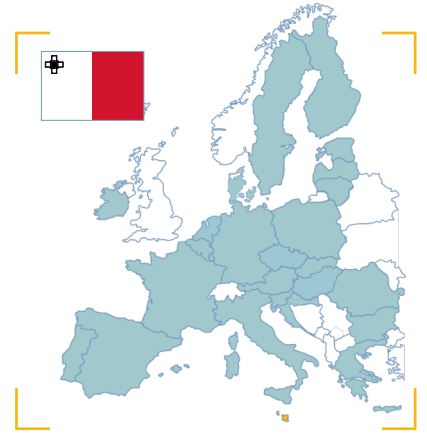


EU Election Monitor 2026

Parliamentary Election Malta



General Data

* - Sources



Valletta



574.250
Inhabitants



EU-Member State since
1. May 2004



Schengen member
since 21. December
2007



6/720 Seats in the
EU-Parliament



Euro since 1. January
2008



Malta does not have
any forests or rivers



BIP/capita*
35,000 (11/27)

Pre-Election

Early parliamentary elections are due to take place in Malta on 30 May. Prime Minister Robert Abela, leader of the social-democratic Partit Laburista (PL), who has been in office since January 2020, announced this at the end of April. Abela cites the uncertain geopolitical situation as the reason, but observers see party political calculations as the driving force. The Maltese parliament is highly polarised, with usually only two parties (Partit Laburista and Partit Nazzjonalista (PN)) represented in parliament.



Robert Abela
(Partit Laburista)

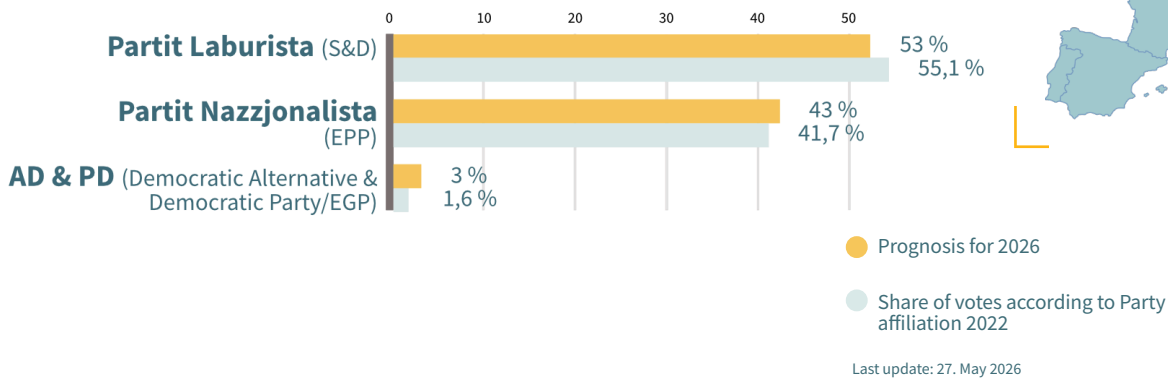
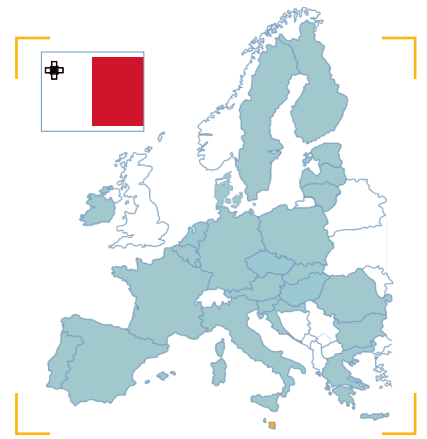
Election Insides

The election campaign is dominated by the campaigns of the two main parties, with the focus on everyday issues such as modernising infrastructure and extending maternity leave. During the campaign, Prime Minister Abela praises his government's achievements and promises tax cuts, whilst PN leader Alex Borg calls for measures to promote innovation in order to keep young people in the country. Neither widespread corruption nor the erosion of the rule of law feature in the election campaign.

Political System

Malta has been independent since 1964 and has been a parliamentary republic with a unicameral parliament since 1974. The House of Representatives comprises at least 65 members (five for each of the 13 constituencies, plus any additional seats), who are elected using the single transferable vote system. Voters rank the candidates according to their own preferences, independently of party lists. Members of Parliament are elected for five years. A gender quota applies in parliamentary elections; up to twelve additional seats may be allocated to the under-represented gender should one gender account for less than 40 per cent of MPs. The voting age is 16. The government is elected from the parliament and must also be composed of its members. Since 2024, the head of state has been President Myriam Spiteri Debono (Labour Party).

Who can be elected?



Election outcome scenarios

Due to the dominance of the two major parties, there are traditionally no coalition governments in Malta. Currently, the PL leads the polls by over 10 percentage points and is likely to form the government as the winner of the election. An election victory for the PN would be a major surprise and would mark the end of the PL's 13-year reign. Whether independent candidates or small parties will manage to enter parliament this time cannot be reliably predicted due to the complicated counting process.



Alex Borg (Partit Nazzjonalista)

Position of Malta in the EU

Within the EU, Malta is regarded as an economically successful Member State and has recorded above-average economic growth for years. In the EU, Malta generally pursues a business-friendly economic and fiscal policy, characterised by low corporate taxes. At the same time, the country has repeatedly come under criticism over issues relating to the rule of law and press freedom. The EU has launched several infringement proceedings against Malta, including in connection with the acquisition of Maltese citizenship and the enforcement of judgments against Maltese online gambling companies. In terms of foreign policy, Malta generally supports the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, but continues to adhere to its constitutionally enshrined neutrality. Furthermore, last year Malta temporarily blocked a package of sanctions against Russia out of concern for its own shipping industry.

The election's implications for European policy

As there are no signs of a change of government, the election is not expected to have a significant impact on Malta's European policy. Should the PL win the election, Abela is expected to continue his pragmatic yet confrontational approach. The PN emphasises a stronger commitment to the principles of the rule of law. Both parties are increasingly emphasising their desire to champion the interests of small (island) states within the Union.