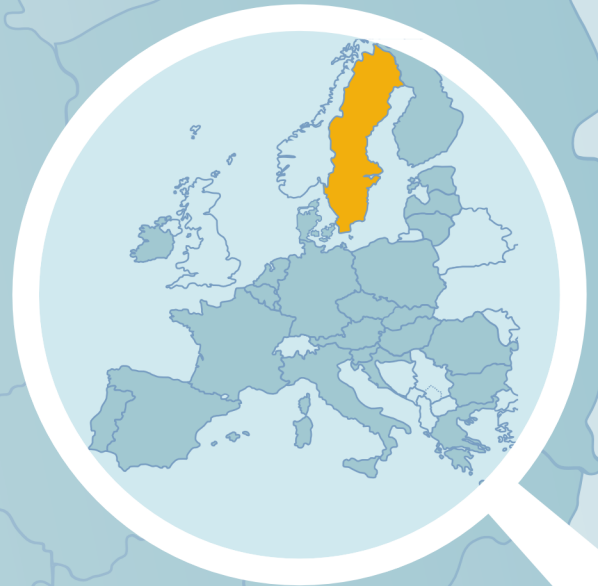


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WAHLMONITOR **iep***Sweden*
general election

Ov Cristian Norocel

**Election results**

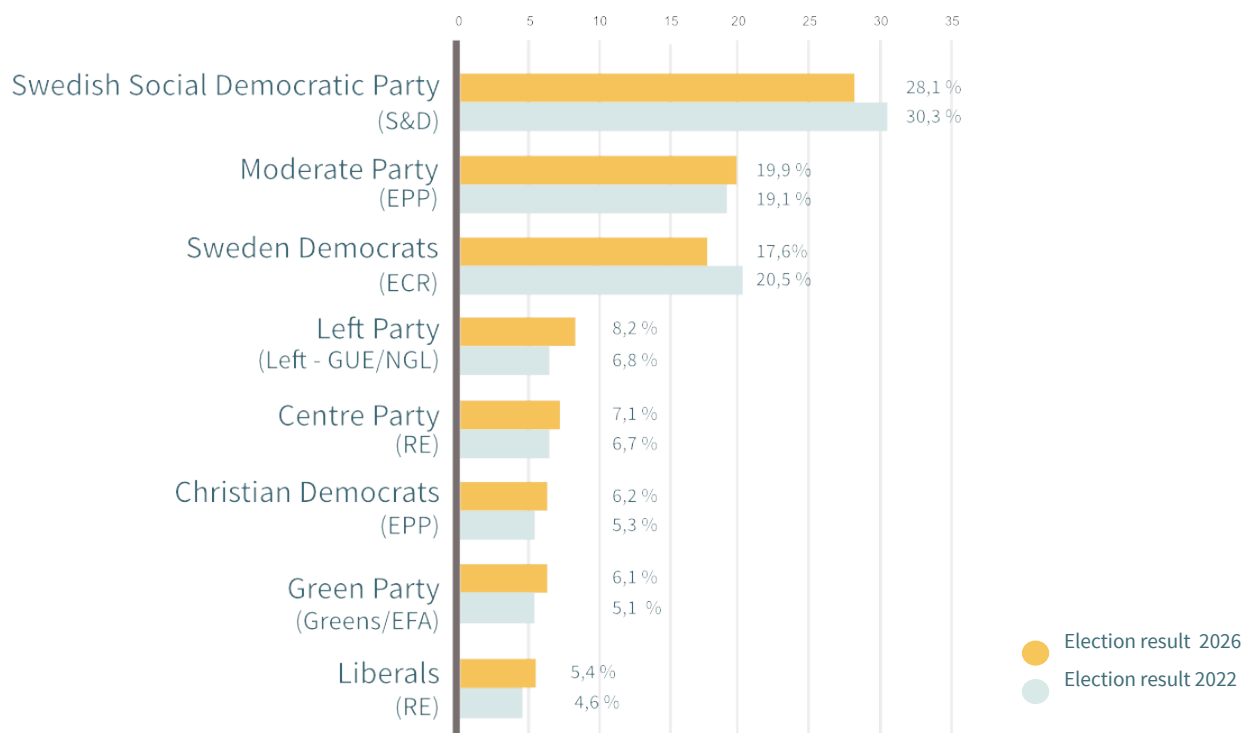
The election turnout has been at 80.3%, which marks a slight decrease from the previous elections: 84.2% (in 2022) and 87.2% (2018). With 94% of the votes counted (6276 out of 6626 electoral districts), the situation looks extremely close between the red-green opposition and the minority so-called Tidö government, a conservative right coalition supported by the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats.

The centre-left Social Democrats are in the lead with 28.1% (though they seem to decrease by about 2.3% from the 2022 Swedish elections), followed at a significant distance by the centre-right Moderates with 19.9% (a small increase by 0.8% from the 2022 results). Significantly, they are ahead of the Sweden Democrats that have only 17.6% (decreasing for the first time since entering the Swedish parliament in 2010; a loss of 3% compared to the 2022 elections). Next is the left-wing Left Party with 8.2% (growing by 1.5% from previous elections), with the liberal Centre Party trailing behind at 7.1% (with only a 0.3% increase in vote shares). The last three parties are relatively close to one another: Christian Democrats at 6.2% (an increase of 0.9%) and the Green Party following closely at 6.1% (with 1% gains). Against

most forecasts that predicted it would land outside the parliament, the Liberals managed to hold on with 5.4% (even improving their results by 0.8% from the 2022 elections), thereby scoring safely above the 4% national threshold.

A closer snapshot

A brief closer analysis reveals some interesting developments. While these electoral results mean that the number of parties in the parliament is unchanged, the number of seats is allocated differently: the biggest loser seems to be the Sweden Democrats who lose 11 representatives in the Swedish parliament (MPs) (according to the prognosis, only 62 MPs in the new parliament), followed by the Social Democrats which lose 7 MPs (prognosis of 100 MPs). All other parties seem to have gained seats: the Left Party seems to gain 5 new MPs (prognosis of 29 MPs), followed by Green Party gaining 4 (prognosis of 22 MPs), two parties gain 3 new MPs each: Liberals (prognosis 19 MPs) and Christian Democrats (22 MPs), and the Moderates only 2 new MPs (prognosis 70 MPs). In this context, it seems the electorate is not supportive of the idea of a government which includes Sweden Democrats. The party is recording its first setback in national elections since the party entered the Swedish



parliament after the 2010 election. Furthermore, according to VALU exit poll analysis, the Liberals received about 42% of their votes from those who voted Moderate in 2022 elections, and only 30% from those who voted Liberals in 2022, which seems to indicate that the party has lost its core electoral base and has been strategically voted for reasons of maintaining the present lineup of parties within the Tidö government.

Governmental negotiations

These results complicate the formation of a government. Collectively, the red-green opposition (reuniting the Social Democrats, Left Party, Green Party and the liberal Centre Party) is projected to gain 176 MPs, while the Tidö government together with the Sweden Democrats gain 173 MPs (out of a total of 349 MPs). However, the negotiation of a future government is complicated by several factors. Firstly, the Left Party is adamant on not only supporting a government led by the Social Democrats but also getting ministerial portfolios in such a governmental formula. Secondly, the liberal Centre Party has campaigned on a platform excluding both entering a governmental formula with the Left Party in a potential red-green constellation, and a collaboration with Sweden Democrats, in a potential conservative and right-wing populist formula. Thirdly, Sweden Democrats have campaigned explicitly aiming

to get key ministerial portfolios on a reshuffled Tidö government. Once the results are finalized, the designated Speaker of the new parliament is generally entrusts the largest party with the task of initiating negotiations to form a government. It remains to be seen how the winning party (most probably the Social Democrats) will negotiate its governing team; should they fail, the task to form a government will pass on to the Moderates.

EU impact

From the point of view of European policy, what is striking is that the political campaign has been rather provincial, the parties showing a lack of interest in lifting pressing European issues, the closest topic of European relevance being that of environmental policy. This continues an already established pattern, whereby Swedish elections ignore the national impact of decisions taken in Brussels. Should the Social Democrats successfully form a government, the country's stance may change on European cooperation pertaining to climate and social policy, though there may not be significant changes pertaining to migration policy, or even the future EU budget, which the present Tidö government wants to have smaller than the proposal of the European Commission.

About the author

Ov Cristian Norocel is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology at Lund University (Sweden). Norocel's research focuses on issues related to far-right and anti-gender mobilization, which he examines from a comparative perspective across Europe (Sweden, Finland, Hungary, and Romania).

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Editor

Daniel Hegedüs

Editorial Team & Layout

Jakob Burger, Julia Winter & Eva-Marie Mall

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Institut für Europäische Politik e. V.
Bundesallee 23
10717 Berlin

info@iep-berlin.de
www.iep-berlin.de

