

Georgia's leadership contenders

Nino Burjanadze

Frontrunner to succeed President Saakashvili

■ **Born:** July 16, 1964 in Kutaisi, Georgia

■ **Education:**

Law degree from Tbilisi State University, doctorate in International Law from Moscow State University,

■ **Political career**

1995: Serves in administration of **Eduard Shevardnadze**

2001: Appointed speaker of parliament. Speaks out forcefully against corruption and inefficiency of Shevardnadze government

Nov 2003: Joins **Mikheil Saakashvili** in pro-democracy movement. Following resignation of Shevardnadze during **Rose Revolution**, Burjanadze becomes acting president, appealing for national unity and repeal of state of emergency

2004: Serves as speaker in Saakashvili presidency. Supports integration into NATO and EU, strong stance against Russia,

■ **Family:** Married with two children



Levan Gachechiladze

Main rival who stood in January presidential election

■ **Born:** July 20, 1964, Tbilisi, Georgia

■ **Education:**

Degree in mathematics and economics at Tbilisi State University

1994: Founds Georgian Wine and Spirits Company. Named Businessman of the Year in 1999. Personal wealth estimated at \$10 million

■ **Political career**

1999: One of so-called **new faces** in liberal-conservative New Right Party. Elected to parliament

2001: Becomes chairman of New Conservative Party of Georgia

2003: Supports Saakashvili's rise to power during Rose Revolution. Later opposes President Saakashvili, accusing him of straining relations with Moscow. Campaigns to change government to parliamentary system

Jan 2008: Loses to Saakashvili in first round of presidential elections

■ **Family:** Married with three children