

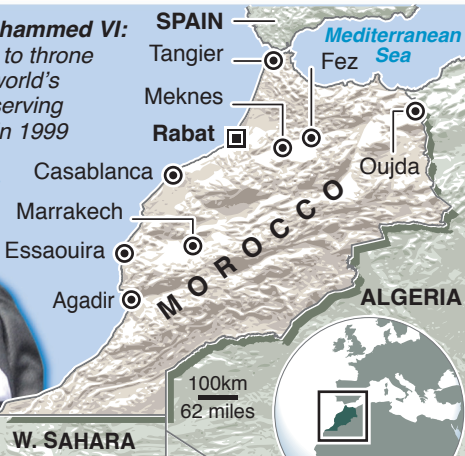
# Morocco votes on new draft constitution

King Mohammed has promised a new constitution that would devolve some of his powers to parliament but pro-democracy activists argue that the reforms, drawn up by a commission chosen by the king, are merely superficial



**King Mohammed VI:**  
*Acceded to throne of Arab world's longest-serving dynasty in 1999*

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## KEY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### KING'S PREROGATIVES

- King remains supreme commander of armed forces. Role as Morocco's highest religious authority formalised
- Remains chair of Council of Ministers – which decides key posts such as powerful regional governors – and Supreme Security Council, which makes security policy. **Prime minister can chair these councils, but only using agenda set by king**
- Retains right to dissolve parliament, but must first consult chairman of new Constitutional Court – half of whose members are appointed by parliament

### JUDICIARY

- Criticised for lack of independence. To be governed by new Supreme Council composed of judges and head of national human rights council – **Justice minister excluded**

### GOVERNMENT

- Prime minister selected from party that receives most votes in election, rather than just chosen by king
- Prime minister able to appoint and dismiss government ministers – subject to approval of king. **Also has power to dissolve parliament, after consultation with king and new Constitutional Court**
- Parliament allowed to launch investigations into officials, or censure motions against ministers, without unanimous approval of members, as required under current constitution

### IDENTITY

- Recognises Berber – or Amazigh – as official language alongside Arabic. Berbers, Morocco's first inhabitants, make up 60% of population but often complain of discrimination