

# Exiled Thaksin holds key to Thai election

Thailand's general election will feature 42 parties, but looks set to be dominated by former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra – currently in self-exile in Dubai. His Puea Thai Party and its red-shirt supporters lead opinion polls, but may fail to win an outright majority

## SEATS IN RECENTLY-DISSOLVED PARLIAMENT

Puea Thai Party 187

Ruamchaipattana 24

Chatthaipattana 31

Democrats 172

Ruamjitpattana 9

Jitsangkhom 9

Bhumjaithai Party 33

Mataphum 3

Election will return 500 MPs,  
375 elected  
by constituency,  
125 by party list

33 seats in  
capital Bangkok

47 million  
eligible voters

Prime Minister **Abhisit Vejjajiva** came to power in 2008 after Thaksin's PPP was legally dissolved for electoral fraud. Popular with middle class in Bangkok and south

Third incarnation of disbanded **Thai Rak Thai** and **PPP** parties – controlled by Thaksin, led by his sister **Yingluck Shinawatra**. Strong support in north and northeast but powerful enemies in military and establishment