

# German left urges new alliance

Germans go to the polls on September 22 to decide whether power remains with Angela Merkel's current ruling coalition, or whether to entrust it to a new, leftist coalition led by her challenger, Peer Steinbrück

## EXISTING COALITION



Seats won in Bundestag (2009)

## POSSIBLE COALITION

**Christian Democratic Union**

**CDU**

**Angela Merkel**

Centre-right party promotes continuity of strong economy, low unemployment

**194**



**Christian Social Union**

**CSU**

**Horst Seehofer**

Conservative sister party to CDU. Opposes Greek bailouts and benefits to same-sex couples

**45**

**Free Democratic Party**

**Philipp Rösler**

Erratic junior party in CDU coalition, supports free market economy and individual liberty

**93**

**FDP**

Die Liberalen

**Other parties**

**Pirate Party**

**Bernd Schlömer**

Web-freedom campaigners. Stunned Germany by winning seats in state parliaments in 2011-12

**Alternative for Germany (AfD)**

**Bernd Lucke**

Party founded April 2013, wants to pull Germany out of eurozone



**PIRATEN PARTEI**

**Alternative für Deutschland**



**Social Democratic Party**

**SPD**

**Peer Steinbrück**

Centre-left party is using U.S. spying scandal to pressure Merkel

**146**



**Green Party**

**Claudia Roth, Cem Özdemir**



Supports sustainable development and environmental protection. Has joined SPD to attack Merkel over American snooping

**68**



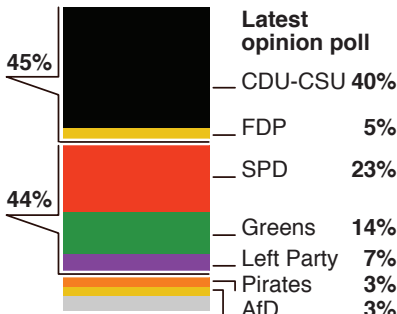
**Left Party**

**Gregor Gysi**

**DIE LINKE.**

Successor to Communist Party. Could join coalition if SPD lifts ban on Left at national level – state-level ban was dropped in 1998

**76**



Source: Poll of 3,003 potential voters taken Jul 29-Aug 5 by Forsa for RTL and Stern Magazine.

Other political parties account for 5%

Pictures: Associated Press

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