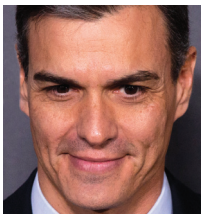


Spain's leading election candidates

One of the most divisive elections in recent years sees political parties fighting more on emotional and identity issues, such as Catalonia's botched independence bid, than on the economy



PSOE

Pedro Sánchez

Widely tipped to secure first victory for **Socialist Party** since 2008 after seizing prime minister's job in 2018



populares

Pablo Casado

Struggling to revive conservative **People's Party**, which has seen support plummet amid corruption scandal



Ciudadanos

Albert Rivera

Centre-right **Ciudadanos** party could become kingmaker in power-sharing negotiations after election



UNIDAS PODEMOS

Pablo Iglesias

Leftwing **Podemos**, suffering from infighting over how hard-line party should be, has lost traction since last election



VOX

Santiago Abascal

Vox could be first far-right party to win more than one seat in parliament since Spain's return to democracy in 1970s

Sánchez's refusal to negotiate binding independence referendum led Catalan nationalist parties to withdraw support for his budget, forcing call for snap election.

Opinion polls suggest he will likely need their support to form new government