

German conservatives seek Merkel successor

Germany's governing CDU/CSU bloc is set for a showdown over its candidate to succeed Angela Merkel as chancellor, with the contest split between the country's two most powerful state premiers



◀ **Markus Söder** (54)
Bavaria state leader and head of **Christian Social Union (CSU)** – CDU's sister party – has much better poll ratings

Armin Laschet (60) ▶
North Rhine-Westphalia premier is newly elected chairman of Merkel's **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)** – far bigger party in ruling centre-right coalition



PREFERRED CANDIDATE FOR CHANCELLOR (among German voters)

36%

Markus Söder
(CSU)

11%

Robert Habeck
(Greens)

10%

Annalena Baerbock
(Greens)

10%

Olaf Scholz
(SPD)

5%

Friedrich Merz
(CDU)

3%

Armin Laschet
(CDU)

Trust among Union supporters: Percentage of people who voted for CDU/CSU in 2017 federal election who would stick to their voting decision

If Markus Söder was candidate for chancellor

73%

If Armin Laschet was candidate for chancellor

32%

Data according to Forsa poll of 2,024 people conducted between Apr 7-10, 2021