

How Germany's election works

Germans cast two votes in a system that combines both direct and proportional representation – a direct vote for a constituency candidate and a second party vote to determine the distribution of seats

■ **First vote:** Directly elects local candidate in Germany's **299** constituencies – follows first-past-the-post system.

These seats are guaranteed

■ **Second vote:** Goes to political party. Vote is based on proportional representation

Two votes per ballot



Stimmzettel

Sie haben 2 Stimmen

hier 1 Stimme für die Wahl einer/eines Wahlkreisabgeordneten

hier 1 Stimme für die Wahl einer Landesliste (Partei) – maßgebende Stimme für die Verteilung der Sitze insgesamt auf die einzelnen Parteien –

Erststimme		Zweitstimme	
1	Laschet, Armin CDU Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands 1
2	Scholz, Olaf SPD Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands	<input type="radio"/>	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands 2
3	Baerbock, Annalena GRÜNE BÜNDNIS 90 / DIE GRÜNEN	<input type="radio"/>	BÜNDNIS 90 / DIE GRÜNEN 3



Split votes: There are 598 base seats in Bundestag. If voters pick candidate from one political party in first vote and different party in second vote – extra **overhang** and **balance** seats are created to ensure that no party receives fewer than its guaranteed minimum number of seats.

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<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> CDU
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> SPD

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Outgoing Bundestag has 709 seats

■ **Five percent hurdle:** To enter Bundestag, parties must win at least 5% of second vote – has served to keep far-right **National Democratic Party (NPD)** out of parliament



■ **Coalition:** Party with most seats forms majority by striking deals with other parties. Polls suggest three parties could win enough seats to lead coalition.



Once coalition agenda is agreed, Bundestag elects chancellor

Current parliamentary groups in Bundestag

CDU/CSU

SPD

