

# Race to become Japan's prime minister

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan is to elect its new leader following Yoshihide Suga's decision to step down. The successful candidate will lead the world's third-largest economy

## TARO KONO, 58

*Administrative reform minister*

Fluent English speaker, educated at Georgetown University, U.S. Has served as defence and foreign minister



**Favourite with business leaders, wants cuts to health and social security budget which has soared with ageing population**

## SHIGERU ISHIBA, 64

*Former defence minister*

Mild-mannered security expert, Ishiba often ranks high in media polls but is less popular with party MPs



**Critical of Bank of Japan's ultra-low interest rates, which he says disadvantage regional banks and firms that rely on them**

## FUMIO KISHIDA, 64

*Former foreign minister*

Low-profile lawmaker, seen as likely heir of **Shinzo Abe**, but came second in last year's party leadership poll



**Wants stimulus package worth "tens of trillions of yen" to combat pandemic, and keep ultra-low interest rates to support economy**

## SANAE TAKAICHI, 60

*Former internal affairs minister*

Has made clear her desire to become Japan's first female prime minister, but has little party support



**Staunch conservative and fan of "Abenomics", wants Japan to hold on to key technologies in face of competition from China**