

Olaf Scholz – Chancellor in waiting?

Olaf Scholz, the centre-left Social Democrat (SPD) candidate to succeed Angela Merkel, is one of Germany's most influential politicians, with a reputation for being meticulous, confident and fiercely ambitious



■ **Jun 14, 1958:** Born in Osnabrück, Germany. Grows up in northern city of Hamburg. Joins SPD as teenager

■ **1978-84:** Trains as lawyer specialising in labour issues. Qualifies in 1985

■ **1998:** Elected to Germany's parliament. Marries fellow SPD politician ***Britta Ernst***

SPD

■ **2002-04:** Serves as SPD general secretary. Earns nickname of "Scholzomat" for his robotic public appearances

■ **2007-09:** Labour minister in Merkel's first coalition government. Helps avert mass lay-offs during financial crisis by convincing firms to cut workers' hours with state topping up their salaries – policy repeated during Covid pandemic

■ **2011-2018:** Mayor of Hamburg

■ **Mar 2018:** Becomes Finance Minister and vice-chancellor. Weathers criticism over his ministry's handling of billion-euro Wirecard fraud scandal

■ **Aug 2020:** Named as SPD candidate for chancellor. Backs party's flagship policies during election campaign – planned wealth tax and increase in minimum wage

■ **Sep 27, 2021:** Scholz says it is time for new coalition with Greens and liberals, after SPD claims election victory over outgoing chancellor Merkel's centre-right bloc