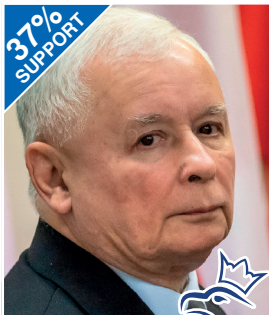


Poland faces pivotal election

The right-wing Law and Justice and centre-right Civic Platform face a high-stakes election to determine Poland's stance on the economy, soaring budget deficit, EU relations, and access to abortion



■ Law and Justice party: **PiS**

In government since 2015, **Jarosław Kaczyński** (above) and PiS-led coalition are at odds with EU over policies that politicise judicial system, silence critics in public media, fan homophobia and anti-immigration stance, plus near-total abortion ban

Pledge to increase flagship child subsidy programme by 60% to 800 zlotys (€173) per month per child



■ Civic Platform (PO):

Centre-right party, led by former European Council President **Donald Tusk** (above), is pro-European. Pledges to bring back possibility of terminating pregnancies up until 12 weeks, and end use of coal for electricity production by 2040

Policies include raising tax-free earnings limit to 60,000 zlotys (€12,960), pay rises for teachers and other public sector workers, and state funding for IVF treatment



■ Confederation:

Far-right party, led by **Krzysztof Bosak** (above), could become third-place kingmaker. Anti-establishment party has surged in polls with calls to simplify and lower taxes, ban abortion, liberalise access to firearms and weaken support for Ukraine

■ **Oct 15:** Referendum on migration, sale of state companies, raising retirement age, and fence on Belarus border to be held on election day