

# Race to become Japan's prime minister

Fumio Kishida's decision not to run for a second term as leader of the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), opens the way for a race to succeed him as prime minister



**Shigeru Ishiba, 67**  
Four-time candidate for LDP president and former defence minister, he regularly tops list of politicians voters would like to see as next premier



**Taro Kono, 61**  
Minister for digital transformation is outspoken maverick and fluent English speaker. He has also served as foreign and defence ministers



**Yoko Kamikawa, 71**  
Foreign minister and Harvard graduate known for promoting women candidates within LDP and for signing off up to 16 executions while being justice minister



**Toshimitsu Motegi, 68**  
Current LDP secretary-general has served in many cabinet posts, including as foreign and trade ministers. He has reputation as tough negotiator



**Shinjiro Koizumi, 43**  
Former environment minister and son of former prime minister **Junichiro Koizumi**, has cultivated image of reformer without offending party elders



**Sanae Takaichi, 63**  
Minister for economic security and staunch conservative who frequently visits **Yasukuni Shrine**, regarded as symbol of Japan's past militarism