

Romania set for right-wing runoff

Far-right, pro-Russia candidate Călin Georgescu unexpectedly won the first round of Romania's presidential election and will face a runoff vote against reformist Elena Lasconi on December 8

Călin Georgescu
Independent



Ex-member of far-right **Alliance for the Union of Romanians** relied on TikTok campaign to reach voters

Pledges to end what he calls Romania's subservience to EU and NATO, especially on support for Ukraine



Elena Lasconi
Save Romania Union (USR)

Former journalist turned politician joined centre-right USR in 2018, becoming party leader in Jun 2024

Anti-corruption reformist has expressed support toward increased defence spending and continued aid to Ukraine

ROMANIA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, FIRST ROUND RESULT

Călin Georgescu
Independent

22.94%

Elena Lasconi
Save Romania Union

19.18%

Marcel Ciolacu
(Prime Minister)
Social Democratic Party

19.15%

George Simion
Alliance for the Union of Romanians

13.86%

Turnout: **52%**



Romania's president
Serves five-year term and has significant decision-making powers in areas such as national security, foreign policy and judicial appointments

Support for Kyiv
Since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Romania has enabled export of grain through port of Constanta and provided military aid