

Istanbul mayor and Erdogan rival arrested

Ekrem Imamoglu, 53, Istanbul's mayor and main political challenger to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been detained as part of an investigation into alleged corruption and terror links

■ **1971:** *Ekrem Imamoglu* born in Black Sea province of Trabzon

■ **1994:** Graduates in business administration before entering family's construction business



■ **2008:** Joins secularist *Republican People's Party (CHP)*

■ **2014:** Becomes mayor of Istanbul's Beylikduzu district

■ **Mar 2019:** Delivers Erdogan's ruling *AK Party (AKP)* its biggest defeat in two decades by winning Istanbul's mayoral race

■ **Jun:** Wins re-run election by wider margin after court annuls initial victory

■ **2022:** Sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison for insulting public officials – appeals court has yet to rule in case



■ **2024:** Re-elected by margin of more than 11 percentage points as voters punish AKP over cost of living crisis

■ **Mar 18, 2025:** Istanbul University annuls Imamoglu's degree. If upheld, decision would prevent him from running in presidential elections scheduled for 2028, but likely to be held early

■ **Mar 19:** Police detain Imamoglu days before he was expected to be named as *CHP's* presidential candidate