

Who might be Japan's next PM?

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is set to elect its new leader following Shigeru Ishiba's resignation, with the winner almost certain to become prime minister

SANAE TAKAICHI, 64

Former minister for economic security

Party veteran ran against Ishiba in 2024 LDP leadership race but lost in runoff vote



Staunch conservative stands out for her vocal opposition to **Bank of Japan's** interest rate hikes and her calls to ramp up spending to boost fragile economy

SHINJIRO KOIZUMI, 44

Agriculture minister

Son of popular former PM **Junichiro Koizumi** finished third in 2024 LDP leadership contest



Fresh-faced reformer rose to prominence in Ishiba's government for tackling soaring rice prices. Would be Japan's youngest PM of modern era if elected

TAKAYUKI KOBAYASHI, 50

Former minister for economic security

LDP member was longshot to assume leadership of party in 2024, ranking fifth in vote



Cabinet minister under former PM **Fumio Kishida** appeals to LDP's more conservative faction, with proposals such as revising Japan's constitution

YOSHIMASA HAYASHI, 64

Chief cabinet secretary

Government spokesperson and one of Ishiba's closest aides would be continuity candidate for LDP



Has held a variety of portfolios, including defence, foreign affairs and agriculture, often being called upon to serve as replacement for short-lived ministers