

Far-right surges in western German vote

Alternative for Germany (AfD) has tripled its support in local elections in the country's most populous state, a poll seen as the first electoral test for Chancellor Friedrich Merz's coalition government



■ NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

Friedrich Merz's centre-right CDU remains strongest party in municipal elections, but AfD, co-led by **Alice Weidel** (above), secures 14.5% of votes, up from 5% in 2020



LOCAL ELECTION RESULT

State-wide vote share

Change in percentage points

CDU Christian Democrats	33.3%	-1.0	Germany's ruling coalition CDU/SPD
SPD Social Democrats	22.1	-2.2	
AfD Alternative for Germany	14.5		9.4
Greens	13.5	-6.5	
Left	5.6		1.8