



Colombians choose new Congress, with the presidential election ahead

According to the provisional results of the Colombian legislative election, which took place yesterday, the coalition Coalición Despierta, constituted by Centro Democrático and Partido Conservador, became the biggest parliamentary group in Congress. Legislators will take office July 20th. Contrary to what polls predicted, the party Cambio Radical and the coalition Coalición Colombia increased their number of seats. On the same day, the two main coalitions held primary elections. Iván Duque was elected as the presidential candidate of Coalición Despierta and Gustavo Petro won the primaries of Coalición de la Decencia.

Election analysis

Centro Democrático will dominate the new legislature

The right-centred party, founded by former President Álvaro Uribe, was the most voted party in the legislative election. Centro Democrático will be the biggest parliamentary group in Congress for the 2018-2022 term. In the House of Representatives, the party increased the number of seat from 19 to 32 legislators. Even though Uribe was the most voted candidate for the Debate, his bloc reduced its seats by one, from 20 to 19 Senators.

Cambio Radical and Coalición Colombia, electoral surprises

Both groups performed better than polls had predicted. The right-centred party Cambio Radical was the second most-voted party in the Senate, with 16 new seats. In the House of Representatives it won 30 seats, which is the double of the party's current legislators. Meanwhile, the parties that constitute the coalition Coalición Colombia added 10 seats in the Senate and 13 seats in the House of Representatives. In both cases, the legislative election boosted the presidential candidacies of Germán Vargas Lleras (Cambio Radical) and Sergio Fajardo (Coalición Colombia), which had fallen in polls in the last months .

Coalición de la Decencia made it to Congress

Against all odds, the new electoral left-centred coalition not only surpassed the 3% threshold, which is necessary to obtain a seat in Congress, but also had an outstanding performance. In the Senate, the coalition achieved 10% of the votes, which is equivalent to four seats. In the House of Representatives, Coalición de la Decencia obtained two seats. The unexpected result can be understood as popular support to Gustavo Petro, who is the presidential candidate that won the coalition's primaries .

Prelude of the presidential elections

On Sunday March 11th, coalitions Coalición Despierta and Coalición de la Decencia held primary elections to choose their presidential candidates. Iván Duque was elected as the presidential candidate of Coalición Despierta, which is constituted by Centro Democrático and Partido Conservador. The other winner is Gustavo Petro, who won by a landslide in the primaries of Coalición de la Decencia.

Iván Duque obtained 4,030,053 votes, one million more than Gustavo Petro did. Nevertheless, taking into account how well both candidates performed in the primaries, they have the highest chances of winning the presidential elections to be held May 27th. Parties and voters considered this stage as the first round of the presidential ballot.

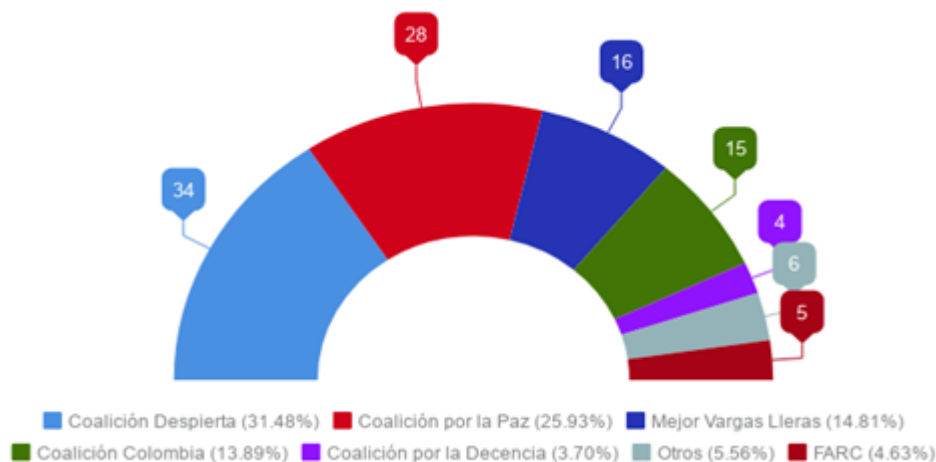
However, the good results in the legislative elections of Cambio Radical and Coalición de la Paz allow their presidential candidates, Germán Vargas Lleras and Humberto de la Calle, to be hopeful. In spite of that, possible alliances are not ruled out.

The Peace Agreements marked the election

The process of pacification, which was initiated by President Juan Manuel Santos and included the electoral participation of the FARC for the first time ever and the allocation of seats in Congress, had a huge impact on the legislative election. Thus, it is possible to consider the triumph of Centro Democrático and Álvaro Uribe, one of the main objectors to the agreement, as a channel for the rejection of the Peace Agreements.

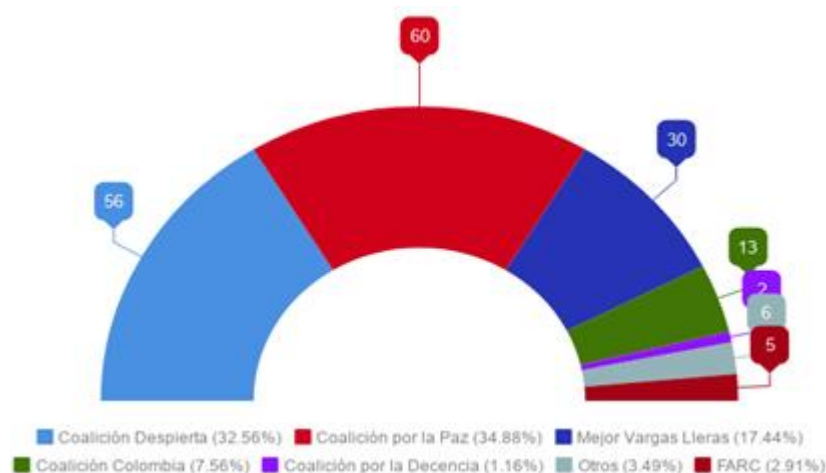
How is the new Congress (2018-2022) composed by?

Composition of the Senate



**The percentages correspond to the proportion each parliamentary group has over the total number of members of the Senate.*

Composition of the House of Representatives



**The percentages correspond to the proportion each parliamentary group has over the total number of members of the House of Representatives.*