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STRENGTHENING
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IN LATIN AMERICA

NOVEMBER 2021

Chile

Presidential and legislative elections Pre-election report



Executive summary

This Sunday, November 21, presidential and legislative elections took place in Chile. The coalition Frente Social Cristiano candidate, José Antonio Kast, obtained the highest number of votes with 27.9%. In second place, the candidate of the coalition Apruebo Dignidad, Gabriel Boric, obtained 25.8%. None of them obtained the necessary votes to be elected in this first round. Thus the next President will be decided in a run-off election on December 19.

Although the next president has not yet been defined, whichever of the two candidates becomes president will represent a change in the political color of the government after almost 20 years. It should be noted that only Michelle Bachelet and Sebastián Piñera have held the Executive branch since 2006 to date, alternating between them.

Another highlight that these elections entail is the scenario of political instability derived from the social crisis, which reached its peak with the outbreak at the end of 2019. The distrust in the traditional parties and the ongoing constitutional reform process will also be reflected in the conformation of the next Congress.

The number of votes registered by the presidential candidates was not reflected in the legislative race. For example, the winner of this first round (Kast), obtained close to two million votes. However, in the congressional lists, the Social Christian Front barely obtained 400 thousand votes for senators and approximately 700 thousand votes for deputies.

This places this Sunday's presidential winner and (according to the latest polls) potential winner in the run-off, at a significant disadvantage. Kast should assume the Presidency with the support of 15 deputies and 1 senator of his own. He will be at a clear disadvantage, for example, of Vamos Chile (53 deputies and 12 senators) despite the meager election of Sebastián Sichel.

In summary, it can be seen that the rejection of the traditional parties is centered on the executive figures and not so much on their respective legislative blocs.

Basic questions

What has been chosen?

On November 21, Chileans elected the President of the Republic and 182 members of Congress (27 senators and 155 deputies) for the 2022-2026 term.

¿Habr  segunda vuelta?

Yes, none of the candidates obtained more than half of the votes. Therefore, on December 19, a runoff election will be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

How many were the presidential candidates?

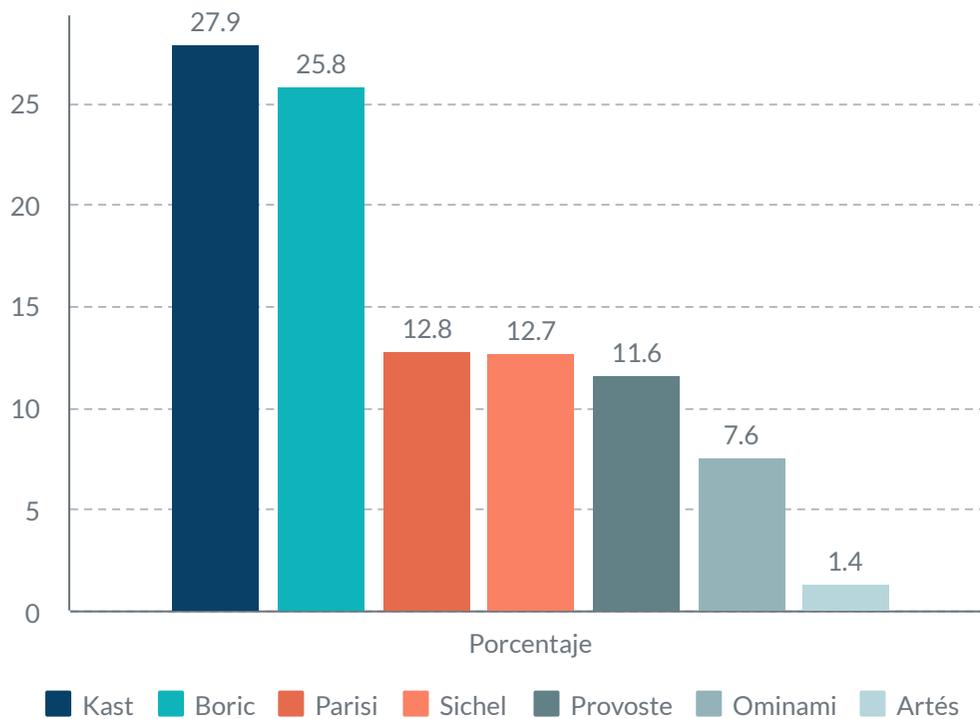
Chile had to choose among 7 candidates: Sebasti n Sichel (Chile Vamos), Jos  Antonio Kast (Frente Social Cristiano), Yasna Provoste (Democracia Cristiana), Gabriel Boric (Apruebo Dignidad), Franco Parisi (Partido de la Gente), Eduardo Art s (Uni n Patri tica) and Marco Enr quez-Ominami (PRO).

When will the next government take office?

The new president and the elected congressmen will take office on March 11, 2022 for a period of four years, ending on March 11, 2026.

Election result

In these elections, none of the candidates reached the required minimum of 50% of the votes to be elected president. The candidate who obtained the highest number of votes was José Antonio Kast (Frente Social Cristiano) with 27.9% of the votes. In second place, two points behind, was the candidate Gabriel Boric (Apruebo Dignidad). Now, the Presidency will be decided in a runoff election on December 19.



Pre-election forecasts were able to anticipate to a great extent the results and who will finally participate in the second round scheduled for December 19. It is observed that all candidates improved their performance with respect to the last local polls, although without significantly modifying the outcome of the vote, with the exception of Franco Parisi (Partido de la Gente) who maintained a level of support that allowed him to overtake the candidates of the traditional coalitions Sebastián Sichel (Vamos Chile) and Yasna Provoste (Unidad Constituyente).

Who is competing for the presidency?

Two candidates will compete in the run-off election for the Presidency: José Antonio Kast (Frente Social Cristiano) and Gabriel Boric (Apruebo Dignidad).

José Antonio Kast

He is a lawyer and current president of the Republican Party. He was deputy and presidential candidate in the 2017 elections. He served as councilman of Buin between 1996 and 2000, and as deputy between 2002 and 2018. Son of a family of German immigrants, he was a historical militant of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI) until the announcement of his resignation on May 31, 2016.



Proposals:

[Government Plan](#). The central ideas of his government plan are based on three axes: "The Republic, Freedom and the Family".

- Modify the Labor Code to allow freedom of working hours, hourly work and teleworking in the public and private sectors. In addition, establish that all employment contracts must include severance pay for years of service.
- Reform the Antiterrorist Law and integrate the National Intelligence Agency with specialists from the three branches of the Armed Forces, the Carabineros and the PDI.
- Create a specialized unit of the Investigative Police to actively search for illegal immigrants.
- In environmental matters, oversee emissions from industrial complexes to ensure that they comply with current regulations.
- Proposes to reduce VAT from 19% to 17%. It will provide 2% of the companies' profits to the workers through the Bonus Law.
- Decreases corporate taxes to 17% and exempts reinvestments from paying taxes.
- Strengthens the National Competition Court and the National Economic Prosecutor's Office.
- Encourage competition in the banking and electronic payments market.
- Develop telemedicine and promote a new Mental Health Policy.
- Create the Environmental Responsibility Law, standardize fines for environmental damage, strengthen education on the subject and implement a seal on food products that specifies the time required for the degradation of packaging.

Gabriel Boric



He is the youngest candidate. He was president of the Student Federation during 2011-2012 and led protests for public, free and quality education. In 2018 he founded the Convergencia Social party and the Apruebo Dignidad coalition, for which he is running for president. In 2014 he took office as deputy and was re-elected for the period 2018-2022.

Government Plan: It has four cross-cutting themes: "Decentralization, feminism, climate crisis and decent work".

Proposals:

- Increase of the minimum wage and reduction of the working day to 40 hours a week.
- Create a public, free and quality education system.
- Guarantee Internet as a basic service.
- In environmental matters, he proposes a framework law on Circular Economy and Waste Management. In addition, to create a national lithium company.
- Summon a Social Dialogue Commission to face the effects of the pandemic and the global economic crisis in the world of work.
- Tax reform proposal so that "those who have more contribute more": seeks to move towards a progressive tax system, with vertical and horizontal equity.
- Creation of a single health system based on a Universal Health Fund: the Social Security Health Institutions (in Spanish Isapre) will be transformed into additional voluntary insurances.
- Promotion of the law on euthanasia, dignified death and palliative care.
- Presentation of a law for the protection of ancestral seeds and genetic heritage.
- Policy for reduction of food waste.
- Home delivery of medicines for chronic diseases.
- Climate Crisis Adaptation Strategy: focused on productive management with principles of fair ecological transition. The State will be responsible for boosting innovation and digital transformation.
- Decent Work: freedom of association; social security systems; decent wages; and creation of productive jobs, for individual development and the common benefit of the country.

Legislative elections

This Sunday a total of 155 deputies were elected for the 2022-2026 term and 27 senators for the 2022-2030 term. The new members of Congress will take office on March 11 of next year. It should be noted that although the presidential election must await the run-off election to define its winner, the composition of the Congress has already been defined. With these elections, the Senate will have 50 seats in accordance with the provisions of the last electoral reform enacted in 2015 and a limit to the reelection of members of Congress will be in force.

The number of votes registered by the presidential candidates was not reflected in the legislative race. For example, the winner of this first round (Kast), obtained close to two million votes. In the congressional lists, the Social Christian Front barely added 400 thousand votes for senators and approximately 700 thousand votes for deputies.

This places this Sunday's presidential winner and (according to the latest polls) potential winner in the ballotage, at a clear disadvantage. Kast should assume the Presidency with the support of 15 deputies and 1 senator of his own. Below in the legislative representation of Vamos Chile (53 deputies and 12 senators) despite the meager election of Sebastián Sichel.

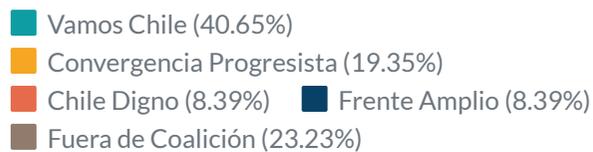
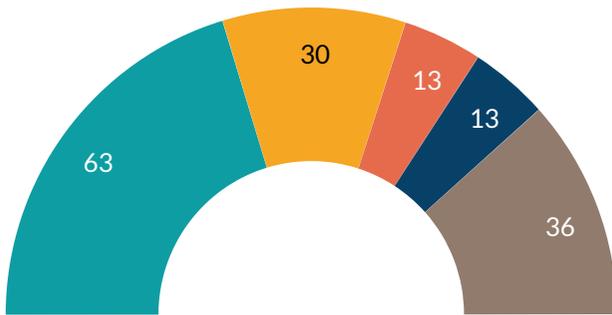
In summary, it can be seen that the rejection of the traditional parties is centered on the executive figures and not so much in their respective legislative blocks, which will also mean a greater counterweight for the government in the event of an eventual turn to the right.

Deputies

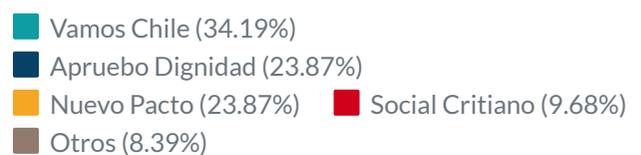
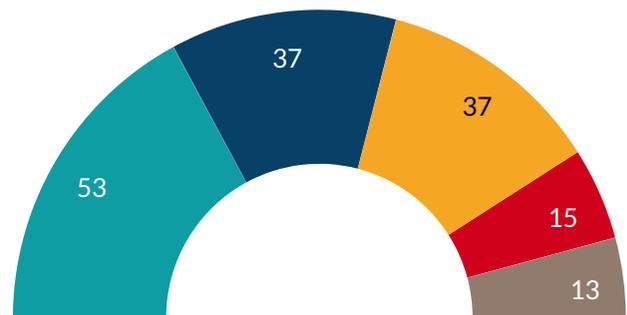
The coalition Frente Social Cristiano currently has two seats for the 2018-2022 term. The results of the elections will allow it to significantly increase its representation in this space to 15 seats. However, it is still far from the first two minorities (53 Vamos Chile and 37 Apruebo Dignidad), so it will have to resort to agreements and consensus in order to push its government agenda at the legislative level.

Should Kast win the run-off election, he will find himself in a clear minority in the chamber and negotiations will be particularly difficult with the coalition bloc currently headed by Gabriel Boric.

DEPUTIES (current)



DEPUTIES (2022)

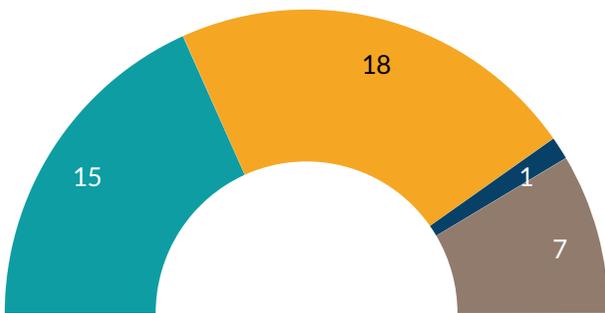


Senate

In the case of the Senate, Kast's victory granted him the first seat for his space. However, the position he will occupy will be marginal. He will also have to resort to negotiation to pass laws of interest to the Executive (in case he is proclaimed president). In the event that the opposition sustains its coalitions, it is even likely that the Frente Social Cristiano will have to abide by a legislative agenda set by opposition parties.

This fragmentation of legislative representation is due to the fact that none of the participating candidates came close to 50% of the votes to win in the first round, as well as to a differentiated vote between the presidential and legislative elections, which as a result leaves greater political instability.

SENATE (current)



SENATE (2022)



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