

PHOTO OF THE DAY



PM Viktor Orbán and his wife Anikó Lévai cast their votes in Sunday's elections

UPCOMING EVENTS

Post-result events and news related to the local and EP elections

Events related to the wars in the Middle East, Ukraine

Stats office releases May retail prices

TOP STORY

ORBÁN: 'WE HAVE WON TWO ELECTIONS'

Hungary held two elections on Sunday, and "we have won both", Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told members of his ruling Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance as partial results were being announced.

Turnout was around 57% at the European Parliament and local elections on Sunday, "another nice record", Orbán said. "Democracy is alive and well, thank you," he added. The people of Hungary "have sent a clear message that they want peace", he said, adding that the "political message" of the EP elections was that Hungarians made it clear that they chose peace over war. Orbán said the election result reinforced the government's pro-peace policy, vowing that the government would use the mandate given to it by voters to "redouble its efforts to keep Hungary out of the war". "To sum up the results of the European parliamentary election, we can send a telegram to Brussels that reads 'Migration stop, gender stop, war stop, Soros stop, Brussels stop,'" Orbán said. With 83.57% of the vote counted, Fidesz was set to gain 11 EP seats, with Péter Magyar's Tisza party capturing 7 seats, the left-wing opposition alliance 2 mandates and the Our Homeland Movement a single seat. With 95.64% of the vote counted, the result of the Budapest mayoral election gave the incumbent, Gergely Karácsony, a razor-thin lead.

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MAGYAR: TISZA PARTY SHOWS THAT POLITICS 'CAN BE BEAUTIFUL, JUST AND HONEST'

Péter Magyar, deputy leader and EP list-leading candidate of the Respect and Freedom (Tisza) party, said the Tisza party would prove to the Hungarian people that politics "can be beautiful, just and honest." "Today marks the end of an era and the start of the future," Magyar told Tisza party supporters as the election results were announced in the early hours of Monday. "The greatest result is that this is the beginning of the end for the [Fidesz] Alliance of Young Democrats and the System of National Cooperation." "Despite the billions burned on propaganda, the war psychosis, the hate propaganda, the Hungarian people have seen through the charade," he said. "Fidesz has never achieved such a weak result in the EP elections." "There's no turning back; this is the slope that [former Socialist PM] Ferenc Gyurcsany also started on, and it's easy to pick up speed up on it."

He said Fidesz had lost the public's trust, and had a chance to decide to call early elections in Hungary in the coming months. He insisted that one reason to call early elections was because it was uncertain whether the government could "survive the austerity that will be coming because of the state of the budget". He said it was up to ruling Fidesz to decide "whether they will use the next two years to continue robbing their country".

In response to a question, he said he had not yet decided whether he would take up his mandate in the Budapest municipal assembly or the European Parliament. He noted that he had said in the past that he would not become an MEP, adding, however, that the party would be the one to decide. Magyar said Tisza would be joining the European People's Party in the European Parliament. He said he had discussed this with Manfred Weber, the EPP's leader, on the phone last week, and they had agreed that Tisza will send its official application after the results came in. Tisza could join the EPP group as early as next week, he said.

In Budapest assembly, Tisza secured 10 seats, with Fidesz equalizing, while the left-wing opposition garnered 7 seats, while the satirical Two-Tailed Dog party captured 2 mandates. Fidesz-KDNP won mayoral seats in 6 Budapest districts, opposition parties captured 14 districts, while independents have carried 4 districts.

With 93.73% of the vote counted, the Fidesz-Christian Democrat alliance won mayoral seats in 14 county seats in the local elections, while the opposition parties won 7 seats, and independents garnered 4 seats.

VITÉZY CALLS FOR BUDAPEST MAYORAL BALLOTS TO BE RECOUNTED

The ballots for Budapest mayor will be recounted, so no final result will be forthcoming in the early hours of

Monday, Dávid Vitézy, the candidate of LMP-Greens and the For Budapest with David Vitézy Association said in Budapest after the local and EP elections. According to the website of the National Election Office, some 22,000 ballots were invalid, hindering both candidates in clinching a convincing majority, Vitézy said, adding that he had tried to discuss the issue with his main competitor, the incumbent Gergely Karácsony, but couldn't reach him on the phone.

With 99.26% of the vote counted, Vitézy had 47.49% of the vote, while Karácsony, the candidate of the Dialogue - Greens-Socialist-Democratic Coalition parties, had 47.52%.

Vitézy said the results showed that Budapest had "a vibrant democracy". He said that although who would end up being mayor was uncertain, the result "is a huge success for us ... because it shows that it was worthwhile campaigning with programmes, a vision of Budapest and with issues impacting its inhabitants," he said.

KARÁCSONY: BUDAPEST 'SET TO REMAIN A REPUBLIC'

It looks like Budapest "will remain a republic and won't become a publicly traded company", Gergely Karácsony, the city's mayor, said early on Monday. "There's still a few percent's worth of uncertainty, but -- though the result is close -- it looks like Budapest will remain a republic and won't become

a publicly traded company," Karácsony, the joint candidate of the Dialogue-Greens, Democratic Coalition and Socialist parties, said at City Hall Park. He thanked the Budapest residents who voted in the election and those who supported him in fighting the battle he said he was fighting for the city. Karácsony said he knew there would still be "a bit of see-sawing" before the outcome was made final, but he believed that Budapest would remain a "diverse and free city exercising solidarity".

DOBREV LAMENTS 'DISAPPOINTING RESULT'

Klára Dobrev, the list-leading MEP candidate of the opposition Democratic Coalition (DK), Socialist and Dialogue-Greens parties, called the outcome of Hungary's European parliamentary and local elections "disappointing", at a ballot-watch early on Monday. Dobrev said they had thought that their policies would "convince more people". She said three of the four parties that would be representing Hungary in the EP were right wing and they "envision a very different Europe to the one we do". She said they still believed that a strong Europe could guarantee prosperity to Hungarians in their everyday lives. Dobrev said that over the coming months and years DK would aim to convince more and more people that they could only prosper in a strong Europe, arguing that Hungary would be "crippled" by a weakened Europe.

Ferenc Gyurcsany, DK's leader, said the elections had "significantly reshaped the Hungarian political map", adding that the reasons behind this and its consequences would be discussed in depth in the coming days and weeks. He said it was "disappointing" that DK would have fewer MEPs than they had wanted, "but the European idea we represent won't change".

TOROCZKAI: FOUR POLITICAL FORCES TO DECIDE HUNGARY'S DIRECTION FROM 2026

The four political forces "that remain standing" after the 2024 European parliamentary and local elections "will be the ones to decide Hungary's fate", the leader of the Our Homeland Movement said in the early hours of Monday. László Toroczkai told a press conference before the final results were published that it was clear his radical party had achieved its main goal of winning a seat in the European Parliament. Concerning his party's performance in the local elections, he said Our Homeland appeared to be the second strongest party outside the capital, arguing that the party was in second place in several county assemblies.

DONÁTH: 'WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD'

The Momentum party will "continue to build", Anna Donáth, the leader

of the party's EP election list, said in Budapest early on Monday, adding that Momentum had won seats in all but one of the county assemblies, with over 20 percent in Pest county. Assessing the results of Sunday's local and European parliamentary elections, Donáth noted that Momentum also won a number of mayoral seats, in the 6th, 8th and 14th districts of Budapest, as well as in several rural localities. She thanked the 120,000 voters for their support in the European parliamentary elections, in which Momentum failed to reach the parliamentary threshold, adding that Momentum would carry on its work "because it has pledged to represent them".

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY, VATICAN SHARE POSITION ON ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE

Hungary and the Vatican are on an equal footing as regards the issue of war and peace, Péter Szijjártó, the foreign minister, said after meeting the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States in Vatican City on Friday, noting that both countries supported making peace in Ukraine as soon as possible. According to a statement from the foreign ministry, Szijjarto's talks with Archbishop Richard Gallagher focused primarily on the war in Ukraine. "We were in agreement that making peace these days requires enormous courage ... as those who want peace and work for it along with pro-peace politicians are under enormous pressure," the

ministry quoted Szijjarto as saying. Those who are exerting pressure “have a legal, psychical and a political tool-kit”, he said. “The legal tool is being used against Donald Trump on the other side of the Atlantic. The psychical one was unfortunately manifested in the attempt on the life of Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico,” Szijjártó said. “The political one is sought to be applied against us in the form of proposals aimed at revoking our voting rights in the EU just to prevent that we could continue to block the spread of the war.” He said that the war in Ukraine would “only have losers, no winners” and it was hard to predict “how many” because “a threat of escalation is growing by the day”.

The minister criticised a recent decision allowing the Ukrainian army to attack targets in Russia with weapons supplied by the United States and Germany and also criticised a statement on sending French training officers to Ukraine, arguing that those could increase the threat of a world war. “The Vatican’s foreign minister and I agreed that we need to mobilise the resources of diplomacy,” Szijjártó said, highlighting the need for starting and maintaining dialogue on peace. He said they spoke about the upcoming peace conference on Ukraine in Switzerland which will be attended by both Hungary and the Vatican. “But we have a kind of sense of absence, regretting that not all warring sides will be present,” he added.

Meanwhile, Szijjártó underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral

relations, saying that “we need the closest possible allies who are ready to take action in the interest of peace.” On another topic, Szijjártó pointed out the Hungarian government’s aim to continue to develop relations with the historical churches also to the benefit of the Hungarian people.

“The fact that the number of students studying in church-run schools has gone up to 184,000 from 74,000 since we took power in 2010 reflects a rather positive opinion by Hungarian families and parents on our church and education policy,” he said. Szijjártó said that they also discussed the issue of persecuted Christians, noting the government’s continued consultations with the Vatican on the matter. He also noted the launch of 367 programmes under a government scheme that was aimed at improving the situation of persecuted Christians in 64 countries.

DEFMIN: ALL WARS ARE RESULT OF HUMAN DECISIONS

All wars start as a result of human decisions, the defence minister said at the inauguration of the Armed Forces’ new multi-mission air defence radars in Veszprém, in western Hungary, on Friday. “Times are tough, Europe today is preparing for war,” Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky said.

The minister said more and more western European leaders were making remarks about the steps that needed to be taken to continue the

war in Ukraine and the amount of ammunition and weapons that needed to be sent. There were also more and more remarks about the possibility of sending soldiers, he added. He said that at first, there had only been talk of sending helmets to Ukraine, which was followed by artillery systems, ammunition, combat vehicles and fighter jets. Now, he added, they were talking about which NATO or European Union member state would send troops on training missions to Ukraine’s territory.

The minister said Hungary and Europe’s interest lay in putting a stop to this process, and this required strength, both in elections and on the part of the military. This was why, he added, the government had accelerated its military upgrades.

Szalay-Bobrovniczky said the Hungarian Armed Forces and its air defence capabilities would be given a boost “which was tried and tested” in combat conditions in Israel. These multifunctional 3D radar systems, together with Norway’s NASAMS air defence systems and the four additional Gripen fighter jets purchased recently by Hungary and other equipment, “will make up the shield that guarantees the security of the Hungarian people”, the minister said.

Pietro Mazzei, CEO of Rheinmetall Canada, praised the partnership between the defence industry and the Hungarian government. He said Rheinmetall had been able to establish an assembly, integration and testing

base in Hungary that had resulted in the equipment that has been delivered.

Mazzei thanked the Armed Forces for not only devoting time

to learning the technology, but also integrating it into their everyday operations. According to press material distributed at the event, the ELM-2084

multifunctional radar is capable of supporting airspace monitoring and missile interception or artillery air defence operations.