

# **Political Structure of TURKEY**

## **DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL MOVEMENTS IN TURKEY**

The Ottoman Empire was among the first nonWestern nations to establish a constitutional government. Constitutional movements in the Ottoman Empire, which began during the second half of the 19th century, can be characterized as the product of the following developments: the decline of the Ottoman societal system, influence of the Western European socioeconomic and political developments and emergence of an enlightenment age in the Ottoman Empire. They were topdown constitutional movements in contrast with those of the Western countries.

Two major steps toward a constitutional government were the Rescript of Tanzimat of 1839 and that of Islahat of 1856. The rescripts were unilateral declarations and recognition by the Sultan of certain basic human rights. These rescripts also paved the way for the promulgation of the first Ottoman Constitution in 1876. The 1876 Constitution provided certain mechanisms checking the absolute power of the Sultan by creating a legislative assembly partially elected by the people. In 1909, the 1876 Constitution was substantially amended to increase the powers of the legislature and to restrict those of the Sultan for developing a democratic monarchical political system similar to that of the Western European societies.

The 1921 Constitution established during the War of Independence included rules necessitated by the conditions and requirements of war. It proclaimed the principle of "national sovereignty" as an expression of the radical revolutionary transformation in the Turkish society by establishing the constitutional principle that the Grand National Assembly is the sole and true representative of the nation. For realizing this purpose, it established an assembly government system in which all the powers of sovereignty were embodied in the parliament.

### **1924 Constitution**

The Republic of Turkey adopted its first constitution in 1924. It retained the basic principles of the 1921 Constitution, notably the principle of national sovereignty. As in the 1921 Constitution, the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) was considered to be the "sole representative of the nation." The 1924 Constitution provided for a continuation of the parliamentary system. Both the legislative and executive powers were embodied in the Assembly. Although the Assembly had the power to supervise and dismiss the Government, neither the Government nor the President had the authority to dissolve the parliament. The 1924 Constitution can be characterized as a step toward a parliamentary system. The Assembly was able to exercise executive power through the President and the Council of Ministers. In other words, there was a clear separation of powers. Meanwhile, the collective responsibility of the ministers before the Assembly was also adopted. The principle that the President must not bear any political responsibility was another feature of the 1924 Constitution. The judiciary was totally separated from the legislative and executive bodies. Judicial power was to be exercised by independent courts on behalf of the nation.

### **1961 Constitution**

The second constitution of the Republic of Turkey was adopted in 1961. In its macrosocietal dynamics, the 1961 Constitution represents a positive response to the influence of the rising tide of the left and social state in the world and the semiindustrialized status of economy in Turkey. Consequently, it established a constitutional system within the framework of social state, rule of law and a parliamentarian democratic governmental system.

The 1961 Constitution introduced a bicameral parliament. The National Assembly, one of the parliamentary chambers, consisted of 450 deputies elected by universal suffrage. The other chamber known as the Senate of the Republic, included 150 members elected by universal suffrage. Additionally it would include 15 members appointed by the President, members of the Committee of National Unity that seized power on May 27, 1960, and former presidents. The National Assembly had the final say in the lawmaking process.

In the exercise of executive power the President symbolically represented the unity and integrity of the State. The Prime Minister and the Ministers made up the Council of Ministers, who bore political responsibility for the use of this power.

The 1961 Constitution fully separated the judiciary, the executive and the legislative branches under the principle of the separation of powers. In this system, details regarding the security of judges, as well as matters related to the full freedom and independence of the courts, and the positions of the judges and public prosecutors were turned over to the "High Council for Judges and Public Prosecutors." Furthermore, the concept of the "Constitutional Court" was first introduced with the 1961 Constitution in accordance with its aim of establishing a fully developed concept of the rule of law.

### **1982 Constitution**

The third constitution of the Republic of Turkey, in effect today, was adopted in 1982. According to the 1982 Constitution, unconditional and unrestricted sovereignty is vested in the nation. It has been stipulated that the TGNA can convene with onethird of the total number of members to prevent parliamentary deadlocks. The TGNA can make decisions with an absolute majority of those present; however, the quorum for decisions can, under no circumstances, be less than a quarter plus one of the total number of members. The fundamental change in the legislature by the 1982

Constitution was the abolition of the Senate of the Republic. While executive functions are carried out by the President of the Republic and the Council of Ministers, judicial power is exercised by independent courts. Article 2 of the Constitution describes the Republic as a democratic, secular and social state governed by the rule of law.

The Constitution states that all Turkish citizens are united in national honor and pride, national joy and grief, their rights and duties towards the national entity, blessings and burdens, and in every manifestation of national life. The Constitution stipulates that the Republic of Turkey is committed to the nationalism of Atatürk. It also states that the Turkish State is an indivisible whole with its territory and nation. Democracy is obtained and preserved through state administration's adherence to law which limits the legislative and executive powers and provides a balance between the three powers.

Judicial review of administrative acts and the constitutionality of the laws are considered sine qua non for the rule of law. Further safeguards for the rule of law in the 1982 Constitution are the nonretroactivity of criminal laws, the legal judicial process and the prohibition of the denial of justice. Furthermore, the hierarchy of norms was adopted, preventing the lowernorms from being violated by the uppernorms. Constitutional Court decisions are binding for the legislative, executive and judicial branches, the government, all real persons and corporate bodies.

In addition, the 1982 Constitution recognizes all basic human rights such as freedom of speech, press, communications, travel, right to privacy, right to property. The fundamental social rights recognized by the Constitution are the right to organize unions, the right to strike and to collective bargaining, the right to social security, the right to education and the right to medical care.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) enacted the most comprehensive amendments to the Constitution on October 3 since it was drafted on November 7, 1982. With this amendment package, covering 34 articles, the Constitution was revised extensively in an effort to extend basic rights and freedoms, re-regulate social and economic life. The amendments went into effect after they were published in the Official Gazette on October 17.

## **BASIC ORGANS OF THE STATE**

### **LEGISLATURE**

Legislative authority is vested in the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA). The TGNA is composed of 550 deputies. Parliamentary elections are held every five years. Deputies represent the entire nation and before assuming office, take an oath, the text of which is included in the Constitution.

The duties and authority of the TGNA are outlined as follows: to adopt, amend and abrogate laws, to supervise the Council of Ministers and ministers, to give authority to the Council of Ministers to pass decrees with the power of law, to adopt the budget and final account draft laws, to ratify the printing or minting of currency, to make decisions for declaring war, martial law or emergency rule, to approve the signing of international agreements and to make decisions for declaring general or special amnesties.

### **EXECUTIVE**

The executive branch in Turkey has a dual structure. It is composed of the President of the Republic and the Council of Ministers.

#### **The President**

The President of the Republic is the Head of the State. He/she represents the Republic of Turkey and the unity of the Turkish nation. The President is elected for a sevenyear term by a twothirds majority of the full membership of the TGNA. Turkish citizens of at least forty years in age can be elected President by the TGNA's secret ballot process. They can be either deputies who have received a higher education or those who are qualified to be elected as a deputy. A President cannot be elected for a second term in office.

The President of the Republic has functions and authority related to the legislative, executive and judicial fields. His/her functions in the legislative fields are to convene the TGNA when necessary, to publish laws and when deemed necessary, to send them back to the Parliament for discussion, to hold a referendum in Constitutional amendments when he/she considers it necessary, to file suit with the Constitutional Court claiming a violation of Constitutional law, to issue decrees with the power of law and regulate the internal workings of the Parliament and to decide when new TGNA elections are necessary. The executive duties of the President are: to appoint or accept the resignation of the Prime Minister, to appoint or dismiss Ministers in the event that he deems it necessary, to chair meetings of the Council of Ministers or summon the Council to meet under his chairmanship, to appoint accredited envoys to represent the Turkish State abroad and receive representatives of foreign states, to ratify and publish international agreements, to act as the CommanderinChief of the Turkish Armed Forces, to appoint the Chief of General Staff, to convene the National Security Council and to chair meetings of the Council, to proclaim martial law or impose a state of emergency by a decree to be decided by the Council of Ministers meeting under his chairmanship, and to issue decrees with the power of law, to approve decrees as signatory, to commute or pardon the sentences of certain convicts on the grounds of old age, chronic illness or infirmity, to appoint the members and President of the State Auditory Council, to conduct investigations, enquires and research through the State Auditory Council, to select the members of the Higher Education Council, and to appoint University Chancellors. Duties and authority of the President related to the judiciary are to appoint: members of the Constitutional Court, one fourth of the members of the Supreme Court of Appeals, members of the Supreme Military Appeals Tribunal, members of the Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors.

No appeal may be made to any legal body, including the Constitutional Court, against decrees and presidential orders signed directly by the President of the Republic.

The President of the Republic may be impeached for high treason.

### **The Presidents of the Republic of Turkey:**

(October 29, 1923	Mustafa Kemal	Atatürk
November 10, 1938)		
(November 11, 1938	İsmet İnönü	
May 22, 1950)		
(May 22, 1950	Celal Bayar	
May 27, 1960)		
(May 27, 1960	Cemal Gürsel	
March 28, 1966)		
(March 29, 1966	Cevdet Sunay	
March 28, 1973)		
(April 06, 1973	Fahri Korutürk	
April 06, 1980)		
(September 18, 1980	Kenan Evren	
November 08, 1989)		
(November 09, 1989	Turgut Özal	
April 17, 1993)		
(May 16, 1993	Süleyman Demirel	
May 16, 2000)		
May 16, 2000	Ahmet Necdet Sezer	

### **Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers consists of the Prime Minister, designated by the President of the Republic from members of the TGNA, and various ministers nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the President of the Republic. Ministers can be dismissed from their duties by the President or upon the proposal of the Prime Minister when deemed necessary.

When the Council of Ministers is formed, the government's program is read at the TGNA and a vote of confidence is taken. Members of the Council of Ministers are responsible for the execution of general policies. The Ministers assume two kinds of political responsibilities. First is responsibility for the general policy of the government, shared equally by all ministers. Second, each minister is individually responsible for matters within the jurisdiction of his/her own ministry and for the acts of his/her subordinates.

The fundamental duty of the Council of Ministers is to formulate and to implement the internal and foreign policies of the state. The Council is accountable to the Parliament in execution of this duty.

The Constitution also includes national defense in the section related to the Council of Ministers. The Office of the Commander in Chief, the Office of the Chief of the General Staff and the National Security Council form the authoritative organizations for national defense.

The National Security Council consists of the Prime Minister, the Chief of the General Staff, the Minister of National Defense, the Minister of Interior, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Commanders of the Army, Navy and the Air Force and the General Commander of the Gendarmerie. The NSC makes decisions related to the determination, establishment and application of national security policy. The Council of Ministers gives priority to National Security Council decisions where measures deemed necessary for the preservation of the existence and independence of the state, the integrity and indivisibility of the country and the peace and security of the society are concerned.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of the Prime Minister**

The Prime Minister is responsible for ensuring the Council of Ministers functions in a harmonious manner. He/she supervises implementation of government policy. The Prime Minister is the de facto head of the executive branch. Each Minister is accountable to the Prime Minister who in turn ensures that Ministers fulfill their functions in accordance with the Constitution and its laws.

### **The Administration**

The administration entity, its structure and functions, is regulated by law. The organization and functions of the administration are based on the principle of centralization and local administration.

### **Central Administration**

Turkey is divided into provinces based on geography, economic conditions and public service requirements. Provinces are further divided into administrative districts.

### **Local Administrations**

Local administrative bodies are public entities established to meet the common needs of the local inhabitants of provinces, municipalities, districts and villages. The decisionmaking organs are chosen by the electorate prescribed in the law. The structure of the local administrations is defined by law.

## **JUDICIARY**

Judicial power in Turkey is exercised by independent courts and supreme judiciary organs. The judicial section of the Constitution, with the principle of a legal state as its basis, is founded on the independence of the courts and the judges, and the guarantee of judges' rights. Judges rule on the basis of Constitutional provisions, law and jurisprudence.

The legislative and executive organs must comply with the rulings of the courts and may not change or delay the application of these rulings. Judges also assume the duties of monitoring elections.

Functionally, a tripartite judicial system has been adopted by the Constitution and accordingly, it has been divided into an administrative judiciary, a legal judiciary and a special judiciary.

The Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Council of State, the Supreme Military Court of Appeals, the Supreme Military Administrative Court and the Court of Jurisdictional Conflicts are the supreme courts mentioned in the judicial section of the Constitution. The Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors and the Supreme Council of Public Accounts are also two organizations having special functions in the judicial section of the Constitution.

## **HIGHER COURTS**

### **Constitutional Court**

The basic function of the Constitutional Court, established in the 1961 Constitution, is to examine the constitutionality, in both form and substance, of laws, and decrees with the power of law and the Rules of Procedure of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Other functions of the Court are as follows:

- \* With the capacity of the High Tribunal, the Constitutional Court judges the following: the President, members of the Council of Ministers, members of supreme courts, the chairman and members of the Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors and of the Supreme Council of Public Accounts, the Chief Republic Prosecutors and the Deputy Republic Chief Prosecutors for crimes related to their offices.

- \* It audits the finances of political parties.

- \* It examines TGNA decisions to revoke the immunities of deputies, or to dismiss members of parliament.

- \* It chooses the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Court of Jurisdictional Conflicts.

The Constitutional Court is composed of 11 regular and four substitute members. Decisions are made when the eleven members convene. The decisions of the Constitutional Court are final. These decisions cannot be amended in any manner and their application cannot be delayed.

### **The Court of Appeals**

The Court of Appeals is the last instance for reviewing rulings and judgments rendered by Judicial Courts, provided that they are not referred by laws to another place of jurisdiction.

It is also the first and final authority for specific cases that are defined in the law. The Court of Appeals reviews the rulings rendered by the Justice Courts, the Criminal Courts, the Examination Courts and renders verdicts upon appeal. The opinions rendered by the Court of Appeals are taken as precedents for legal rulings in the lower courts throughout the country, so that uniform application may be achieved. It is also able to modify its own ruling upon request.

### **The Council of State**

The Council of State is the Superior Court for administrative justice and, as such, is the Court of last instance. It reviews all rulings rendered by Administrative Courts, unless the laws specifically refer them to other judicial authorities. Similar to the Court of Appeals, the Council of State is also the court of first and final instance for specific cases as defined by law. It ensures the consistency of rulings among the administrative courts.

The Council of State is the highest consultative body of the state, and in this capacity, expresses its opinions on draft legislation upon the request of the Prime Minister or the Council of Ministers. It also examines draft regulations and concession contracts. It is responsible for resolving administrative disputes.

### **Supreme Council of Public Accounts**

The Supreme Council of Public Accounts shall be charged with auditing, on behalf of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, all accounts related to the revenues, expenditures and property of government departments financed by general and subsidiary budgets. No applications for judicial review of its decisions shall be filed in administrative courts.

### **Supreme Military Court of Appeals**

The Supreme Military Court of Appeals is the court of final instance for all rulings and verdicts rendered by military courts. It is also a court of first and final instance with jurisdiction over certain military personnel, stipulated by law, with responsibility for any specific trials of these persons.

### **Supreme Military Administrative Court**

The Supreme Military Administrative Court has jurisdiction over military personnel in administrative or active military service.

### **Court of Jurisdictional Conflicts**

The Court of Jurisdictional Conflicts is the final authority to settle disputes concerning the verdicts of the Justice, Administrative or Military Courts. This court is made up of members of the Court of Appeals, the Council of State, the Supreme Military Court of Appeals, and the Military Administrative Court of Appeals.

#### **Military Courts**

Military Courts have jurisdiction to try military personnel for military offenses, for offenses committed by them against other military personnel or crimes committed in military places, or for offenses connected with military service and duties.

#### **State Security Courts**

State Security Courts were established to deal with offenses against the indivisible integrity of the State, against the free democratic order, or against the Republic whose characteristics are defined in the Constitution, and with offenses directly involving the internal and external security of the state. The courts consist of a president, two regular members and one substitute, one chief public prosecutor and a sufficient number of public prosecutors.

The Supreme Court of Appeals is the competent authority to examine appeals against the judgments of the State Security Court.

#### **Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors**

The Supreme Council of Judges and Public Prosecutors, an independent institution, has the dual function of acting as the Supreme Council of Judges and as a reviewing body for objections. It elects the members of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Council of State and the Court of Jurisdictional Disputes; decides whether any proposal to abolish a Court or judicial post or change the jurisdictional direction of any court is appropriate; deals with administrative matters concerning judges of the Administrative and Judicial Courts and Public Prosecutors who are not members of the Supreme Court of Appeals or the Council of State.

#### **POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTION SYSTEM**

In conformity with conditions set forth in the law, every Turkish citizen upon the age of 18 has the right to vote, to be elected, and to engage in political activities independently or in a political party, and to take part in referendums.

Privates and corporals serving in the armed services, students in military schools, and convicts in penal institutions cannot vote.

Elections in Turkey are single stage. According to a proportional representation system, general, equal and secret ballot elections are held throughout the country on the same day under judicial administration and supervision. The related law outlines the requirements for Turkish citizens living abroad to vote. The voter casts his vote in full freedom. The counting, recording and detailed presentation of votes are done publicly. Every province is an election area and every alderman's office is an election precinct.

According to the election law in Turkey, parties obtaining 10 percent of the votes throughout the country in general elections enter parliament.

Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to form political parties, and to join and withdraw from them in accordance with established procedure.

Judges and prosecutors, members of higher judicial organs, teaching staff at institutions of higher education, members of the Higher Education Council, civil servants in public organizations and corporations, and other public employees not regarded as workers on account of the duties they perform, students, and members of the Armed Forces, shall not become members of political parties.

Prior permission to form a political party is not required. Parties are allowed to function freely in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and related laws which state that the internal workings and decisions of political parties must conform to democratic precepts.

A political party consists of its central organs, provincial and country organizations and the party group in Parliament. All political parties must establish headquarters in Ankara. In order to establish a political party, the signatures of at least 30 Turkish citizens, eligible for election to Parliament, are required. The highest authority within the political party is its general council. The central organization consists of the general council, the leader of the party, the central decisionmaking and executive boards, the disciplinary board and its caucus.

#### **Results of the July 22, 2007 general elections**

In the July 22 general elections, Turkish voters let three political parties – the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), and Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) – win seats in Parliament for the next five-year term. The AKP won another single-party turn in government with 46.6% of the vote. The CHP kept its place as the main opposition party in Parliament with 20.9% of the vote, while the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) got 14.3%, and independent candidates got 5.3%. When Parliament convened, one seat was vacant as Professor Mehmet Cihat Özönder, who was elected a deputy from MHP, died in a traffic accident in Ankara on July 26. Thus, 549 deputies are in the new parliament. Voter turnout was 84.16%.

The final results of the general elections of July 22 were published in the Official Gazette. According to the Supreme Board of Elections (YSK), some 35.8 million of 42.6 million eligible voters cast ballots throughout Turkey. The number of valid votes was 34.8 million.

## TURKEY (GENERAL), INCLUDING CUSTOMS GATES

This table shows the number of votes per political party and the percentage of the total voter cast.

<b>Political party</b>	<b>votes</b>	<b>percentage</b>
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<b>Enlightened Turkey Party</b>	<b>100,982</b>	<b>0.29</b>
<b>Independent Turkey Party</b>	<b>182,095</b>	<b>0.52</b>
<b>Felicity Party</b>	<b>820,289</b>	<b>2.34</b>
<b>Workers' Party</b>	<b>128,148</b>	<b>0.37</b>
<b>Republican People's Party</b>	<b>7,317,808</b>	<b>20.88</b>
<b>People's Ascent Party</b>	<b>179,010</b>	<b>0.51</b>
<b>Freedom and Solidarity Party</b>	<b>52,055</b>	<b>0.15</b>
<b>Young Party</b>	<b>1,064,871</b>	<b>3.04</b>
<b>Democrat Party</b>	<b>1,898,873</b>	<b>5.42</b>
<b>Liberal Democratic Party</b>	<b>35,363</b>	<b>0.10</b>
<b>Nationalist Movement Party</b>	<b>5,001,869</b>	<b>14.27</b>
<b>Justice and Development Party</b>	<b>16,327,291</b>	<b>46.58</b>
<b>Labor Party</b>	<b>26,292</b>	<b>0.08</b>
<b>Communist Party of Turkey</b>	<b>79,258</b>	<b>0.23</b>
<b>Independents</b>	<b>1,835,486</b>	<b>5.24</b>

The new Parliament (23<sup>rd</sup> term) convened for its first session on August 4. The new deputies were sworn in at this session and formally took office. Köksal Toptan, a deputy from the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party, was elected the new Parliament speaker on August 9. A total of 535 deputies took part in the first round of voting. Toptan was elected Parliament Speaker with 450 votes, while his sole rival Tunca Toskay, a deputy from the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), won 74. Eleven votes were invalid. Toptan will serve for two legislative years as the new Parliament Speaker.

### PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

On August 13, the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party nominated Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Gül as its candidate to become president. Gül was nominated during the AK Party's Central Executive Board (MYK) meeting. Gül met opposition leaders on August 14, and the first round of the election was held six days later. In the first round of balloting in Parliament, Gül fell short of the 341 votes needed to be elected. Gül competed against the Nationalist Movement Party's (MHP) Sebahattin Çakmakoglu and the Democratic Left Party's

(DSP) Tayfun İçli. Çakmakoglu secured 70 votes, while İçli won just 13. The ballot was secret, but Gül appears to have secured the support of all 340 AK Party deputies and also that of Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu, representative of the one-seat Grand Union Party (BBP). With all parties other than the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) present, 448 deputies were in Parliament. The MHP and DSP deputies were there to support their candidates, while the Democratic Society Party (DTP) took part in the vote but apparently declined to support Gül. Since the president also could not be elected in the second round of balloting on August 24, a third round was held on August 28, making Abdullah Gül Turkey's 11th president. In related news, Turkey's 10th President Ahmet Necdet Sezer designated Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to form the new government on August 6. President Sezer left the task to approve Turkey's new Cabinet to his successor, said Erdoğan on August 16. Erdoğan submitted the new Cabinet list to President Abdullah Gül on August 29. President Abdullah Gül approved the list of the 60th government members. The list of members of the 60th government is as follows: Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Çiçek, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Hayati Yazıcı, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Nazım Ekren, State Minister Mehmet Aydın, State Minister Murat Başesgioğlu, State Minister Kürşad Tüzmen, State Minister Nimet Çubukçu, State Minister Mehmet Şimşek, State Minister Mustafa Said Yazıcıoğlu, Justice Minister Mehmet Ali Şahin, National Defense Minister Vecdi Gönül, Interior Minister Beşir Atalay, Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, Finance Minister Kemal Unakıtan, National Education Minister Hüseyin Çelik, Public Works and Housing Minister Faruk Nafiz Özak, Health Minister Recep Akdağ, Transportation Minister Binali Yıldırım, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Minister Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Labor and Social Security Minister Faruk Çelik, Industry and Trade Minister Mehmet Zafer Çağlayan, Energy and Natural Resources Minister Hilmi Güler, Culture and Tourism Minister Ertuğrul Günay, Environment and Forestry Minister Veysel Eroğlu.

The program of the 60th government to be led by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was read out in Parliament on August 31. Debate of the program began on September 3. A vote of confidence on the government took place on September 5. The 60<sup>th</sup> government won its vote of confidence in Parliament. Of 535 deputies taking part in the vote, 337 deputies voted in favor of the confidence motion and 197 voted against.

Following the July 22 general elections, an alliance between the CHP and DSP was dissolved, as planned, and 13 deputies returned to the latter party. In addition, a number of independent deputies joined the DTP, ÖDP and BBP following the elections; the DTP had enough deputies to form a group in Parliament. The number of deputies of the Justice and Development (AK) Party dropped to 340 after Abdullah Gül was elected the new president of Turkey.

### **Local Elections**

Elections for local administrations are held every five years. Byelections are held in the following cases: if elections in an electoral region are cancelled due to procedural irregularity; if a provincial assembly or a city council is dissolved by the competent authority; if the majority of seats in a provincial assembly or a city council is vacated for any reason; and if, for whatever reason, the mayoralities are vacated. All Turkish citizens 25 and older can be elected mayor or become a member of provincial assemblies and city councils providing the following conditions are fulfilled: all candidates must have completed primary school education, have full legal rights, have completed military service, have no prison record of one year or more, must not have been convicted of embezzlement, corruption, bribery, theft, fraud, forgery, breach of trust or fraudulent bankruptcy, or of smuggling, conspiracy in official biddings or purchases, offenses related to the disclosure of state secrets, involvement in ideological and anarchistic activities, or incitement and encouragement of such activities. Furthermore, a candidate must have resided in the electoral area for at least six months.

In local elections, a proportional representation system, based on a ten percent barrier, is implemented for membership to provincial assemblies and town councils. For mayoral posts the simple majority system is used. In electing members of the provincial assemblies, each administrative district is an electoral region. In elections for mayoral posts and city council members, each city is an electoral region. Voters elect a metropolitan mayor in cities comprising an electoral region of more than one administrative district. Votes are cast in metropolitan areas also for mayoral and city council posts in each administrative district.

The local elections were held on April 18, 1999 together with the general elections.

### **Local Elections on March 28, 2004**

A total of 43.5 million voters went to 174,355 polling booths on March 28 to cast their votes in the local elections to elect 93,353 local administrators.

According to a report prepared by the Anatolia News Agency, Istanbul has 7,361,261 registered voters, Ankara 2,735,292 and Izmir 2,460,060 voters. The city with the lowest number of voters is Bayburt with 59,784 registered voters.

According to a decision of the Supreme Board of Elections (YSK), there were twenty political parties which took part in the elections.

The local administrators that are elected will be in office for five years. The voters elected mayors for 16 metropolitan municipalities, 58 city municipalities, 65 cities, 792 municipalities and 2,253 districts. Some 52,929 muhtars (local administrators), 3,122 city general assembly members and 34,075 municipality assembly members were elected on March 28. There are 12 new municipalities in these elections.

The political parties which took part in the local elections were as follows:

Workers'	Party	(EMEP)
Democratic	Left Party	(DSP)
Motherland	Party	(ANAP)
Independent	Turkey Party	(BTP)
Justice and	Development Party	(AKP)
Grand	Union Party	(BBP)
Labor and	Party	(IP)
Freedom and	Solidarity Party	(ODP)
Liberal	Democrat Party	(LDP)
Turkish	Communist Party	(TKP)
True	Path Party	(DYP)
Enlightened	Turkey Party	(ATP)
Nation	Party	(MP)
Republican	People's Party	(CHP)
Young	Party	(GP)
New	Turkey Party	(YTP)
Social Democrat	People's Party	(SHP)
Felicity	Party	(SP)
Democrat	Party	(DP)
Nationalist	Action Party	(MHP)

According to the election results, out of 81 cities, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won 57 mayoral races, including those in Turkey's largest city, Istanbul and the capital Ankara. The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) won nine mayoral races, while the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) got four, and the True Path Party (DYP) one. The Social Democratic People's Party (SHP) won five mayoral races and the Democratic Left Party (DSP) won three. The national breakdown of votes is as follows: AKP, 41.8%; CHP, 18.1%; MHP, 10.4%; DYP, 10.1%; SHP, 4.9%; Felicity Party (SP), 4.01%; and Motherland Party (ANAP), 2.46.

PROVINCES	PARTIES NAME	OF	ELECTED	MAYOR
ADANA	AKP		Aytaç	Durak
ADYAMAN	AKP		Necip	Büyükaslan
AFYON	AKP		Abdullah	Kaptan
AĞRI	AKP		Ekrem	Aktaş
AMASYA	AKP		İsmet	Özarlan
ANKARA	AKP		Melih	Gökçek
ANTALYA	AKP		M.Tevfik	Türel
ARTVİN	CHP		Emin	Özgün
AYDIN	AKP		İlhami	Örtekin
BALIKESİR	AKP		Sabri	Uğur
BİLECİK	AKP		Selim	Yağcı
BİNGÖL	AKP		Hacı	Ketenalp
BİTLİS	AKP		Cevdet	Özdemir
BOLU	AKP		Alaaddin	Yılmaz
BURDUR	AKP		Sabahattin	Akkaya
BURSA	AKP		Hikmet	Şahin

ÇANAKKALE	CHP	Ulgur	Gökhan
ÇANKIRI	AKP	İrfan	Dinç
ÇORUM	AKP	Turan	Atlamaz
DENİZLİ	AKP	Nihat	Zeybekci
DİYARBAKIR	SHP	Osman	Baydemir
EDİRNE	CHP	Hamdi	Sedefci
ELAZIĞ	DYP	M.Süleyman	Selmanoğlu
ERZİNCAN	AKP	Mehmet	Buyruk
ERZURUM	AKP	Ahmet	Küçükler
ESKİŞEHİR	DSP	Yılmaz	Büyükersen
GAZİANTEP	AKP	Asım	Güzelbey
GİRESUN	AKP	Hurşit	Yüksel
GÜMÜŞHANE	MHP	Mustafa	Canlı
HAKKARİ	SHP	Metin	Tekce
HATAY	AKP	Mehmet	Yeloğlu
ISPARTA	AKP	Hasan	Balaman
MERSİN	CHP	Macit	Özcan
İSTANBUL	AKP	Kadir	Topbaş
İZMİR	CHP	Aziz	Kocaoğlu
KARS	AKP	Naif	Alibeyoğlu
KASTAMONU	MHP	Turhan	Topcuoğlu
KAYSERİ	AKP	Mehmet	Özhaseki
KIRKLARELİ	CHP	C.Yılmaz	Sesen
KIRŞEHİR	AKP	Halim	Çakır
KOCAELİ	AKP	İbrahim	Karaosmanoğlu
KONYA	AKP	Tahir	Akyürek
KÜTAHYA	AKP	Mustafa	Ica
MALATYA	AKP	Cemal	Akın
MANİSA	AKP	Bülent	Kar
KAHRAMANMARAŞ	AKP	Mustafa	Poyraz
MARDİN	SP	Metin	Pamukcu
MUĞLA	CHP	Osman	Gürün
MUŞ	AKP	Necmettin	Dede
NEVŞEHİR	AKP	Hasan	Ünver
NİĞDE	MHP	Mümin	Inan
ORDU	DSP	Seyit	Torun
RİZE	AKP	Halil	Bakırcı
SAKARYA	AKP	Aziz	Duran
SAMSUN	AKP	Yusuf	Ziya
SİİRT	AKP	Mervan	Gül
SİNOP	AKP	Zeki	Yılmaz
SİVAS	AKP	Sami	Aydın
TEKİRDAĞ	AKP	Ahmet	Aygün
TOKAT	AKP	Adnan	Çiçek
TRABZON	CHP	Volkan	Çanalıoğlu
TUNCELİ	SHP	Songül	Erol
ŞANLIURFA	AKP	Ahmet	Fakibaba
UŞAK	AKP	Mesut	Apaydın
VAN	AKP	Burhan	Yenigün
YOZGAT	AKP	Yusuf	Başer
ZONGULDAK	AKP	Secaattin	Gonca

AKSARAY	AKP	Nevzat	Palta
BAYBURT	AKP	Bekir	Çetin
KARAMAN	AKP	Ali	Kantürk
KIRIKKALE	AKP	Veli	Korkmaz
BATMAN	SHP	Hüseyin	Kalkan
ŞIRNAK	SHP	Ahmet	Ertak
BARTIN	DSP	M.Rıza	Yalçınkaya
ARDAHAN	Independent	Mikail	Kayatürk
İĞDIR	MHP	Nurettin	Aras
YALOVA	AKP	Barbaros	Binicioğlu
KARABÜK	AKP	Hüseyin	Erer
KİLİS	AKP	M.Abdi	Bulut
OSMANİYE	AKP	Davut	Çuhadar
DÜZCE	AKP	Mehmet	Keleş

**POLITICAL PARTIES**  
(as of August 3, 2004)

**Democratic Left Party**  
(DSP Demokratik Sol Partisi)

**Founded on** : November 14, 1985  
**Chairman** : Zeki Sezer  
**Address** : Mareşal Fevzi Çakmak Cad. No: 17 ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 212 49 50 ( 5 lines)

**Nationalist Movement Party**  
(MHP Milliyetçi Hareket Partisi)

**Founded on** : February 9, 1969  
**Chairman** : Devlet Bahçeli  
**Address** :Karanfil Sok. No: 69 Bakanlıklar/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 417 50 60 (5 lines)

**Motherland Party**  
(ANAP Anavatan Partisi)

**Founded on** : May 20, 1983  
**Chairman** : Erkan Mumcu  
**Address** : 13. Cad. No: 3 Balgat/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 286 50 00 (20 lines)

**Democrat Party**  
(DP Demokrat Parti)

**Founded on** : July 23, 1983  
**Chairman** : Süleyman Soylu  
**Address** : Selanik Cad. No: 40 Kızılay/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 419 04 70 (2 lines)-417 22 40 (3 lines)

**Felicity Party**  
(SP Saadet Partisi)

**Founded on** : July 27, 2001  
**Acting Chairman** : Recai Kutan  
**Address** : Ziyabey Cad. 2. Sok. No: 15 Balgat/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 284 88 00

**Justice and Development Party**  
( AKP Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi)

**Chairman** : Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
**Address** : Ceyhun Atuf Kansu Cad. No: 202 Balgat / ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 2868989-2863084

**Republican People's Party**

**(CHP Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi)**

**Founded on** : September 9, 1923  
**Chairman** : Deniz Baykal  
**Address** : Çevre Sok. No: 38 Çankaya/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 468 59 69 (20 lines)

**Grand Union Party**

**(BBP Büyük Birlik Partisi)**

**Founded on** : January 29, 1993  
**Chairman** : Muhsin Yazıcıoğlu  
**Address** : Tuna Cad. No: 28 Yenışehir/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 434 09 20-27

**Freedom and Solidarity Party**

**(ÖDP Özgürlük ve Dayanışma Partisi)**

**Founded on** : January 21, 1996  
**Chairman** : Hayri Kozanoğlu  
**Address** : Necatibey Cad. No: 23/10 Sıhhiye/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 229 97 06- 231 72 32

**Democratic Turkey Party**

**(DTP Demokrat Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : January 7, 1997  
**Chairman** : Yaşar Okuyan  
**Address** : Mesnevi Sok. 27 ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 442 01 51 442 12 49 442 16 19

**Liberal Democratic Party**

**(LDP Liberal Demokrat Parti)**

**Founded on** : July 26, 1994  
**Chairman** : Emin Şirin  
**Address** : G.M.K. Bulvarı No: 47/14 Maltepe/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 2291503 (2 lines)

**My Turkey Party**

**(Türkiyem Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 11, 1998  
**Chairman** : Durmuş Ali Eker

**Free Society Party**

**(Özgür Toplum Partisi)**

**Founded on** : June 6, 2003  
**Chairman** : Ahmet Turan Demir

**Our Party**

**(Bizim Partimiz)**

**Founded on** : August 2, 2004  
**Chairman** : Ahmet Yılmaz

**Nation Party**

**(MP Millet Partisi)**

**Founded on** : November 22, 1992  
**Chairman** : Aykut Edibali  
**Address** : Atatürk Bulvarı No: 73/37-38 Kızılay/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 4194060

**Worker's Party  
(İP İşçi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : March 2, 1992  
**Chairman** : Doğu Perinçek  
**Address** : Mithatpaşa Cad. No: 10/8 Sıhhiye/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 435 29 99

**Labor Party  
(EMEP Emeğin Partisi)**

**Founded on** : November 26, 1996  
**Chairman** : Abdullah Levent Tüzel  
**Address** : Necatibey Cad. Sezenler Sk. Lozan Apt. ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 232 41 98

**Changing Turkey Party  
(DEPAR Değişen Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : February 24, 1998  
**Chairman** : Gökhan Çapoğlu  
**Address** : 6. Cad. 78 Sok. 15/2 Öveçler/ANKARA

**Democracy and Peace Party  
(DBP Demokrasi ve Barış Partisi)**

**Founded on** : March 11, 1996  
**Chairman** : Yılmaz Çamlıbel  
**Address** : Menekşe Sok. 10A/7 Kızılay/ANKARA

**Liberation Tranquility Party  
(Kurtuluş Huzur Partisi)**

**Founded on** : February 1, 1999  
**Chairman** : Hacer Söğütdelen

**Communist Party  
(Komünist Parti)**

**Founded on** : July 20, 2000  
**Chairman** : Yalçın Cerit

**National Unity Party  
(UBP Ulusal Birlik Partisi)**

**Founded on** : October 23, 1998  
**Chairman** : Fehmi Kural  
**Address** : Necatibey Cad. Lale Sok. 3/14 Sıhhiye/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 230 16 32

**Enlightened Turkey Party  
(ATP Aydınlik Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : November 27, 1998  
**Chairman** : Ahmet Bican Ercilasun  
**Address** : Çetin Emeç Bulvarı Öveçler 4. Cad. 52. Sk. Dikmen - ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 284 29 32

**The Mainroad Party  
(AYP Anayol Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 5, 1994  
**Chairman** : Gürcan Başer  
**Address** : İzmir Cad. Sümer Sok. Sümer Han Kat: 4 4/2021 Kızılay/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 232 23 23

**Great Justice Party  
(BAP Büyük Adalet Partisi)**

**Founded on** : April 12, 1995

**Chairman** : Sabit Batumlu  
**Address** : Güvenlik Cad. 25/25 A.Ayrancı/ANKARA

**Communist Party of Turkey  
(Türkiye Komünist Partisi)**

**Founded on** : November 11, 2001  
**Chairman** : Aydemir GÜLER  
**Address** : Selanik Cad. 41/7 Kızılay/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 4188743-4172931

**Democratic People Party  
(DHP Demokrat Halk Partisi)**

**Founded on** : December 15, 1999  
**Chairman** : Mahmut İhsan Özgen  
**Address** : Rüzgarlı Mah. Soydaşlar Sok. 4/6 Ulus/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 310 50 50

**Socialist Worker's Party of Turkey  
(TSİP Türkiye Sosyalist İşçi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : January 3, 1993  
**Chairman** : Turgut Koçak  
**Address** : Lale Sok. 4/8 Sıhhiye/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 431 23 86229 99 93

**Revolutionary Socialist Worker's Party  
(DSİP Devrimci Sosyalist İşçi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : April 25,1997  
**Chairman** : Şevket Doğan Tarkan  
**Address** : Menekşe 1. Sok. 8A/16 Kızılay/ANKARA

**Socialist Worker's Party  
(SİP Sosyalist İşçi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : September 9,1996  
**Chairman** : Mehmet Önder Ergönül

**Socialist Unity Movement Party  
(SBHP Sosyalist Birlik Hareketi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : August 5, 1999  
**Chairman** : Nihat Çağlı  
**Address** : Bankacı Sok. 15/3 Kocatepe/ANKARA

**Justice Party of Turkey  
(TAP Türkiye Adalet Partisi)**

**Founded on** : April 12, 1995  
**Chairman** : Mehmet Yorgancıoğlu  
**Address** : Cinnah Cad. Ahenk Sok. 10/8 ANKARA

**Equality Party  
(EP Eşitlik Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 25, 2001  
**Chairman** : Bektaş Çelebi  
**Address** : Selanik Cad. No:6/21 K.3 KIZILAY ANKARA

**Union of Hearts Greens Party  
(Gönül Birliği Yeşiller Partisi)**

**Founded on** : November 03, 2000  
**Chairman** : Eşref Yazıcıoğlu  
**Address** : Strasbourg Cad. No:26/15 Sıhhiye/ ANKARA

**(Our Legacy Party)**

**(Varlıgımız Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 11, 2001  
**Chairman** : Köksal Satır  
**Address** : Demetevler İvedik Cad. No: B 99/P.9 ANKARA

**(Radical Change Project Party)**

**(RADEP- Radikal Değişim Projesi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 16, 2001  
**Chairman** : Alişan Ağca  
**Address** : Güniz Sok. No:12/3 KAVAKLIDERE ANKARA

**National Autonomy Party**

**(Ulusal Muhtariyet Partisi)**

**Founded on** : August 13, 2001  
**Chairman** : Fehmi Öztürk  
**Address** : İzmir Cad. Sümer 1 Sok. No : 12/6 Kızılay / ANKARA  
**Phone** : (312) 229 97 06 231 72 30

**Leader Turkey Party**

**(Lider Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : September 03, 2001  
**Chairman** : Mustafa ÖZMAN  
**Address** : Harf Devrimi Cad. Özügüzel Kent Sitesi No : 4/8 Eryaman / ANKARA  
**Phone** :

**Independent Turkey Party**

**(Bağımsız Türkiye Partisi BTP)**

**Founded** :September 25, 2001  
**Chairman** : Prof. Dr. Haydar BAŞ  
**Address** : K.Esat Cad. No: 123 Çankaya/ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 4482424 (5 lines)

**Socialist Democratic Party**

**(TDP - Toplumcu Demokrat Parti)**

**Founded on** : 29 January 2002  
**Chairman** : Sema PİŞKİNSÜT  
**Address** : Yıldız 4. Cad. 19. Sok. No:10 Çankaya/ANKARA

**Solution Party**

**(ÇP - Çözüm Partisi)**

**Founded on** : December 25, 2001  
**Chairman** : Nazım KOCAMAN  
**Address** : Saklambaç sk. No : 66/16 Keçiören / ANKARA

**Social Democratic People's Party**

**(SHP - Sosyal Demokrat Halkçı Parti)**

**Founded on** : May 24, 2002  
**Chairman** : Murat KARAYALÇIN

**Social Democrat Party**

**(SDP – Sosyal Demokrat Parti)**

**Founded on** : November 29, 2001  
**Chairman** : Nihat DEMİR  
**Address** : Kuleli Sk. No : 33 / 4 GOP / ANKARA

**Republican Democracy Party**

**(Cumhuriyetçi Demokrasi Partisi)**

**Founded on** : July 19, 2002  
**Chairman** : Erdoğan Bakkalbaşı

**Address** : Ergün Sok. No : 2 Maltepe / ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 232 63 00

**Rights and Freedoms Party  
(Hak ve Özgürlükler Partisi)**

**Founded on** : February 11, 2002  
**Chairman** : Abdülmelik FIRAT  
**Address** : Menekşe 2. Sk. 33 / 7 Kızılay - ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 418 16 38

**Homeland Party  
(Yurt Partisi)**

**Founded on** : March 14, 2002  
**Chairman** : Sadettin TANTAN  
**Address** : Öveçler Mah. 8. Cad. No: 25 Dikmen - ANKARA  
**Phone** : (0312) 4785700

**Eurasia Party  
(Avrasya Partisi)**

**Founded on** : May 9, 2002  
**Chairman** : H.Hüsnü DOĞAN  
**Address** : Çetin Emeç Bulvarı No : 57 Öveçler - ANKARA  
**Phone** :

**Independent Republic Party  
(Bağımsız Cumhuriyet Partisi)**

**Founded on** : July 24, 2002  
**Chairman** : Prof. Mümtaz SOYSAL

**Republican Democrat Turkey Party**

**(Cumhuriyetçi Demokrat Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : September 3, 2003  
**Chairman** : Serap Gülhan

**New Faces Party**

**(Yeni Yüzler Partisi)**

**Founded on** : August 2, 2002  
**Chairman** : Münici İnci

**Turkey Party  
(Türkiye Partisi)**

**Founded on** : February 23, 2004  
**Chairman** : Tekin Enerem,

**Katılımcı Demokrasi Partisi**

**(Participatory Democracy Party KADEP)**

**Founded on** : December 20, 2006  
**Chairman** : Şerafettin ELÇİ

*Below is a table showing the distribution of seats in Parliament:*  
(September 10, 2007)

**Justice and Development Party (AK Party): 340**

**Republican People's Party (CHP): 98**

**Nationalist Movement Party (MHP): 70**

**Democratic Society Party (DTP): 20**

**Democratic Left Party (DSP): 13**

**Freedom and Solidarity Party (ÖDP): 1**

**Grand Union Party (BBP): 1**

**Independent: 5**

**Vacant: 2**

**Total: 550**

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