

Five statements about the municipal elections

1. Rejection of politics is indicated by a steady decrease in political participation

Since 2006 voter turnout at elections has steadily decreased (at European parliamentary elections since 2004, and at general elections since 2002), a clear sign that the population is consistently turning its back on politics. The inactivity of voters opposing government policies offers the greatest support for the Fidesz regime. For a low turnout guarantees that, despite a Fidesz camp shrinking with each election, it remains sufficiently strong to keep the party in power.

2. Fidesz wins by losing

Fidesz scored a huge victory again thanks to an opposition in total disarray and pursuing catastrophic policies, and by a mass of voters staying away from the polls. This is well illustrated by the reelection of Budapest mayor István Tarlós, who this time received fewer votes (290 675) than in 2010 (321 908) – falling well behind his achievement in 2006 when he finished second behind the incumbent Gábor Demszky with 349 412 votes. Following this campaign, István Tarlós received only 13% more than the far from popular politician, Lajos Bokros, drafted in the last minute.

Compared to 2010 Fidesz lost two more Budapest Districts (XIV. and XV.) and two more cities with county-rank (Békéscsaba and Salgótarján). However, Fidesz has preserved its majority in the Békéscsaba assembly, while in Szombathely things turned out the other way: the mayor from the governing party has to look for at least one more vote to carry the assembly. While 20 cities with county-rank will be run by Fidesz mayors, with three exceptions the party won considerably fewer seats than four years ago.

Change in support for Fidesz-KDNP mayoral candidates in cities with county-rank

	2010	2014	Change
Békéscsaba	61.69%	34.56%	-27.13%
Debrecen	67.18%	56.41%	-10.77%
Dunaújváros	47.14%	45.34%	-1.80%
Eger	54.27%	38.30%	-15.97%
Érd	54.48%	46.66%	-7.82%
Győr	69.67%	61.02%	-8.65%
Hódmezővásárhely	66.69%	61.03%	-5.66%
Kaposvár	77.12%	65.57%	-11.55%
Kecskemét	79.12%	59.31%	-19.81%
Miskolc	42.58%	42.37%	-0.21%
Nagykanizsa	41.06%	50.12%	9.06%

	2010	2014	Change
Nyíregyháza	50.00%	47.35%	-2.65%
Pécs	68.59%	39.28%	-29.31%
Salgótarján	51.39%	42.48%	-8.91%
Sopron	52.79%	45.99%	-6.80%
Szeged	45.84%	36.88%	-8.96%
Szekszárd	56.46%	46.94%	-9.52%
Székesfehérvár	50.54%	64.50%	13.96%
Szolnok	60.47%	53.03%	-7.44%
Szombathely	51.51%	43.83%	-7.68%
Tatabánya	56.70%	54.63%	-2.07%
Veszprém	63.94%	53.89%	-10.05%
Zalaegerszeg	57.32%	63.57%	6.25%

The lack of an alternative to Fidesz is demonstrated by the fact that the party managed to hold on to an absolute majority in each county assembly with 2-10 percentage points, even as (with the exception of one county) its support has dwindled (in Tolna County support for the party declined sharply due to local conflicts, where a group distancing itself from the party ran on a separate ticket, winning 6.5%).

Change in support for Fidesz-KDNP in county assemblies

	2010	2014	Change
Baranya	57.59%	51.09%	-6.50%
Bács-Kiskun	63.39%	55.74%	-7.65%
Békés	59.20%	54.85%	-4.35%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	53.61%	49.01%	-4.60%
Csongrád	53.98%	48.51%	-5.47%
Fejér	58.07%	55.10%	-2.97%
Győr-Moson-Sopron	67.25%	60.44%	-6.81%
Hajdú-Bihar	60.08%	56.20%	-3.88%
Heves	50.95%	48.39%	-2.56%
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	55.03%	51.36%	-3.67%
Komárom-Esztergom	57.35%	52.69%	-4.66%
Nógrád	58.06%	53.43%	-4.63%
Pest	58.74%	48.90%	-9.84%
Somogy	55.90%	47.95%	-7.95%
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	57.59%	57.70%	0.11%
Tolna	63.83%	50.61%	-13.22%
Vas	65.01%	57.83%	-7.18%
Veszprém	62.58%	53.00%	-9.58%
Zala	61.24%	56.77%	-4.47%

3. Left-wing parties are unable to attract new voters

Based on county assembly votes (not including cities with county-rank) MSZP managed to come out ahead of Jobbik only in one county, although in 9 additional counties taken together left-wing parties still received more votes than the far right party. Four years ago Jobbik beat MSZP only in 3 counties.

Discrepancies between Jobbik and left-wing parties in light of county list votes

	Jobbik	MSZP	DK	Together	(MSZP + DK + Together) minus Jobbik
Baranya	16.59%	16.07%	5.30%	3.01%	7.79%
Bács-Kiskun	20.21%	12.60%	5.91%		-1.70%
Békés	20.96%	14.35%	5.78%	4.05%	3.22%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	27.84%	18.05%	5.10%		-4.69%
Csongrád	18.59%	21.77%	3.12%	1.10%	7.40%
Fejér	20.03%	10.38%	6.15%	3.04%	-0.46%
Győr-Moson-Sopron	19.32%	12.92%	7.32%		0.92%
Hajdú-Bihar	24.19%	12.61%	6.99%		-4.59%
Heves	29.59%	14.71%	6.28%		-8.60%
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	27.65%	12.29%	6.22%		-9.14%
Komárom-Esztergom	17.96%	14.97%	9.71%	4.67%	11.39%
Nógrád	21.11%	14.97%	5.36%	2.33%	1.55%
Pest	18.24%	12.12%	8.31%	4.40%	6.59%
Somogy	19.34%	9.89%	5.80%	1.61%	-2.04%
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg	21.16%	12.04%	2.30%		-6.82%
Tolna	17.82%	11.55%	7.32%	2.05%	3.10%
Vas	16.37%	14.88%	3.74%		2.25%
Veszprém	20.41%	17.41%	5.50%	3.68%	6.18%
Zala	23.57%	9.52%	5.69%	3.35%	-5.01%

In political relevant districts where the left won this time and in 2010 (Districts XIII., XIX., XX. and Szeged) it won by a bigger margin than four years ago. Of all Budapest districts it only managed to recapture two districts, although it failed to line up an assembly majority behind its mayors in Districts XIV. and XV. In most cities with county-rank where it had a chance leftist parties suffered a defeat (the only exception being Salgótarján where it won by a slim margin). There were a few places (District IX. and Szombathely) where it came close to achieving an upset. All this suggests that there is demand for a new political wind, but the current leftist formations are in no position to deliver. In Miskolc Albert Pásztor failed to unseat the incumbent: with 33% he fell short of the 38% performance of MSZP's 2010 candidate, Sándor Káli. In the past few years long-running feuds between leftist formations have intensified and this has led to further erosion in support.

As for the relationship between these formations, county assembly results show a clear picture: MSZP continues to lead the field, followed by the Democratic Coalition (DK) and Together-PM. In the capital one may compare the seven districts where all three ran mayoral candidates. In this category as well MSZP appears to be the strongest, although the differences here are less significant. The picture is made somewhat more complex when one considers that all seven districts were seen as long shots, and the fact that in District XXIII. they had no chance against the independent candidate, Ferenc Geiger.

District	MSZP	DK	Together-PM
District I.	7.53%	10.28%	9.82%
District II.	23.50%	4.66%	8.57%
District VIII.	13.87%	6.75%	7.80%
District XII.	8.79%	8.64%	11.13%
District XVI.	9.70%	8.83%	7.88%
District XXII.	9.46%	15.28%	4.38%
District XXIII.	1.99%	2.45%	1.92%

In four cities with county-rank they ran against each other, with the following results:

	MSZP	Together-PM	DK
Debrecen	7.08%		13,03%
Győr		13.63%	9.74%
Nagykanizsa	11.17%		11.27%
Zalaegerszeg	10.56%		9.43%

4. Jobbik consolidated its position in urban centers

At the municipal election Jobbik managed to hold on to the majority of its mayoral seats; with the exception of one county, it is the second largest party in county general assemblies. More importantly, the party managed to surge ahead in urban centers and cities with county-rank.

14 of its mayoral candidates won and in 10 municipalities independent candidates, enjoying the party's support, came in first. After the closing of the polls, party president, Gábor Vona, positioned his party as the challenger of the governing party in 2018. Jobbik is still far from its target; it failed to capture the much-coveted mayoral seat in Miskolc and in Budapest it lost more ground where it has to content with coming in before LMP.

5. LMP is the biggest loser of the municipal elections

For LMP, just clearing the threshold at the general and the European Parliamentary elections, the municipal elections ended in serious defeat. Not only did their Budapest mayoral candidate lag far behind the party's 2010 performance (dropping from 10% to 5.7%) but in districts, with one exception, all party candidates lost ground:

	2010	2014	Change
District I.	11.4%	9.5%	-1.90%
District II.	10.9%	6.1%	-4.84%
District III.	8.6%	7.0%	-1.65%
District IV.		3.1%	
District V.	8.3%	6.6%	-1.69%
District VI.	11.2%	9.6%	-1.56%
District VII.	12.0%	10.3%	-1.70%
District VIII.	9.3%	6.7%	-2.57%
District IX.		4.5%	
District X.		6.6%	
District XI.	5.0%	6.1%	1.07%
District XII.	12.4%	6.9%	-5.53%
District XIII.		3.2%	
District XIV.	10.7%	3.8%	-6.89%
District XV.		6.1%	
District XVI.	7.8%	6.1%	-1.68%
District XVII.		3.3%	
District XVIII.		5.7%	
District XIX.		2.1%	
District XX.		2.6%	
District XXI.		5.8%	
District XXII.		6.6%	
District XXIII.	-	-	

It is indicative of the party's national embeddedness that having fielded candidates in 4 counties in 2010, after four years it managed to add but one county, even as the number of required recommendation slips was cut by half. It only managed to improve its position in Pest County where it received 8%, while in other counties it failed to break out of the 3-6% bracket.

Its 13 mayoral candidates in cities with county-rank received an average of 1-8%. In Szekszárd, its candidate Ákos Hadházy received 40% of the votes cast, although here the other left-wing parties did not field a single candidate.