



PORUGAL'S PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC 2021-2026

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was re-elected on 24.01.2021 the President of the Portuguese Republic, for a second term that will begin on 09.03.2021. The results of the presidential elections were as follows:

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa – 60,7% (2.533.799 votos)

Ana Gomes – 12,97% (541.345 votes)

André Ventura – 11,9% (496.583 votes)

João Ferreira – 4,32% (180.473 votes)

Marisa Matias – 3,95% (164.731 votes)

Tiago Mayan – 3,22% (134.427 votes)

Vitorino Silva – 2,94% (122.734 votos)

Presidential Powers

The President represents the Portuguese Republic, guarantees national independence, the regular functioning of democratic institutions, and the Armed Forces' supreme commander. He promulgates and blocks laws, accredits Portugal's diplomatic representatives abroad, accepts foreign diplomatic representatives' credentials, ratifies the international treaties, declares war, and makes peace. The President is also empowered to declare a state of Siege and a state of Emergency.

Programme & Objectives

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was the only candidate that didn't present any official programme. However, he made clear that his priorities focus on:

- Combat the pandemic situation;
- Support social justice;
- Fight poverty and exclusion;
- Fight radicalisation and extremism;
- Respect pluralism and difference;
- Recovery of employment and income;
- Promote a stable political system with credible and robust governance.

Ups & Downs

UP ↑



It came with no surprise that the previous President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, won with a large majority the 2021 Portuguese Presidential race, with 60,7% of total votes. As a candidate of the centre bloc (PS & PSD) Marcelo was the triumphant winner.

Now the President will face a long road ahead with Portugal's current pandemic situation and a harsh economic recovery in the upcoming years.

UP ↑



André Ventura, had a surprising result, **reaching 3rd place with 11,9% of the votes, one percentage point away from Ana Gomes' 2nd place.** The ascension of both the candidate and the party CHEGA popularity has been remarkable countrywide since its birth in 2019, winning both Communist, Socialist and Centre-Right strongholds. CHEGA party rose 10,6% from the last parliamentary election results in 2019.

UP ↑



Liberal Initiative contender, Tiago Mayan, **shied away from the spotlight with 3,2%.** However, the party has grown significantly since 2019. Although ending at the 6th place, the Liberal Initiative candidate managed 134 thousand votes, doubling their 2019 parliamentary election results with 65 thousand votes.

DOWN ↓



Socialist Ana Gomes, running as an independent due to a divided Socialist party, **fell short of positive expectations grasping at a very tight 2nd place with 12,97% of the votes**. Ana Gomes lacked socialist support who opted to re-elect the PSD candidate, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa but had PAN and Livre support. However, Ana Gomes did not manage to accomplish her main goal and take Marcelo to a second-round. Interestingly, Ana Gomes was the most voted woman ever in a presidential election.

DOWN ↓



João Ferreira, the Communist Party runner, **stood at 4th place with 4,3% of the votes** but failed to beat André Ventura at communist strongholds, mainly in Alentejo, ending with less than expected votes.

DOWN ↓



From the leftist Bloco de Esquerda, Marisa Matias is the biggest loser in the 2021 Presidential race **ending with 3,95%**, a six percentual point fall than her 2016 run. She reached 5th place.

DOWN ↓



Vitorino Silva, the RIR party founder, **was the least voted candidate with 2,9% of the votes**. His percentage dropped compared to 2016 when he managed to have 3,28% of the votes.

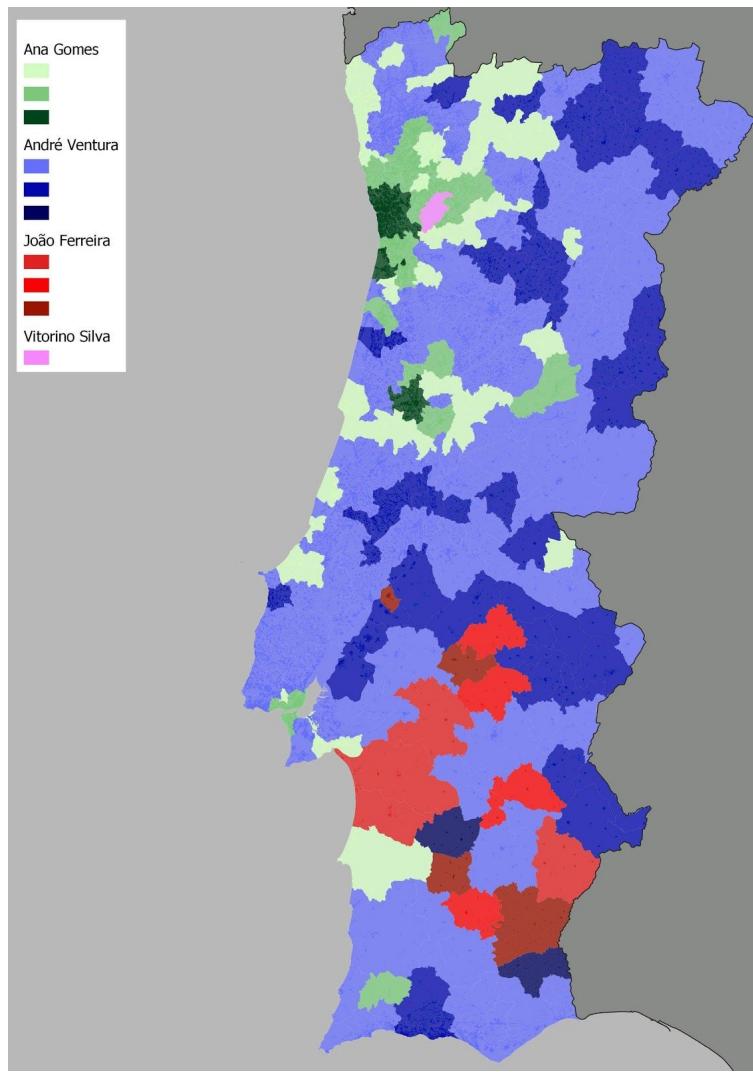
Outcomes

- **Abstention was very high (60,7%)** even though predictions of a catastrophic scenario of 70% did not happen. The pandemic situation in Portugal has most probably contributed to rising abstention.
- **Fragmentation of the political spectrum:** new parties (arising from the past legislative elections) are here to stay: Iniciativa Liberal (IL), Chega (Ch), PAN. They have their candidates or support other's, what is important to note is that **they have visibility in the political arena**.
- **A polarised country:** It is safe to say that Portugal has not seen these political polarisation levels since the Carnation Revolution (25 de Abril). The presidential race shows a shift from the Left, Centre and Christian right to new political representations: an overall unsympathy for the status quo.

- **A divided left:** Parties from the left-wing decided to follow their separate agenda with three distinct candidates, resulting in weak results for the left bloc (a total of 21,24%) and leaving more uncertainty in the Portuguese leftist future alliance.
- **Strong centre right-wing and new forces emerging at the centre/right spectrum:** the candidate supported by PSD and CDS easily won the election. Iniciativa Liberal and Chega are gradually occupying the political space. **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa is the first President in the history of the Portuguese democracy to win in all municipalities.**

Food for thought: Runner ups

As a result of a narrow race for the second place, we look deep into the Portuguese voting sentiment. This image shows the victories' runner-ups in continental Portugal. Winds of change in the political spectrum?



Source: Aitor Varea Oro