



# 28-A Spanish General Elections

Executive summary of the results

April 2019



# The Socialist Party wins the Spanish General Elections

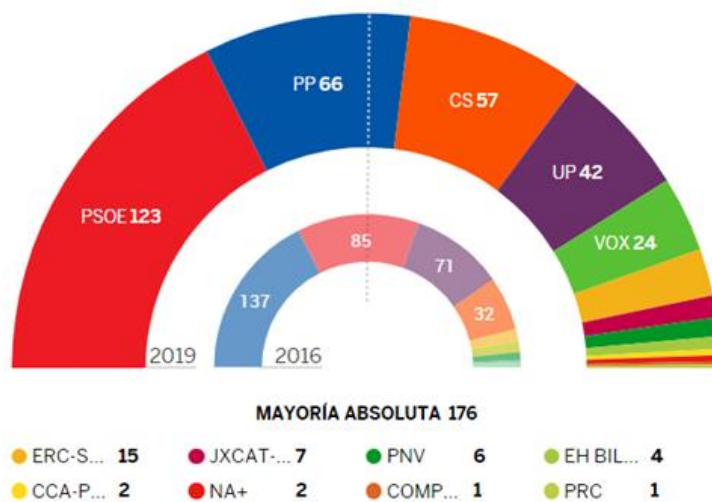
## 1 Results of the General Elections

### 1.1 Congress of Deputies














The Socialist Party (PSOE and current governing party) has won the General Elections in Spain with almost 29% of the votes (more than 7 million) and 123/350 seats in Congress in an electoral Sunday where the participation peaked at 75.75% (9 points more than in 2016). The highlights of these General Elections are the following:

- **Victory of the left-parties, with the Socialist Party as the most voted political force.**
- **Major defeat by the Popular Party, that losses 71 MPs.**
- **Ciudadanos strengthens its position and becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest party in Congress.**
- **Unidas Podemos suffers an important setback but can still be an enabler of a socialist Government.**
- **The far-right party, Vox, enters in Congress.**
- **Rise of the nationalist parties (ERC and JxCAT) in Catalonia.**

These results confirm the new macro 5 party system (PP, PSOE, Ciudadanos, Unidas Podemos and Vox), that will oblige parties to negotiate and reach agreements to elect the President and form a Government. Moreover, the Congress will now have more than 35 seats assigned to 9 regionalist/nationalist political parties whose votes are going to be needed to invest the President and govern.



*Source: Ministry of Home Affairs and El País*

	Political Party	Seats	Votes %	Votes	Variation from 2016
	PSOE	123	28.68 %	7.480.755	+38 MPs
	PP	66	16.70 %	4.356.023	- 71 MPs
	Ciudadanos	57	15.86 %	4.136.600	+ 25 MPs
	Unidas Podemos	42	14.31 %	3.732.929	- 29 MPs
	Vox	24	10.26 %	2.677.173	+ 24 MPs
	ERC	15	3.89 %	1.015.355	+ 6 MPs
	JxCAT	7	1.91 %	497.638	- 1 MPs
	EAJ-PNV	6	1.51 %	394.627	+ 1 MP
	EH Bildu	4	0.99 %	258.840	+ 2 MPs
	Coalición Canaria	2	0.53 %	137.196	+ 1 MP
	Navarra Suma	2	0.41 %	107.124	+ 2 MPs
	Compromís	1	0.66 %	172.751	- 3 MPs
	PRC	1	0.20 %	52.197	+ 1 MP

Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

Regarding the performance of the political parties that have obtained parliamentary representation:

- The **Socialist Party** (PSOE) has obtained the victory in the elections, although its 123 seats fall short to form a government without other parties' support. Coming from its worst result ever, and 10 months after the motion of no-confidence against Mariano Rajoy, the Socialist Party has won the General Elections for the first time since 2008.
- The **Popular Party** (PP) loses 71 seats compared to the results obtained in the 2016 election, therefore suffering a major defeat barely mitigated by the fact that it retains its leading position within the right block.
- **Ciudadanos** strengthens its position and becomes the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest party in Congress. This rise threatens the leadership of the PP on the centre-right political spectrum, and Ciudadanos has already stated that its intention is to lead the opposition to the Socialist Government. Because of this, although an agreement between Cs and the Socialist Party is mathematically possible, a pact between both political forces seems highly unlikely.
- **Unidas Podemos** suffers a great setback, losing 29 MPs. Despite this, its 42 seats still enable Unidos Podemos to become the facilitator of a leftist government led by the Socialist Party, that would however require of other parties' support, either active or through abstentions.

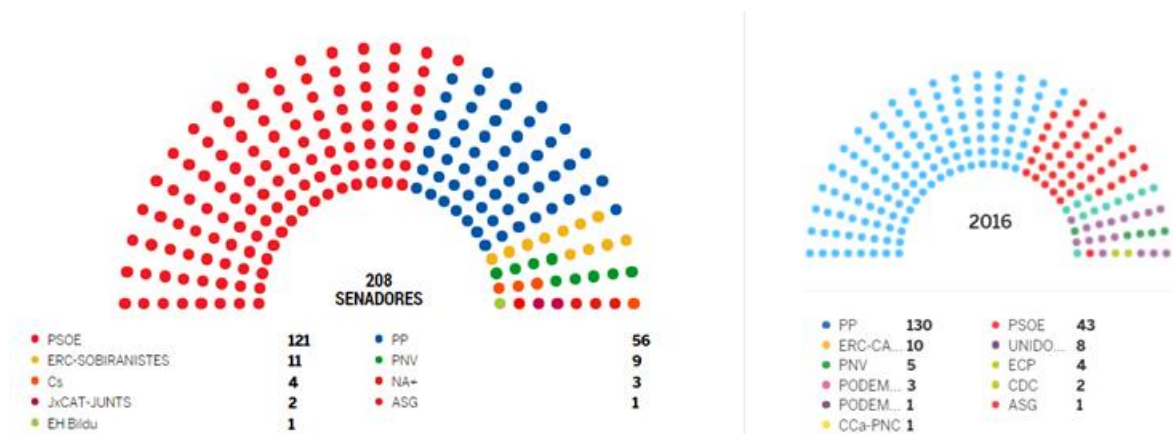
- **Vox** obtains a historic result for the far right in Spain, enabling its entrance in Congress with 24 seats. The number of MPs obtained by Vox mean that it will have its own parliamentary group and anticipates a significant impact on the future debates to be held in Parliament.
- The **regionalist and nationalist parties** experience a strong growth, a trend which is clearly illustrated by the rise of ERC that obtains 15 seats and EH Bildu with 4 seats. While this category brings together left-wing and right-wing parties, it becomes evident that the territorial issue has played a major role in the campaign and during the last month since they add up to 38 seats.

## 1.2 Senate

Following the results of the General Election, the Socialist Party will most likely hold a solid majority in the Senate after obtaining 121 out of the 208 seats at stake.

**The PSOE regains control of the Senate, where they did not obtain a majority of seats since 1993.**

The Spanish Senate’s election system differs substantially from the mechanism for the election of the members of the Congress of Deputies since it operates a combined system. Following the 2019 election a total of 208 Senators will enter the Senate by direct election, while the 58 remaining Senators will be appointed by the regional parliaments to reach the final number of 266 Senators. The composition of most of these regional parliaments will change as a result of the regional and local elections to be held next May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



**Source:** Ministry of Home Affairs and El País

## 2 Investiture of the President – possible scenarios

### 1st investiture vote: 176 votes (absolute majority) needed to elect the President

#### Option 1



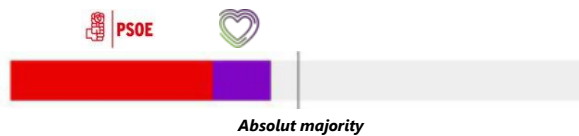
PSOE (123) + Ciudadanos (57): 180 seats. **Unlikely** considering C’s rejection during the campaign and after the electoral night, although not completely disregarded.

#### Option 2



PSOE (123) + Unidas Podemos (42) + 11 additional MPs from the following parties: ERC (15) + JxCAT (7) + EAJ-PNV (6) + Bildu (4) + Coalición Canaria (2) + Compromís (1) + Partido Regionalista Cántabro (1). **Unlikely** considering that PSOE will prefer to enter the government without the explicit support of pro-independence parties, such as ERC, JxCAT and Bildu.

### 2nd investiture vote: more favourable votes than negative (simple majority)



PSOE (123) + Unidas Podemos (42) [165] – Since the right block, with 149 MPs (PP, Ciudadanos, Vox and Navarra Suma), does not exceed the left one, Pedro Sánchez (PSOE) could be invested as president of the government in the second investiture vote with a simple majority of Congress (more votes in favour than against) with the support of Unidas Podemos (42) and the support or abstention of other regionalist / nationalist parties, which are likely to not hinder the investiture of the PSOE’s candidate.

The possibility of a coalition government between PSOE and Podemos instead of an investiture agreement cannot be discarded. Although common at the regional level, this would be the first national coalition government in Spain.

**The most likely scenario leaves us with Pedro Sánchez (PSOE) as President of the Government in the second investiture vote with a simple majority of Congress (more votes in favour than against) with the support of Unidas Podemos (42) and the support or abstention of other regionalist / nationalist parties.**

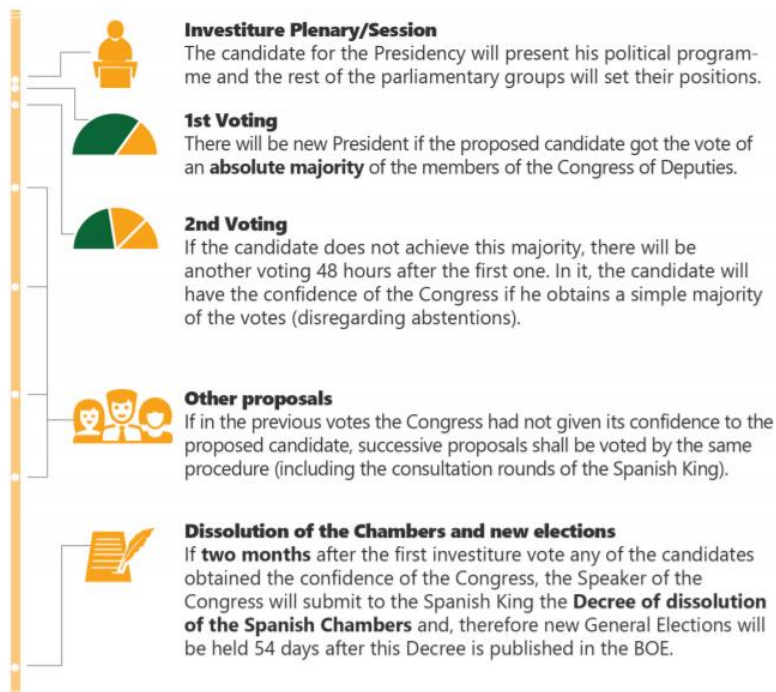
However, we have to take into account that European, regional and local elections will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. It still needs to be determined whether the current results will oblige the political parties at national level to have a low-key negotiation process not to affect the voting turnout in the upcoming elections.

### 3 Next steps

- **Constituent Session in Congress and the Senate:** May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am. The Congress will be fully active from this date.
- **Constitution of the Parliamentary Groups:** They must be created within five days after the Constituent Session. In Congress there are 3 options to conform a Parliamentary Group:



- **Procedure to invest the new President:** after the Constituent Session of the Congress and the Senate on May 21<sup>st</sup>, the King of Spain will call for consultations the representatives appointed by the political groups with parliamentary representation to reach an investiture agreement. After this consultation round (that does not have a deadline), the King of Spain will propose a candidate for the Presidency to the President of the Congress who will convene the Plenary for the Investiture. **With the abovementioned result, the investiture can be a reality in June.** It will have the following procedure:







### **Offices**

Claudio Coello, 124-2º  
28006 Madrid

### **Contact**

+34 914 440 277  
javier@political-intelligence.com  
mariarosa@political-intelligence.com

### **Web**

[www.political-intelligence.com](http://www.political-intelligence.com)  
[www.politicas-pi.com](http://www.politicas-pi.com)

