

THE 2025 POLITICAL
OUTLOOK: THE
FUTURE OF PARTY
POLITICS."

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1, THE
STRUCTURE OF
THE HOUSE OF
COUNCILLORS
ELECTION AND ITS
MEANING

WHEN WILL THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTIONS BE HELD?

Six-year terms, with half of the members elected every three years (Article 46 of the Constitution)

Half of the council members whose terms expire on July 28, 2025

... within 30 days before the end of the term of office (the Public Offices Election Law 32-1), or if it takes place within 23 days from the date of the closing of the Diet, within 30 days after 24 days from the date of the closing of the Diet (32-2).

The ordinary session of the Diet in 2025 will convene on January 24 and last 150 days until June 22 (unless the session is extended).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS 1: CONSTITUTION

Unlike the House of Representatives, there is no dissolution (Articles 45 and 46 of the Constitution)

: Highly predictable for House of Councillors election dates / Lowly predictable for House of Representatives election dates

Less authority than the House of Representatives (Article 59, 60 of the Constitution)

Some say: carbon copies, rubber stamps

On the other hand, however, it cannot be said that a "twisted" parliament and a divided government do not have power in general. In some situations, a strong veto power can

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS 2: ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Very mixed electoral system

At first glance, the system appears to be a district system plus proportional representation.

In reality, a primary election system + a middle election system + a proportional representation system

Even more complicated than the House of Representatives, which has a primary election plus proportional representation system

In primary elections, the "winds" (momentum) of the most recent political situation are likely to be output.

· Long-term trends are more likely to be output in a proportional representation system

...in the middle of the middle of the district.

As a result, the "cooperation game" between parties is difficult

FAMOUS PAST UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS

Foreshadowing of regime change: July 1989 "The Mountain Moved" (Takako Doi)

LDP loses 33 seats, a historic defeat, and loses its single-seat majority.

As a secret measure for stable administration: July 1986 "double election".

LDP wins 304 seats in the House of Representatives, a historic victory for the Liberal Democratic Party

CURRENT ELECTORAL AREA DISTRICTING

選挙区分	選挙区の数	都道府県
1人区	32	青森、岩手、宮城、秋田、山形、福島、栃木、群馬、新潟、富山、石川、福井、山梨、長野、岐阜、三重、滋賀、奈良、和歌山、鳥取・島根、岡山、山口、徳島・高知、香川、愛媛、佐賀、長崎、熊本、大分、宮崎、鹿児島、沖縄
2人区	4	茨城、静岡、京都、広島
3人区	4	北海道、千葉、兵庫、福岡
4人区	4	神奈川、埼玉、愛知、大阪
6人区	1	東京

NUMBER OF SEATS
CURRENTLY HELD
(TOTAL 248, BUT
ONLY PARTIES
WITH AT LEAST 5
SEATS)

LDP 113 (Female: 22)

CDP 42 (19)

Komei 27 (3)

JIP 18 (5)

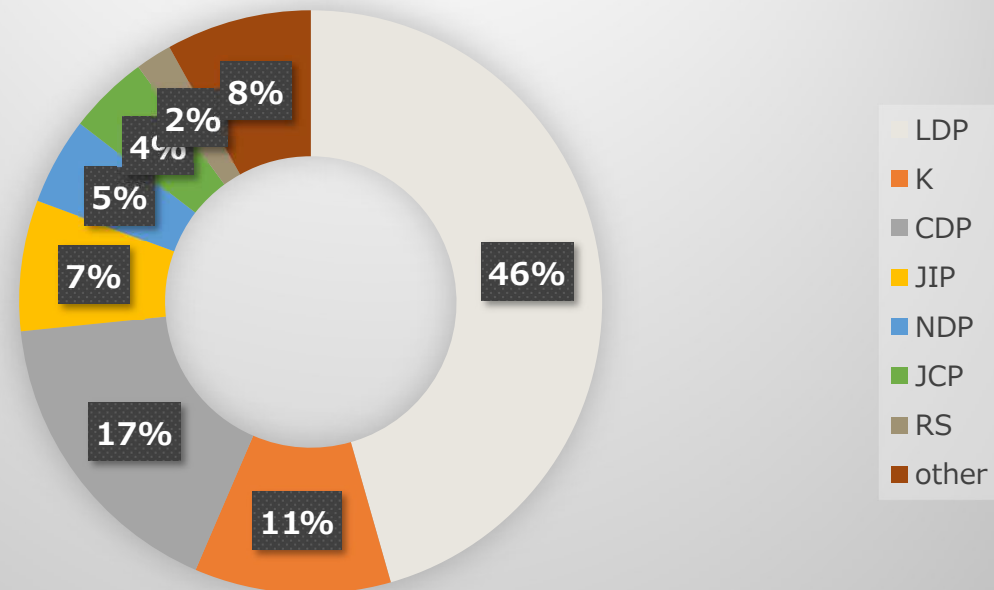
DPFP 12 (4)

JCP 11 (4)

RS 5 (1)

→ 140 by LDP+Komeito
securing a majority (124
or more)

Percentage of seats (including non-reelected)



NUMBER OF SEATS UP FOR ELECTION THIS TIME

political party	proportion	electoral district	plan
LDP	19 (5)	33 (5)	52 (10)
CDP	9 (3)	15 (7)	24 (10)
Komei	7 (0)	7 (1)	14 (1)
JIP	4 (0)	2 (2)	6 (2)
DPFP	3 (1)	2 (0)	5 (1)
JCP	4 (1)	3 (2)	7 (3)
RS	2 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)
otherwise			14

PROSPECTS FOR THE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION

LDP-Komei coalition lose their revised majority by -4, and -16 for the loss of their overall majority.

Is it too close to maintaining a majority of the seats up for election, or just barely a majority of the overall seats?

LDP▼down

CDP▼down

JIP▼ down

DPFP ▲up

JCP▼ down

RS▲up

The key points are whether the opposition parties can "fight together," whether the Communist Party can stand in single-seat constituencies, and constituency adjustments.

KEY POINTS OF THE CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

LDP and DPFP: Annual Income Barrier

LDP and JIP: Free Education

CDP and JCP: Security

LDP and Oppositional Coalition: "Politics and Money"

LDP and CDP: Electoral Reform


TWO SCENARIOS

Maintain LDP-Komei majority :

"deliberative politics" of a minority ruling party or expansion of coalition

Losing the majority :

full-fledged political realignment?



2、 HISTORY: THE PRESENT STATE OF JAPAN'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

WHICH ERA DOES IT RESEMBLE?

The 1955 regime (1955-1993)

one-and half party system


Heisei Democracy (1993-2016?)

pseudo two-party system

Neo 1955 system (2016-2024?)

one-party dominant system

It is not like any of them. If we were to go back, it would be the fifth Yoshida Shigeru cabinet (1953-1954).



3, COMPARISON: A RETREAT FROM DEMOCRACY?



IS THIS A SETBACK FOR DEMOCRACY?

Authoritarianism

Populism

polarization

**None of the above. If there is a danger, it is
fragmentation. The polarized multi-party system that
accompanies it.**

THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF "DELIBERATIVE POLITICS"

Merit: absence of power nucleus, under-power

**Demerit: Cultivation of "listening ears" in the LDP/
Cultivation of "sense of responsibility" in the
opposition**