



Volume 10. One Germany in Europe, 1989 – 2009
Election Results (1949-2009)

Bundestag election results from 1949 to 2009 illustrate the transformation of the Federal Republic's party system; they attest to the decline in voter support for the two mainstream parties, the CDU/CSU and the SPD, and the increase in voter support for smaller parties on the edges of the political spectrum. Voter turnout has been declining since the 1980s but is still high in comparison with other countries. The table only includes information on second votes (that is, votes for a party), because second votes largely determine the allotment of seats in the Bundestag.

Portion of second votes in %							
Year	Voter turnout in %	CDU/CSU	SPD	FDP	Greens (1)	The Left (2)	Other (3)
1949*	78.5	31.0	29.2	11.9	-	-	27.8
1953	86.0	45.2	28.8	9.5	-	-	16.5
1957	87.8	50.2	31.8	7.7	-	-	10.3
1961	87.7	45.3	36.2	12.8	-	-	5.7
1965	86.8	47.6	39.3	9.5	-	-	3.6
1969	86.7	46.1	42.7	5.8	-	-	5.5
1972	91.1	44.9	45.8	8.4	-	-	0.9
1976	90.7	48.6	42.6	7.9	-	-	0.9
1980	88.6	44.5	42.9	10.6	1.5	-	0.5
1983	89.1	48.8	38.2	7.0	5.6	-	0.5
1987	84.3	44.3	37.0	9.1	8.3	-	1.4
1990	77.8	43.8	33.5	11.0	3.8	2.4	5.4
1994	79.0	41.4	36.4	6.9	7.3	4.4	3.6
1998	82.2	35.1	40.9	6.2	6.7	5.1	5.9
2002	79.1	38.5	38.5	7.4	8.6	4.0	3.0
2005	77.7	35.2	34.2	9.8	8.1	8.7	4.0
2009	70.8	33.8	23.0	14.6	10.7	11.9	6.0

* each voter had only one vote

(1) In 1990, in the Eastern electoral region: Alliance 90/The Greens 6.2
Since the 5% hurdle was separate for the electoral regions, Alliance 90/The Greens was able to send 8 representatives to the Bundestag, but the Greens in the West were shut out (4.7 percent).

(2) known as the PDS up to July 17, 2005; then known as The Left.PDS until June 15, 2007; on June 16, 2007, merged with the Labor and Social Justice Electoral Alternative and was renamed The Left Party.

(3) including:

1949: Communist Part of Germany 5.7; no party affiliation 4.8; Bavaria Party 4.2; German Party 4.0; Center 3.1; Union for Economic Reconstruction 2.9

1953: All-German Bloc/League of Expellees and those of Deprived of their Rights 5.9; German Party 3.3; Communist Party of Germany 2.2; Bavaria Party 1.7

1957: All-German Bloc/League of Expellees and those of Deprived of their Rights 4.6; German Party 3.4

1961: All-German Party (German Party/League of Expellees and those of Deprived of their Rights) 2.8; German Peace Union 1.9

1965: National Democratic Party of Germany 2.0; German Peace Union 1.3

1969: National Democratic Party of Germany 4.3

1990: The Republicans 2.1; Alliance 90/The Greens 1.2

1994: The Republicans 1.9

1998: The Republicans 1.8

2002: Schill Party 0.8; The Republicans 0.6; National Democratic Party of Germany 0.4

2005: National Democratic Party of Germany 1.6; The Republicans 0.6

2009: PIRATES 2.0; National Democratic Party of Germany 1.5

Source: Forschungsgruppe Wahlen e.V. [Elections Research Group], *Bundestagswahl, Eine Analyse der Wahl vom 27. September 2009* [*Bundestag Elections, An Analysis of the Election on September 27, 2009*]. Reports of the Elections Research Group. Mannheim, no. 138, p. 83.

Translation: GHDI staff