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ELECTORAL VULNERABILITY INDEX 2025-2026

COUNTRY ANALYSIS

SLOVENIA

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: APRIL 2026



BACKGROUND

Slovenia is a parliamentary democratic republic where power is divided into the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The legislative branch is represented by the bicameral parliament, consisting of the National Assembly and the National Council. The National Assembly comprises 88 representatives of political parties and two representatives of the Italian and Hungarian ethnic communities. Previous General Elections in 2022 and 2018 were competitive and pluralistic, political freedoms were largely respected, few obstacles to participation, for voters or candidates, were observed, and the outcome was widely accepted.

The Freedom Movement, led by Robert Golob, a former executive of a state-owned energy company, won 41 seats- the highest number of seats for a single party in the elections since the independence of Slovenia. The Slovenian Democratic Party of incumbent prime minister Janez Janša finished second and won 27 seats. New Slovenia – Christian Democrats finished third and won 8 seats, followed by the Social Democrats with seven seats and The Left with five. Prime Minister Janša readily conceded defeat, and Golob was elected as Prime Minister after forming a post-electoral coalition with the Social Democrats and The Left.

Elections in 2022 were tense and polarized, with the campaign “tainted by offensive speech and negative rhetoric.”

Issues with freedom of expression were evident in the targeting by politicians of several journalists, including by the head of government, and their supporters. Overall, between 2018 and 2023 there was a decline in several factors of Rights, including Access to Justice, Social Group Equality and Civil Liberties (including Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press). It also declined in Rule of Law and its Judicial Independence and Predictable Enforcement factors.

Robert Golob’s government has taken steps to recover from a period of democratic contraction, including progress towards safeguarding the independence of the public broadcaster and the introduction of harsher sentencing for hate crimes. In December 2024 it approved the new Media Act, the first comprehensive overhaul of media legislation in more than twenty years. The new law provides for greater transparency of media ownership and state advertising, prescribes mandatory labelling of the use of artificial intelligence in the media and the disclosure of conflicts of interest that may affect the overall information of the public, while also making it easier to more effectively curb the spread of hatred and intolerance.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

A General Election for the 90 members of the National Assembly is expected by April 2026, though the Constitution allows for an earlier vote and there has been some speculation that snap election may be called as early as Autumn 2025. Polling conducted over 2024 and early 2025 indicates a lead for SDS, with The Freedom movement trailing by a few percentage points.

POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF CONFLICT

According to the Electoral Vulnerability Index (EVI), these are the factors that contribute most to the increased potential for violence:

- Government Intimidation during the last election
- Voting irregularities during the last election
- Score on V-DEM 'Clean Elections' Index
- Violence during the last election
- Government dissemination of false information
- Score on V-Dem's 'Elections Free and Fair' Index
- Lack of Autonomy of the Election Management Body
- Politically motivated arrests.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS & THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION:

- Measures should be taken to counter the still significant advantages of incumbency, particularly the misuse of administrative resources and undue influence over local media.

FOR NATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Establish or strengthen networks for monitoring the legality and proportionality of laws, police actions, and public assemblies during the election period, such as the Legal Network for the Protection of Democracy which has already set up mechanisms to monitor protests and provide legal support to individuals facing disproportionate penalties for non-violent public action.
- Combat Disinformation and Hate Speech through campaigns to improve digital literacy and counter disinformation. CSOs must also monitor and report online hate speech, and working with authorities such as the Hate Speech Council, prevent incitement to violence.
- Build Partnerships with State Institutions and International Bodies, such as state agencies, the Human Rights Ombudsman, and international organisations (i.e OSCE and EU observer missions) to amplify their impact and provide additional resources for violence prevention

FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

- Combine a number of approaches- observation, technical support, advocacy, and partnership —to help Slovenia maintain a peaceful, democratic environment during the 2025 elections:
- Support Civil Society and Human Rights Initiatives by providing funding and expertise on violence prevention, digital literacy, combating hate speech, and promoting social cohesion.
- Provide technical assistance and capacity building to the Electoral Commission.
- Deploy long and short-term independent electoral observation missions.
- Provide information, expertise and resources to combat disinformation and hate-speech, particularly online.