

## GREECE: Set for a 2nd term but Mitsotakis will have to wait for a 2nd election

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is set to secure a strong victory in Greece's parliamentary elections, but no viable government is expected to emerge from today's ballot. However, the outcome of vote suggests that ND is very likely to win a second term in office, though it will have to wait for a second vote this summer to secure an outright majority.

With around 51% of the ballots counted, ND is leading with 40.9% of the votes, leaving main opposition SYRIZA lagging with only 20.1%. Buoyed by ND's performance, Mitsotakis is expected to immediately seek a second vote, rejecting the option of a coalition government with PASOK, after this first election. Mitsotakis has made no secret of the fact that this would be his preferred outcome.

The result of today's vote leaves no room for a rival coalition to be formed. Not only ND secured a double-digit lead over SYRIZA but it also seems set to increase its shares of votes from the 2019 elections.

### [The path to a second vote](#)

From the day after the vote (22 May), each of the three leading parties will get the mandate to form a government, starting with the election winner, before passing to the second-, then third-placed party. Each party leader will have up to three days to form a government that can secure a vote of confidence in Parliament.

If there is no agreement. President Katerina Sakellaropoulou has the right to call a meeting of party leaders to try to reach an agreement. If this process fails, or is not even attempted, the Parliament elected on 21 May will be sworn in and then dissolved, paving the way for second elections to take place. A caretaker government will be sworn in.

The second vote has been penciled in for 2 July and will be conducted with a bonus system, awarding the winning party up to 50 seats extra. As a result, the threshold for a parliamentary majority will drop to 36-37%, which Mitsotakis will be confident of reaching after today's result.

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