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Analysis

Nepal's 2026 Election: The Results and What Next?

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- Major highlights across the media including ECN's instruction to submit their election expense report, and the conclusion of Election Police service.
- "Factsheet" displaying the breakdown of the final results of the 2082 Nepal House of Representatives Election.
- 'Community Voices' from youth on the journey from protest to accountable governance."

MARCH EVENTS

- **March 5-10** : FPTP vote counting & results declared across constituencies.
- **March 11** : Vote counting completed nationwide including PR votes.
- **March 11-13** : PR seat allocation and final parliament composition announced.
- **March 24** : Tentative date for new government formation after the President appoints the Prime Minister.

Nepal's 2026 Election: The Results and What Next?

The Election Commission Nepal (ECN) has finalized the results of the House of Representatives election held on March 5th, 2026, confirming outcomes from all 165 first-past-the-post (FPTP) constituencies, and allocating seats under the proportional representation (PR) system.

Under the [direct electoral system](#), the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) secured an overwhelming 125 seats, followed by the established parties Nepali Congress (NC) with 18 seats, CPN-UML with 9 seats, and the Communist Party of Nepal won 7 seats. Meanwhile, the newly formed party led by a former popular mayor of Dharan, the Shram Sanskriti Party won 3 seats, and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) won 1 seat, while one independent candidate was also elected.

The ECN has also completed the [allocation of 110 seats](#) under the proportional representation system. According to the distribution, RSP received 57 seats, Nepali Congress 20 seats, CPN-UML 16 seats, Communist Party of Nepal 9 seats, Shram Sanskriti Party 4 seats, and RPP 4 seats. Out of 11,280,617 votes cast under the PR system, 10,835,025 votes were deemed valid. With the combined results of both FPTP and PR systems, the RSP has emerged as the largest party in the House of Representatives with 182 total seats, falling just two seats short of a two-thirds majority. The NC has become the second-largest party with 38 seats, followed by CPN-UML with 25 seats in third position. The Communist Party of Nepal has secured 16 seats, the Shram Sanskriti Party 7 seats, and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party 5 seats. These six parties have qualified as the national parties of Nepal after crossing the 3 percent threshold under the proportional representation system.

Following the completion of vote counting under both systems, the political process has now moved toward the formation of a new government. Election Commission officials said the process will formally begin after the Commission submits the final election results report to the President. The Commission aims to submit the final report by March 19, although minor technical delays could extend it by a day. Once the report is submitted, the President will formally call for government formation. According to the Federal Parliament Secretariat, the country is likely to [have a new government by March 24](#). As the largest party with a clear majority, the RSP is expected to elect its parliamentary party leader and stake a claim to form the government. The party had campaigned with senior leader Balendra Shah as its prime ministerial candidate.

Since the adoption of the Constitution in 2015, no single party had secured an outright majority, and previous governments were formed through coalition arrangements under other provisions of Article 76. This will be the first time since then that a government will be formed under Article 76(1), which provides that the leader of the parliamentary party holding a majority in the House of Representatives shall be appointed the Prime Minister.

The current election has also challenged the long-held perception, including from experts, that Nepal's mixed electoral system, combining FPTP and PR, makes it difficult for a single party to secure a majority. With 182 seats, RSP has nearly achieved a two-thirds majority, breaking the trend seen in previous elections since the adoption of the mixed system after the 2006 political change.

Under constitutional provisions, the first meeting of the House of Representatives must be convened within 30 days of the final results. Before the session begins, newly elected members will take the oath of office. The senior-most member will first take the oath from the President and subsequently administer the oath to other members. The newly formed government will then be required to obtain a vote of confidence in the House within 30 days of its formation.

The 2026 House of Representatives election marks a major shift in Nepal's political landscape, with the RSP emerging as the clear majority and nearing a two-thirds threshold, challenging the trend of coalition governments under the mixed electoral system. However, the results also suggest a relatively weak opposition, which could reduce parliamentary checks but also allow smoother policymaking if strong democratic norms are upheld. As the country moves toward the formation of a new government that carries the youth's mandate, public expectations, especially from the youth, remain high for stronger governance, accountability, and meaningful reforms. The coming weeks will therefore be crucial in determining how this new political mandate translates into leadership, democratic practice, and policy direction for the country.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEWS

EC Closes Election Information and Operations Centres

The Election Commission Nepal has [closed the Election Education and Information Centre \(EEIC\) and the Joint Election Operation Centre \(JEOC\)](#) after completing the 2026 House of Representatives election process.

During its operation, the EEIC identified 998 pieces of toxic or misleading information, produced 704 voter education materials, and handled 8,220 public queries. The JEOC coordinated with security agencies to manage election security and logistics.

The Commission also thanked security forces, government agencies, media, and other stakeholders for supporting the successful conduct of the elections.

High Number of Candidates Lose their Deposits After Securing Less than 10% Votes

In the 2026 House of Representatives election, 2,890 out of 3,406 candidates running under the first-past-the-post system [lost their election deposits](#). Only 516 candidates managed to retain theirs. Among those who lost their deposits, 350 candidates received zero votes. Candidates securing less than 10% of valid votes forfeit their deposit of NPR 10,000, which is then added to the state treasury. Successful candidates can apply for a refund within 90 days of the final election results.

EC Directs Parties and Candidates to Disclose Election Campaign Expenses

The Election Commission has instructed all political parties and candidates from the 2026 House of Representatives election [to submit and publicly disclose their campaign income and expenditure](#) within 35 days of the election results announcement.

Under the 2017 House of Representatives Election Act, FPTP candidates must submit expense details to their district election offices, while parties under the proportional system must follow the Commission's specified format. The 2016 Election (Offence and Punishment) Act requires these details to be made public. Parties and candidates must provide proof of disclosure via a public medium, such as a photo or screenshot, to the Commission or the relevant office. Failure to submit, disclose, or provide proof within the deadline will result in action under the Election (Offence and Punishment) Act.

Suspension of the Election Code of Conduct

The Election Commission (ECN) had enforced the Election Code of Conduct, 2026, from January 18, 2026, for the National Assembly election on January 25 and the House of Representatives election on March 5 to ensure a free, fair, and transparent electoral process.

The Commission announces that, as decided on February 9, 2026, the [Code of Conduct is suspended](#) effective from March 8, 2026, midnight, until further notice.

Election Police Wrap Up Their Election Duties

The 40-day [deployment of election police](#) for the March 5 House of Representatives election has ended. Nepal Police deployed 133,980 personnel and the Armed Police Force 15,110. Both forces will formally discharge personnel on March 12 with letters of appreciation. Each officer received NPR 34,776 plus allowances for meals, travel, and uniforms. In total, 149,090 personnel were deployed, costing approximately NPR 783 crore in service allowances, NPR 713.25 crore by Nepal Police and around NPR 70 crore by the Armed Police Force.

Tragically, 12 personnel lost their lives during duty; their families will receive NPR 2 million insurance. Medical care was provided to those who fell ill during deployment.

Nepal House of Representatives Election 2082

Final Official Results

Total Seats
275

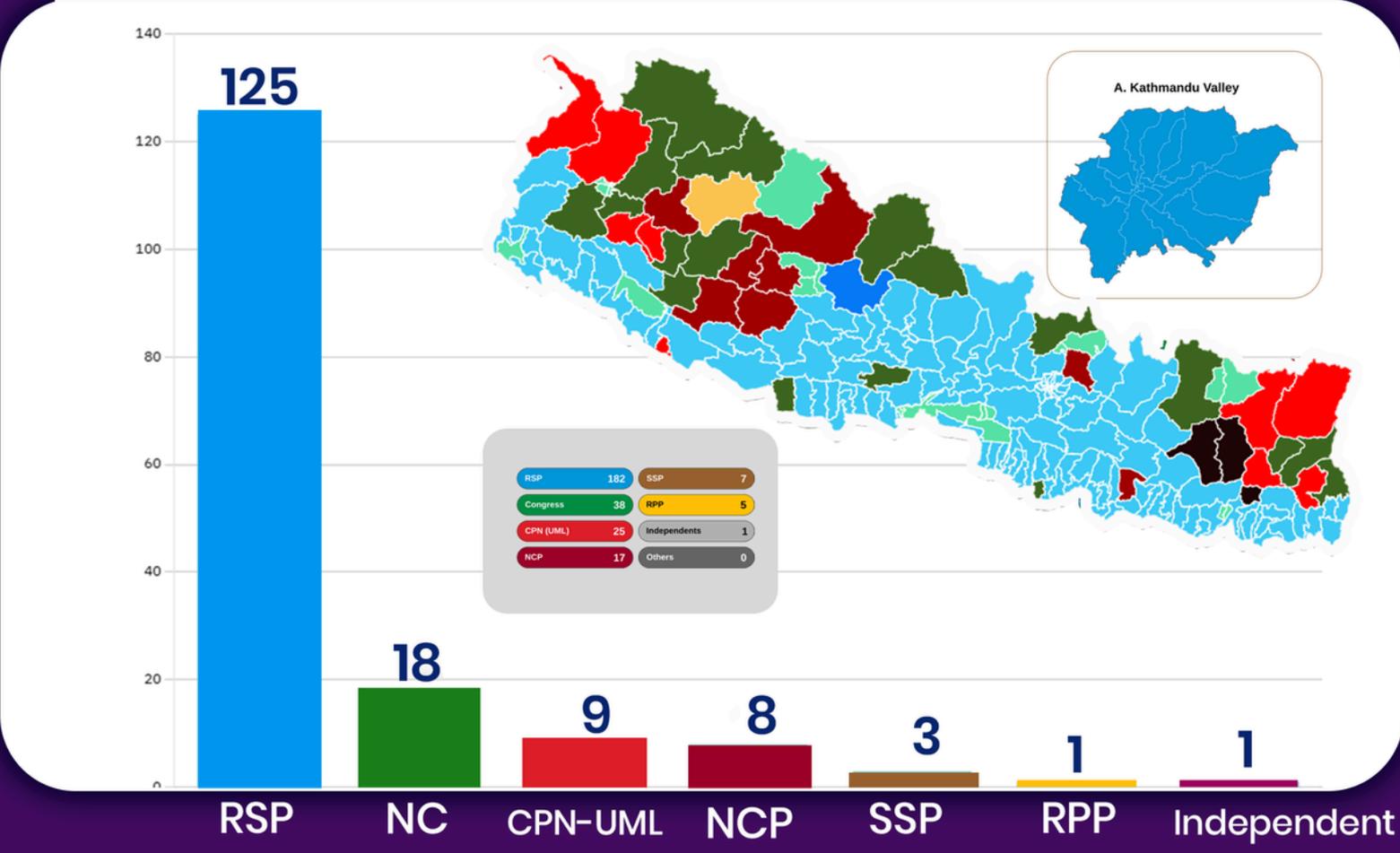
FPTP	165	60%
PR	110	40%

FPTP (Party-wise Winners)

3,405
Total Candidates

11,168,032
Votes cast

66
Political Parties

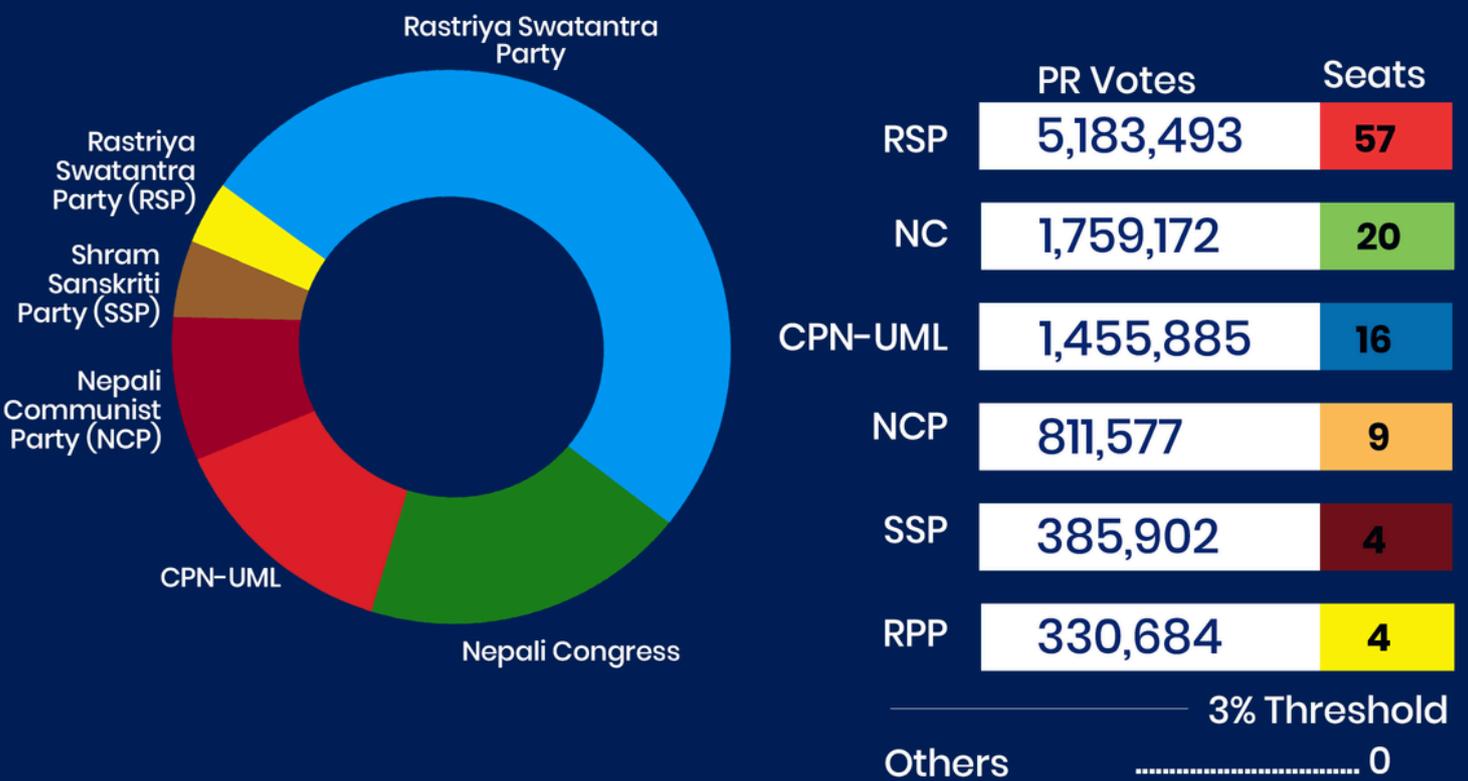


Proportional Representation Results

3,135
Total Candidates

11,280,617
Votes cast

63
Political Parties



Source: Election Commission of Nepal



Protest or Transition? Nepal's Youth Redefine Democracy

In conversation with a senior representative of a major traditional political party, concerns were expressed that the current wave of populism has surged risks in creating a political vacuum in the country. They contended that for the country's advancement in politics, newer parties should move beyond rhetoric and define clear political ideologies and frameworks to account for their win. It was also felt that the rise of the emerging parties in this election has heightened tension across the political landscape as supporters of established parties feel marginalized by the public sentiment. The results of the election were thus frequently interpreted as a protest vote against the existing status quo.

The youth sentiment, however, indicates that the current political situation represents a genuine transition rather than an impulsive protest, which reflects a deliberate and restrained exercise of democratic choice. For many young voters, the results reaffirm that sovereignty rests with the people and that ballots can hold even the most powerful leaders accountable, fostering both pride and motivation for greater political engagement. They attribute the success of newer candidates to their interactions with voters surrounding issues such as corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and lack of transparency, while traditional parties rely on entrenched networks and repetitive promises that fail to resonate with younger generations. They repeatedly cite their demand for stronger accountability and fresh political leadership.

This weekly newsletter is a joint initiative of Accountability Lab Nepal (ALN) and Digital Rights Nepal (DRN), specifically launched to provide comprehensive coverage and analysis of the 2026 elections in Nepal. During this time, this publication consolidates their regular newsletters, ALN's ***Nepal Governance Weekly*** and DRN's ***Digital Rights Weekly***. Consequently, those will not be produced separately until the election cycle concludes.

This material aims to promote electoral integrity and enable informed citizenry by delivering non-partisan, evidence-based analysis, and rights-oriented perspective. It does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidates.

The data presented here is synthesized from diverse credible sources, including government agencies, international organizations, news media, social platforms, and our extensive local networks. The topic selection are based on their prevalence, relevance, and potential societal impact, ensuring all information is accurate and verified at the time of publication.

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