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EU-backed Pashinyan declares victory before final Armenia vote count

The incumbent prime minister says his Civil Contract party has won enough support to govern alone

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Incumbent Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has claimed victory in the South Caucasus country's parliamentary elections, saying his ruling Civil Contract party will form a single-party government, even though the vote count was still in its early stages.

Speaking at a late-night briefing, the EU-backed Pashinyan said Civil Contract had secured enough support



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to govern alone. At the time of his statement, Armenia's Central Election Commission had published results from 455 polling stations, representing fewer than a quarter of the total.

Armenians head to polls in Yerevan for the parliamentary elections. © Getty Images / Ozge Elif Kizil/Anadolu

The election has been billed in Western media as a turning point in the country's modern trajectory, but has been marred by arrests of opposition candidates, a €50 million offer from Brussels, and deteriorating trade between Russia and Armenia.

What are the latest results from Armenia's election?

According to preliminary figures, Civil Contract was leading with 49.8% of the vote after results from 1,420 of 2,005 polling stations had been processed.

More than 2.4 million people were eligible to vote on Sunday as 18 political groups – including 16 parties and two alliances – battled for seats in parliament. Voters showed strong interest in the polls, with final turnout standing at nearly 59%, an increase of almost 10 percentage points from the 2021 parliamentary election.

Parties must secure at least 4% of the vote to enter parliament, while alliances of two or three parties face an 8% threshold and larger coalitions 10%. No minimum voter turnout is required for the election to be valid.

Pashinyan's ruling Civil Contract party is expected to remain the largest party in parliament, although it could still struggle to secure an outright majority. His leadership is being challenged by a fragmented opposition of 17 parties and political blocs.

How did the opposition react?

The opposition Strong Armenia bloc, trailing with 23.7% of the vote, said the election was "not over yet," rejecting Pashinyan's claim of victory as premature and accusing the authorities of deliberately delaying the count once results from urban areas started coming in.

"When they saw that their results were falling sharply every minute, they stopped counting, and we have no idea what figures they will present in the morning," said Strong Armenia leader Samvel Karapetyan, a Russian-Armenian businessman. Speaking at an emergency briefing, Karapetyan



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claimed that the authorities had continued *"illegal actions"* during the count and said his bloc would issue a statement once the final results had been summarized.

Karapetyan also said Strong Armenia had faced heavy pressure over the past month, claiming that around 75 members of his team had been arrested and more than 700 supporters detained.

Has the opposition been persecuted?

The vote came a day after Armenian authorities [detained](#) six parliamentary candidates from the Strong Armenia bloc, which has emerged as the main challenger to the government.

This followed recent televised debates in which Pashinyan, who came to power in 2018 after the 'Velvet Revolution', called for several major opposition groups to be removed from the election. The Central Election Commission, however, declined to strike Strong Armenia from the ballot.

Opposition groups have accused the authorities of exerting heavy pressure ahead of the vote. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the arrests cast doubt on the democratic character of the election. Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev accused Pashinyan of trying to sideline political rivals.

Was Armenia's diaspora excluded?

Polling stations were open only in Armenia, as the country's electoral laws do not provide for overseas voting in parliamentary elections. The measure excludes the diaspora, which far outnumbers the country's population. Between five and seven million Armenians live abroad, mainly in Russia, the US, and France. Armenia's domestic population is roughly three million.

To cast ballots, citizens living abroad must be present in Armenia on election day. In March, Yerevan further tightened the rules, barring those who have lived abroad for more than 10 years from voting.

Armenian officials have stated that male citizens of conscription age arriving from abroad to vote will be required to attend military training or face prosecution.

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The election has also been framed as a referendum on Armenia's geopolitical course. Critics argue that Yerevan's pivot toward the West has failed to provide meaningful security guarantees while damaging relations with Russia, the country's traditional ally and largest economic partner.

The campaign unfolded amid growing tensions between Yerevan and Moscow. Russia has warned that deeper integration with the EU would be incompatible with Armenia's continued membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Russian President Vladimir Putin said in May that leaving the bloc could cost Armenia up to 14% of GDP.

Earlier this month, former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan accused Pashinyan's government of artificially turning Armenia into an enemy of Russia and steering the country down a path similar to that of Ukraine.

French intelligence services allegedly helped the Armenian government block online publications critical of Pashinyan, according to French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

Pashinyan admitted that he held a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron before publicly claiming victory.

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Pro-EU Armenian ruling party wins parliamentary vote

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Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan is poised to stay in office, potentially causing a breakup with key partner Russia

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The Civil Contract party of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan won 49.81% of the vote in Sunday's parliamentary [election](#), according to the Central Election Commission's (CEC) complete count.

Pashinyan [claimed](#) victory while the counting was still underway, when his party's advantage was even wider, saying his party would be able to form a new government without having to form a coalition.

The prime minister posted a video of himself making his trademark heart-shaped gesture to the camera as Queen's 'We Are the Champions' played in the background.

Four parties and blocs cleared the threshold for seats in the new parliament. Strong Armenia, founded by Samvel Karapetyan, came in second with 23.29%. Karapetyan is being prosecuted over allegations that he plotted a coup during the 2024-2025 anti-government protests, while six candidates from his movement were [arrested](#) over the weekend. He said his party is facing political persecution.



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Yerevan, June 8, 2026. © Ozge Elif Kizil / Anadolu via Getty Images

The Armenia Alliance of former President Robert Kocharyan won 9.94%, while Prosperous Armenia, led by businessman Gagik Tsarukyan, narrowly crossed the 4% threshold. The CEC is expected to issue its final report on the vote within the week, after reviewing possible irregularities, which opposition parties say they plan to challenge.



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Opposition groups have accused Pashinyan's government of using underhanded tactics to weaken its rivals. Alongside the unexpected arrests of Strong Armenia candidates, a smaller party sought to have Karapetyan's movement disqualified outright. The CEC rejected the request, saying it lacked evidence of wrongdoing. Critics alleged that the effort was orchestrated by the prime minister.

There were also reports that younger Armenian citizens returning from Russia were required to check their

leader (VIDEO)

eligibility for military service before being allowed to vote.

Armenia does not permit voting from abroad and applies residency requirements to voters. Russia is the most important trading partner for the landlocked post-Soviet country and is home to around 2 million Armenians, compared to 3 million living in Armenia.

Pashinyan, who came to power following protests in 2018, campaigned on a pledge to move Armenia closer to the EU. Moscow has [warned](#) that this would harm bilateral ties and result in serious economic damage.

Pashinyan has argued that Armenia can continue benefiting from trade with Russia while pursuing closer alignment with the EU, even though the bloc has described confrontation with Russia as one of its strategic priorities.

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Armenia could face deep crisis over EU push – expert

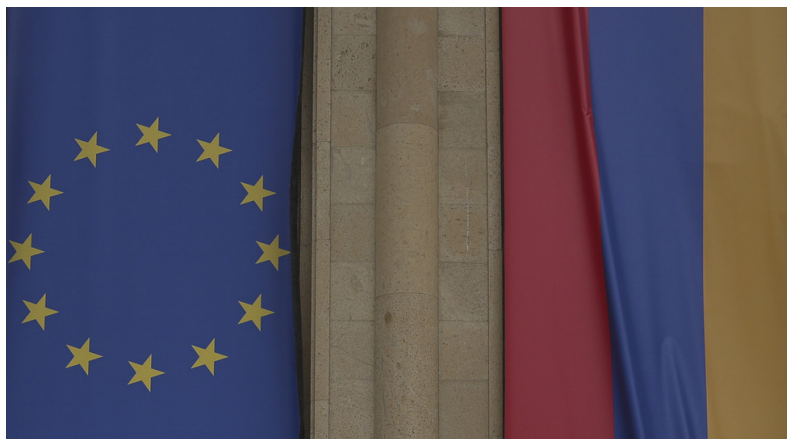
Yerevan risks losing economic preferences from Moscow that many take for granted, Aleksandr Bobrov told RT

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Armenia will eventually have to make a final geopolitical choice, because the prospect of integration with the EU is incompatible with membership in the Eurasian Economic Union, Aleksandr Bobrov, an associate professor at MGIMO, Russia's leading international affairs university, told RT.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan claimed victory in the country's parliamentary elections overnight, saying his ruling Civil Contract party would form the next government on its own.



FILE PHOTO © Danil Shamkin / NurPhoto via Getty Images

"This effectively means the continuation of the course set by the current authorities toward integration with the European Union and the United States, and, in turn, the gradual reduction to nothing of ties with Russia, the Eurasian Economic Union, and the CSTO," Bobrov said.

READ MORE: EU-backed Pashinyan declares victory before final Armenia vote count

While Pashinyan is likely to keep straining relations with Moscow and scaling down Armenia's participation in post-Soviet multilateral formats, Bobrov said the process could be gradual.

"The rather confrontational nature of our ties in recent months and weeks was driven by the elections and the need to mobilize his core electorate. Now, having come to power, he has the opportunity to pursue a more flexible policy, without always resorting to methods of megaphone diplomacy," he said.

Armenia is one of five members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), alongside Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan. The bloc operates a single market and harmonizes regulations to facilitate trade, investment, and other forms of economic cooperation.

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“It is absolutely clear that, at some point, Armenia will have to make its final geopolitical choice, because the prospect of integration with the European Union is incompatible with membership in the Eurasian Economic Union,” Bobrov said.

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Russia remains Armenia's key economic partner. Trade turnover between the two countries stood at \$6-8 billion in 2025, with Armenian exports to Russia alone reaching \$2.9 billion. Moscow also supplies Yerevan with natural gas on preferential terms, with Russian President Vladimir Putin previously saying Armenia receives gas at \$177.50 per 1,000 cubic meters, compared with a European spot price of around \$600.

“If Armenia ultimately makes the sovereign choice to leave the EAEU, this could of course have a very deep impact on Armenian society. The country could face a powerful socioeconomic crisis, because it would lose the preferences it currently enjoys and which many now take for granted. In such circumstances, Nikol Pashinyan’s position would no longer be so strong,” Bobrov said.

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