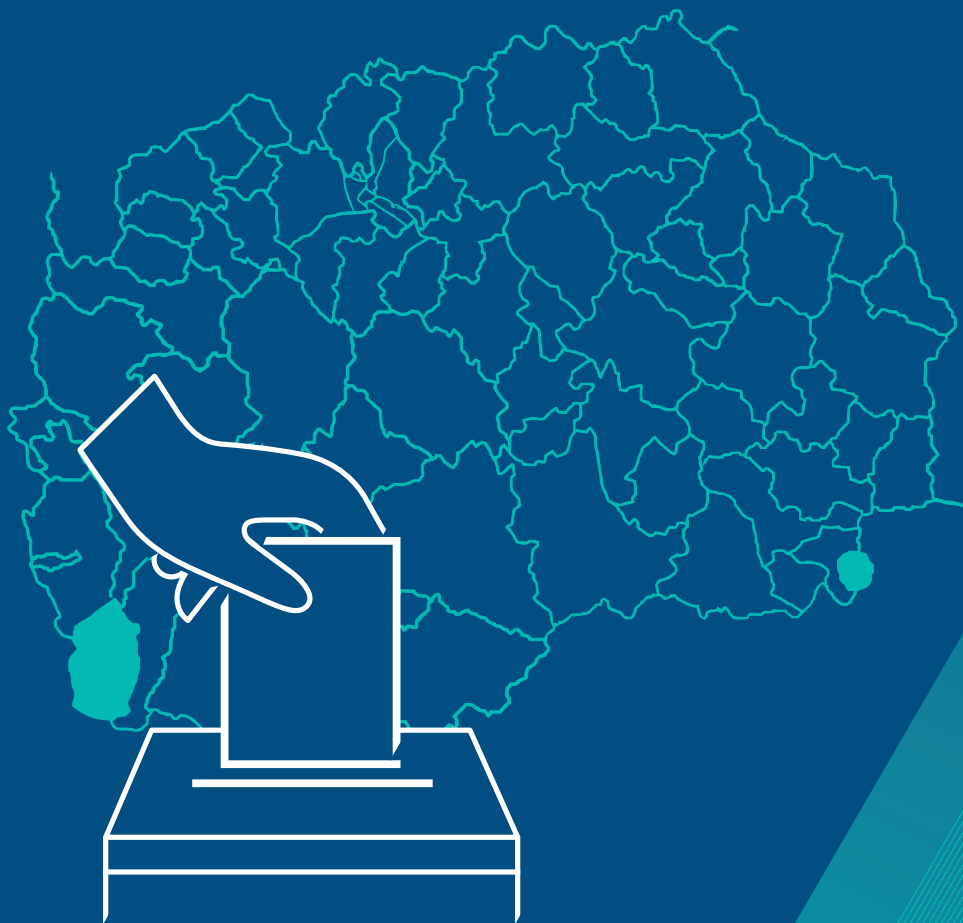


The Republic of North Macedonia's 2025 Local Elections Handbook



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Introduction

Introduction to the 2025 local elections

The eighth local elections since the independence of the Republic of North Macedonia will be held on October 19, 2025. In accordance with his legal powers, the President of the Assembly, Afrim Gashi, called the elections on August 9, 2025. Citizens will elect mayors and councilors in 80 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Over the past four years, from October 2021 to October 2025, the largest number of mayoral posts (42) have belonged to the VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition. Mayors supported by the coalition led by the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) headed 16 municipalities, and mayors supported by the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) headed 11. The coalition between the Alliance for Albanians and Alternative won 2 mayoral mandates, BESA-2 and the Coalition DOM/LDP, DPA and GROM one each. Three mayoral positions went to independent candidates.

In the municipal councils, the VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition prevailed, winning 469 council seats, the SDSM coalition – 402, and DUI – 167. The Alliance for Albanians and Alternative coalition had 81 council seats, Levica – 49, BESA – 36, and the DOM and LDP coalition – 29 council seats. Independent candidates were represented with a total of 67 council seats.

The 2021 local elections will be the first local elections to reflect the demographic changes shown by the 2021 Population Census. As a result, there was a decrease in the number of Council members in 14 municipalities, namely: Gostivar, Kichevo, Kratovo, Kriva Palanka, Kumanovo, Pehchevo, Struga, Vrapčishte, Debarca, Zhelino, Jegunovce, Novo Selo, Tearce and Centar Župa.

Amendments to the Electoral Code, adopted after the announcement of the 2024 elections, introduced a new obstacle for independent candidates in local elections - a fixed threshold of 1% signatures from all registered voters in the municipality, which significantly increased the requirement for independent candidacy in many municipalities and the City of Skopje.

These amendments were challenged before the Constitutional Court, which in May this year issued a Decision to repeal Articles 17 and 18 of the Electoral Code because they „directly threaten and weaken political pluralism.“ The Constitutional Court recommended that the Parliament adopt legislative amendments as soon as possible and fill the legal gap created by the repeal of the two disputed articles.

Despite requests from numerous independent councilors and movements, as well as civil society organizations, the MPs did not make any amendments to the Electoral Code and left the State Election Commission (SEC) to decide on the procedure for the nomination of independent candidates for mayors and councilors. Two weeks after the elections were announced, the State Election Commission adopted the Rulebook Regulating the Procedure for Collecting Signatures in Support of Candidate Lists from a Group of Voters, according to which independent candidates only need two signatures to participate in the local elections. After the adoption of the Rulebook, three significant risks emerged: the possibility of an excessive number of candidacies without a real intention to participate, abuse through the use of similar or borrowed names to confuse voters, and the potential emergence of voluminous, overly long ballots.

The mayoral race is contested by 5 coalitions, 18 political parties and 57 independent candidates. The councilor race is contested by 6 coalitions, 28 political parties and 67 independent councilor lists.

Preparation for the 2025 local elections

Following the Decision to Call Local Elections 2025, signed on August 9, 2025, by the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, Afrim Gashi, on August 17, 2025, the State Election Commission (SEC) adopted the Schedule for the Execution of Electoral Activities for Conducting Local Elections.

In accordance with the Schedule¹, the SEC is obligated to form the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) after the mandate of the previous commission has expired. Then, after being established the MECs form the election boards (EBs) and replace the members and deputy members whose mandates have expired for various reasons. MECs submit a request to the opposition political parties that won the most votes in the last elections and the political parties in power that won the most votes in the last elections to submit proposals for members of the EB and their deputies for the purpose of forming the EB and to submit the proposals no later than September 1.

In accordance with the Electoral Code, immediately after the call for elections, the SEC submits a request to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to submit the data on citizens. The data that must include the citizen's unique identification number

¹ Schedule for the execution of electoral actions for the conduct of elections for members of the municipal councils and the Council of the City of Skopje and mayors of the municipalities and the Mayor of the City of Skopje, 2025. Accessed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yxLT4YsZxAwu4faR_PcTTncyIVp1b5GZ/view (last viewed: 18 September 2025).

(EMBG), must be submitted by the Ministry of Interior to the SEC no in later than 48 hours. Then, no later than 15 days from the date of the call for elections, the State Election Commission makes the Voters' List available for public inspection in its regional departments and offices, as well as on the website izbirackispisok.gov.mk, where the voter, by entering his/her personal data, can check whether he/she is on the Voters' List and, if so, at which polling station he/she is voting and where it is located. In these elections, the inspection of the Voter List began on August 23 and ended on September 11 at 24:00. If there are requests for entering, supplementing or deleting data in the Voter List, they are submitted in the period from August 23 to September 11. The State Election Commission shall, within three days (i.e., by September 14th at the latest) after the completion of the public inspection of the Voter List², submit it to the political parties. The parties shall then, within five days of the submission, i.e., by September 19th, submit a request to the SEC for entering, supplementing or deleting data.

The Ministry of Interior is obligated, within one day of the completion of the Voters' List public inspection, i.e. on September 12, to submit a list of citizens who have submitted a request for the issuance of a new ID card or travel document on any basis and have collected them from the day the elections were called until the day the public inspection is completed, and a list of persons who will turn 18 by Election Day. The SEC enters the data on these persons in the Voter List ex officio.

The authority responsible for enforcing sanctions shall, no later than 30 days before the day set for elections, submit to the SEC data on persons who are in custody or serving a prison sentence based on the records kept by this authority. The data is submitted on a magnetic medium and must contain the citizen's unique identification number. This data is submitted no later than September 18th.

The Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth (MSDY) shall, no later than 30 days before the day set for elections, based on its own records and on the basis of the data submitted by the responsible persons in the institutions for non-family care, submit to the State Election Commission data on the persons who have registered to vote in institutions for non-family care no later than September 18.

The SEC shall conclude the voter list, in which all changes since the public inspection have been made, printed in the form of extracts, no later than 15 days after the public inspection has been completed, i.e. no later than September 26. The SEC then signs the finalized Voter List, i.e. the extracts from the Voter List on which

² State Election Commission – Public Inspection of the Voters List. Accessed at: <https://izbirackispisok.gov.mk/> (last viewed: 18 September 2025).

voting is conducted, no later than 15 days before the day of the elections, i.e. no later than October 3.

Political parties submitted their candidate lists for the local elections by midnight on September 13, when the deadline for submitting candidacies for mayors and councilor lists to the SEC expired, i.e. 35 days before the elections are held. By the deadline, 312 mayoral candidacies were submitted, including the candidacies of independent candidates. The deadline for collecting signatures for independent candidates began on August 18, the tenth day after the call for elections, and lasted for 15 days, until September 1.

According to the Schedule, the financial reports of the election campaign organizers are submitted to the SEC, the State Audit Office (SAO) and the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) within the following deadlines:

- » The participant in the election campaign, when the elections are held in one round, is obligated on the 11th day of the election campaign (October 9, 24:00), as well as within one day (October 18) after the end of the campaign, to submit a Report with a form on received election campaign donations to the transaction account. If a second round of voting is held in the elections, the participant in the election campaign is obligated to submit a report with a form on the election campaign donations received to the transaction account one day (November 1) before the second round of voting. The participant in the election campaign is obligated to immediately, and no later than within 15 days from the day of closing the transaction account, submit a complete financial report with a specification of the income and expenditure costs in the election campaign;
- » The participant in the election campaign is obligated, one day after the closing of the election campaign transaction account, to submit a report with a form on the donations received for the period from one day after the end of the campaign until the closing of the election campaign transaction account;
- » The participant in the election campaign is obligated to immediately, and no later than within 15 days from the day of closing the transaction account, submit a complete financial report with a specification of the income and expenditures costs in the election campaign;
- » The State Audit Office is obligated to conduct an audit within 60 days of the submission of the report;
- » Broadcasters, print media and electronic media (internet portals) in the Republic of North Macedonia are obligated to submit a report on the advertising space used by each of the participants in the election campaign and the funds

paid and claimed on that basis. The report is submitted no later than 15 days after the end of the election campaign, i.e. for the first round, November 1, by 24:00 hours, and for the second round, November 15, by 24:00 hours.

Participants in the elections

Of the confirmed lists of mayoral candidates, the largest percentage, i.e. 57%, were submitted by coalitions, 26% were submitted by political parties and 17% were submitted by a group of voters. The majority of confirmed candidates (90%) are men, while only 10% are women. The youngest mayoral candidate is 23 years old, the oldest is 79 years old, while the average age of mayoral candidates is 48 years old³.

Of the total number of confirmed candidates for municipal councilors and councilors of the City of Skopje, the largest percentage, i.e. 45%, are proposed by a political party, 43% are supported by a coalition, while 12% are from a group of voters, i.e. independent lists. More than half of them (55%) are men, while 45% are women. On the other hand, of the total number of candidates on candidate lists, 81% are men while 19% are women. The youngest 78 candidates proposed for councilors are 18 years old, 7 candidates are 90 or older, while the oldest candidate is 97 years old. The average age of candidates for municipal councilors is 43 years old⁴.

As submitters of lists of candidates for mayor and/or lists of candidates for council members, there are 6 coalitions and 26 political parties participating in these elections. Groups of voters have given support to 56 independent candidates for mayor and 67 independent candidate lists for council members⁵.

Recent changes to electoral legislation

In the period from the last local elections in 2017 to the elections scheduled for October 19, 2025, several changes were made relating to the provisions of the Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia. The changes relate to state electoral bodies, political campaign financing, campaign participants, as well as media coverage of the election campaign⁶. Further, these amendments to the Electoral Code provided for the State Election Commission to establish a Center for Continuous Education for Elections. This Center will provide continuous training for

3 The statistical data is obtained based on the information published by the State Election Commission (SEC) on its official website, accessed via: <https://candidateлист.sec.mk/LocalElectionsCandidates> (Last visit: 03 October 2025)

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 Official Gazette: Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Electoral Code, 58/2024.

the election administration, voters, participants in the election process, authorized representatives of list submitters, the media, election observers and all interested parties who participate in the elections in any way, and will also conduct research and analysis for the needs and at the request of the State Election Commission.

Additionally, the provisions regarding the registration of new voters have been further clarified, so that everyone who turns 18 by election day will have the right to vote.

The amendments to Articles 61 and 62 of the Electoral Code have significantly made it more difficult for independent candidates to be elected both at local and at national level. Namely, in accordance with Article 61, instead of the previous 1,000 signatures, submitters of independent parliamentary lists will in the future need the signatures of 1% of the registered voters in the Voters' List of the specific constituency. For local elections, however, in accordance with the amendment to Article 62, when the submitter of a list of candidates for members of the Council, i.e. a list of candidates for mayor, is a group of voters, it is necessary to collect at least 1% of the signatures of the registered voters in the extract from the Voters' List for the municipality, i.e. the City of Skopje, instead of the previous required signatures that varied from 100 to 1,000 (depending on the number of residents in the specific municipality)⁷. Immediately after these changes, some of the independent councilor lists that competed in the previous local elections and received a significant share of councilor seats reacted by saying that this type of changes to the Electoral Code are not in accordance with the OSCE recommendations and that they are also unconstitutional,⁸ for which an initiative was later submitted to the Constitutional Court to assess the constitutionality of these provisions.

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia, at a session held on May 20, 2025, adopted a decision⁹ to repeal Articles 17 and 18 of the Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Electoral Code ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 58/2024 of March 11, 2024), which previously should have changed Articles 61 and 62 of the Electoral Code and the required number of signatures for independent lists of councilors and independent candidates for mayors at the local level, as well as for independent parliamentary lists for members of parliament. In the explanation of this decision, the Constitutional Court refers to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, mainly the fundamental values

7 For an independent councilor list or mayor of the City of Skopje, instead of the previous 1,000, in accordance with these changes, 4,674 signatures are required.

8 „The parties pushed the independents off the ballot.» Radio Free Europe, March 12, 2024 Accessed on: <https://www.slobodnaevropa.mk/a/partiite-gi-istisnaa-nezavisnite-na-glasachkoto-livche/32858134.html>

9 D.No.186/2024 on 20.5.2025, <https://ustavensud.mk/archives/34667>

(Article 8, paragraph 1, lines 1, 3 and 5), the equality of citizens (Article 9), the freedom of association (Article 20), the right of every citizen to participate in the performance of public functions (Article 23) and several other constitutional provisions. The Constitutional Court further refers in its reasoning to international standards, such as: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Charter of Local Self-Government, as well as the Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights. In its reasoning, the Constitutional Court also refers to the final report of the OSCE/ODIHR Mission for the observation of the local elections held in 2021, which indicates that in practice the required number of signatures in support of independent councilors varied between 0.4% and 5% of registered voters in the respective municipality, which is contrary to international good practice and the principle of equal opportunity to run for election. It was pointed out that in order to ensure equal opportunities in the right to run for all candidates, the required number of signatures in support of independent candidates should be proportional to the actual number of registered voters per constituency, which is why it was recommended to consider the possibility of standardizing the required number of signatures to a maximum of 1% of registered voters in accordance with international good practice. Why the legislator decided on the highest possible percentage remains unclear due to the lack of an explanation in the Draft Law. The legislative amendment that increased the number of signatures required to nominate independent candidates by two, three, and in the case of the City of Skopje even more than 4 times, represents a significant infringement on the right to stand as a candidate, which in the absence of substantiated reasons by the legislator creates the impression that it was made exclusively in the interest of the larger political parties with the sole purpose of reducing the number of independent candidates at the very beginning of the election race. Without a sufficiently argued objective explanation, this amendment cannot be considered justified for the purpose of achieving any legitimate aim, nor that it is necessary and proportionate¹⁰.

This repealing, not annulling, decision of the Constitutional Court created a legal vacuum, because after the repeal of these two articles the previous legal rule does not come into effect, and the legislator should step in and fill this legal vacuum as soon as possible. Otherwise, the legislator's possible failure to act would mean an additional violation. With this legal vacuum, there was no legal rule under which conditions independent citizens would participate in the electoral process¹¹. At a session held on August 16, 2025, the RSM Assembly made an attempt to adopt amendments to the Electoral Code regarding the percentage of signatures of the

¹⁰ Ibid 4

¹¹ Statement of the President of the Constitutional Court on 20.5.2025, accessed on: <https://24.mk/details/ustaven-ukina-dve-odredbi-od-izborniot-zakonik>

total number of voters registered in the Electoral Register of the constituency that independent candidates should collect to participate in the local elections. The proposed amendments and supplements received support from the majority of MPs, but given that it is a solution that relates to local elections, it was necessary to vote according to Badinter. 18 of the MPs from smaller ethnic communities voted against the proposed amendments, while 11 voted “in favor”. The initial proposal submitted with these amendments envisaged that instead of the abolished 1%, it would be required to collect 0.95% signatures of registered voters for the independent lists in one electoral unit, i.e. municipality. After the debate in the Committee on Political System and Inter-Community Relations, this percentage was set at 0.5%, but even as such it did not receive the required Badinter majority.

On August 17, 2025, the State Election Commission (SEC) filled this legal gap by adopting a new Rulebook, with six votes “for” and one “against”, whereby only two citizen signatures are required to be collected for the participation of independent lists and mayors in the local elections¹².

State Election Commission

A person who is a citizen of the Republic of Macedonia with permanent residence in the country, has a higher education with at least eight years of work experience and is not a member of a political party body may be elected as a member of the State Election Commission. The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia shall, within 30 days before the expiration of the Commission's mandate, publish the Announcement for the election of the new composition, i.e. the election of the President, Vice-President and members of the SEC in the “Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia”, as well as in the daily press. The announcement shall last eight days from the date of publication in the “Official Gazette”.

The RSM Assembly shall, within 30 days before the expiration of the Commission's mandate, announce the procedure for selecting members. The procedure for selecting members shall remain the same and shall be prepared and implemented by the Commission for Elections and Appointments within the RSM Assembly. This Commission prepares a draft list of the registered candidates and submits it to the Parliament. From the candidates on the proposed list, the opposition proposes a president and two members, while the ruling parties propose a vice-president and three members. All members are elected by a two-thirds majority of the total number of Members of Parliament¹³.

¹² <https://www.sec.mk/lokalni-izbori-2025/>

¹³ KAS, IDSCS, Handbook for Presidential Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2024., Accessed at: <https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/handbook-on-2024-presidential-elections-mkd-version.pdf> (last visited: September 15, 2025).

In September 2021, with the intervention in the Electoral Code, several articles regulating the election, mandate, and work of the State Election Commission were changed. With the amendment to Article 26, the Commission members term of office is increased to five years from the date of election. In addition, the amendments to Articles 27, 29 and 30 regulate for the first time the process of reorganizing the Commission's composition in the event of a change of government, as well as the election of new members and the Secretary General¹⁴.

The amendments to the Electoral Code of 2024 oblige the State Election Commission to establish a Center for Continuous Election Education as a separate organizational unit within its service, which will be headed by a state advisor at the B1 level¹⁵, who will be accountable to the Commission and the Secretary General. The Center will aim to provide continuous training to the election administration, voters, election participants, the media and election observers, as well as to produce various research and analyses for the needs and at the request of the SEC¹⁶.

Financing of political parties

The Law on Financing of Political Parties has not undergone any changes in the last few years. The provisions relating to the specification of property and the financing of political parties (movable and immovable property), the amount of total funds for annual financing of political parties in the amount of 0.15% of the total source revenues of the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia, private sources of financing, the amount of individual donations that may not exceed the amount of 60 average salaries, as a donation from legal entities, and 30 net average salaries, if it is a donation from individuals, remain in force. With the latest amendments to the Electoral Code in March 2024, a new paragraph was added to Article 83 that regulates individual donations that political parties receive for election campaigns. Namely, the amount of funds cumulatively on the transaction account for an election campaign must not exceed 3,000 euros in denar equivalent from the same individual or 30,000 euros in denar equivalent from the same legal entity.

The funds for financing political parties in the amount of 30% provided from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia shall continue to be distributed equally to all political parties that have won at least 1% of the total number of votes in the

14 «Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia», Law on Amendments to the Electoral Code 218/2021.

15 According to Article 24 of the Law on Administrative Servants, a civil servant of category B1 is a first-level administrative officer who meets the requirements to have at least two years in a managerial position in the public sector, or at least three years in a managerial position in the private sector.

16 „ Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia”, Law on Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code 58/2024.

last parliamentary or local elections. Of those, 70% of the funds are distributed to political parties according to the number of elected members of parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia in the last parliamentary elections and according to the number of elected councilors in the last local elections.

Article 26 of the Law on Financing of Political Parties stipulates that the supervision of financing shall be carried out by the State Audit Office. The article also stipulates that parties must have only one bank account, and in the case of financing through the provision of funds from a loan from commercial banks, in addition to the main bank account, they may have another separate bank account for the party's funds provided through a loan. Furthermore, the political party has the right to transfer funds between its accounts, and the party research and analytical centers have a separate account. Funds from the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia in the amount of 280,000 euros in denar equivalent are also provided for annual financing of the party research and analytical centers that are established in accordance with the law as part of the internal organization of the party¹⁷.

The amendments to the law in 2018 created an obligation to submit a financial report on the material and financial operations of the party, which contains the financial operations of the account, i.e. the accounts of the political party. The amendments recognize the items "sponsorship" and "credit" as an additional part of the financial report. The amendments provide that the funds intended for financing political parties shall be paid in accordance with the budget possibilities, but no later than March 1 of each current year¹⁸.

Public Media

The ban from the amendments to the Electoral Code in 2018 remains in effect for this election cycle, which means that from the day the elections are announced until the start of the election campaign, broadcasters, print media and electronic media (portals) are not allowed to broadcast, i.e. publish paid political advertising, except for advertisements and announcements for collecting signatures in support of a candidacy of a group of voters. In cases of broadcasting, i.e. publishing announcements for collecting signatures in support of candidacies, this is done in designated advertising blocks within the allowed advertising time of one real hour.

17 «Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia», Law on Amendments to the Law on Financing of Political Parties, 140/2018.

18 KAS, IDSCS, Handbook for Presidential Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2024., Accessed at: <https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/handbook-on-2024-presidential-elections-mkd-version.pdf> (last visited: 15 September 2025).

The amendments to the Electoral Code of March 2024, however, provide for a restriction on the promotion of candidates, i.e. from the moment the candidate lists are confirmed until the start of the election campaign, the participants in the elections have the right to organize one public event each to promote their confirmed lists of candidate(s) and election programs. Consequently, Article 69-a prohibits parties from spending funds allocated for the election campaign during the aforementioned period.

During the first and second rounds of the election campaign, broadcasters covering the elections may broadcast a total of nine minutes and thirty seconds of additional advertising time per real hour of broadcast programming exclusively intended for paid political advertising. Of these nine and a half minutes, a total of four minutes can be allocated to the two largest political parties in power, four minutes to the two largest political parties in the opposition, one minute to the political parties in the Parliament that did not win enough MPs to form a parliamentary group in the last parliamentary elections, as well as thirty seconds to the political parties that are not represented in the Parliament¹⁹.

Broadcasters, print media and electronic media (internet portals) are obligated, within five days from the day the elections were called, to establish price lists for paid political advertising for participants in the electoral process and, also, within three days from the day the elections were called, to register with the State Election Commission. Broadcasters, print media and electronic media (internet portals) that do not register with the State Election Commission will not have the right to use financial resources for paid political advertising, provided by the Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia.

State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption

In accordance with the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest²⁰ and the Electoral Code, the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) has a key role in ensuring the integrity and fair conditions of the electoral process. Its competencies are aimed at preventing the misuse of state resources, controlling campaign financing and strengthening transparency.

The SCPC monitors the legality of the use of budget funds and the financing of election campaigns from the day the elections are announced until their completion.

¹⁹ KAS, IDSCS, Handbook for Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2024. Accessed at: <https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/belegexemplar-2024-handbook-on-2024-parliamentary-elections-mkd-version.pdf> (last visit: September 15, 2025).

²⁰ «Official Gazette», Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest, 12/19.

In case suspicions of illegal financing are established, the Commission is obligated to initiate a procedure to establish the factual situation and, if the suspicions are confirmed, to initiate a procedure for accountability before the competent authorities. Campaign organizers are obligated, upon request, to submit additional data in order to ensure effective supervision.

In case of suspicion of illegal financing of an election campaign, the SCPC may initiate a procedure to determine the factual situation and, if it determines that the suspicions are well-founded, it is obligated to initiate a procedure to determine liability before the competent authorities within 15 days of the decision.

With the amendments of September 15, 2021, the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption is obliged to publish on its website the register of official motor vehicles of state bodies, local self-government bodies, public enterprises and all other legal entities that have state capital. The deadline for submitting data on the number, type, license plate and driving condition of motor vehicles to the SCPC is ten days from the date of the decision to call elections. The data shall be submitted electronically on a form prescribed by the State Election Commission upon proposal of the SCPC. In the event that the data is not submitted, the SCPC may initiate a misdemeanor procedure within 15 days from the expiration of the deadline for submittal of the data.

The SCPC inspects public procurement documentation during the election process to prevent favoritism and discrimination in awarding contracts. Additionally, if there are suspicions of bribery or pressure during voting, the SCPC is obligated to notify, without delay, the Public Prosecutor's Office.

Based on the information obtained, the SCPC prepares a special report on the determined conditions, which is submitted to the Parliament within three months after the end of the elections and is made public. These reports represent an important instrument for analyzing the conditions and as such have a preventive function - they warn of risks and influence public awareness.

The role of the SCPC is twofold – control (through inspection, procedures and sanctions) and prevention (through publicity, transparency and data publication). It is an additional corrective mechanism that complements the work of the State Election Commission (SEC), providing a broader framework for election integrity.

Although the legal framework provides strong powers, in practice there are several challenges, especially in terms of capacity, where the SCPC often faces limited

human and financial resources to cover during the elections the entire territory and all institutions. Furthermore, in terms of effectiveness, where the real effect of the procedures depends on cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office, the SEC and other institutions, sometimes the measures remain at the level of recommendations, and in terms of public trust, the citizens' perception of the impartiality and efficiency of the SCPC directly affects the legitimacy of the electoral process.

The SCPC plays a crucial role in holding fair and democratic elections by preventing corruption and misuse of public resources. However, for that role to be fully effective, it requires continued institutional support, capacity building, and improved cooperation mechanisms with other competent authorities.

State Audit Office

The legal task of the State Audit Office (SAO) is to audit the use of public funds and provide information to state institutions and the public on the proper use of funds. With the changes to the Electoral Code in 2020, the State Audit Office ex officio audits the overall financial report for the election campaign, in accordance with the auditing standards of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the rules set out in the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, which are published by the Minister of Finance in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia"²¹.

Upon request from the SAO, participants in the election campaign are obliged to submit additional data and notifications on the financing the election campaign. Payment service providers with whom the transaction account for financing the election campaign has been opened are obliged to submit all required data about that account and the transactions on it. Additionally, entities that provide media advertising services are obliged, upon request by the SAO, to submit all contracts, invoices and other financial documents for financing the election campaign.

The SAO has the right to request data on paid political advertising of election campaign participants from the AAVMU. It may also request financial documents from third parties regarding the financing of election campaign participants.

The State Audit Office should publish the audit reports from the audit of the financial statements of the participants on its website, within the deadline set by

²¹ «Official Gazette»: Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Electoral Code, 42/20.

law, and should submit them to the SEC and SCPC.

In case it determines irregularities in the financial reports of the participants in the election campaign, in accordance with the Electoral Code (Article 85-b paragraph 9), the SAO submits a request to initiate a misdemeanor procedure or a report to the competent public prosecutor within 3 days from the date when the irregularities were determined. This way, the role of the SAO is not limited only to ascertaining the factual situation, but also to take an active initiative to sanction violations.

The SAO not only identifies possible irregularities, but also has a preventive function through its reports influencing public awareness of how funds are spent in elections, putting pressure on political parties and candidates to be more careful and transparent in their financial operations, and increasing public confidence in fair competition in elections.

Although the SAO formally has strong competencies, in practice there are certain challenges:

- » Limited resources: Auditing all election participants requires significant human and technical capacity;
- » Deadlines: Legal deadlines for review and sanctioning are short, which can make it difficult to act thoroughly.;
- » Effectiveness of sanctions: Although the SAO can initiate misdemeanor proceedings, the ultimate responsibility for punishment lies with the judicial and prosecutorial authorities, which sometimes results in delayed or limited sanctioning.

The SAO plays a crucial role in the electoral process by ensuring transparency and legality in campaign financing. Its work is a key part of the control mechanism that guarantees fair competition between political entities. However, in order to fully realize this role, continuous strengthening of institutional capacities and promotion of inter-institutional cooperation are necessary.



**History of local elections in
the Republic of
North Macedonia
(1996 – 2021)**

1. History of local elections in the Republic of North Macedonia (1996 – 2021)

The first local elections in the independent Republic of Macedonia were held in 1996, with an average voter turnout of 60.17% for councillors and 60.28% for mayors. These elections saw the annulment of voting in several municipalities; thus, the data presented do not include the results from a total of nine municipalities. The elections were conducted pursuant to the territorial organisation established in 1996, providing for the formation of 123 municipalities and the City of Skopje. In these elections, the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) won 51 mayoral seats, VMRO-DPMNE and MAAK won 27, and the Socialist Party won 19. A total of 1,495,288 citizens were eligible to vote in these first local elections.

The 2000 local elections were marked by a significant number of violations of the electoral process and international standards, including incidents of violence and voter intimidation. Armed incidents were reported in several municipalities (Gostivar, Tetovo, Labunista, Dzepciste, and Mavrovi Anovi). Violence was also recorded in the second round of voting. The OSCE/ODIHR Mission reported group voting in 25% of the polling stations it observed. The winner of the 2000 local elections was the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and the Democratic Alternative, securing 59 mayoral positions, followed by the SDSM-led coalition with 32 mandates, the PDP-NDP with 23, and other parties and independent candidates with 7. There were 1,634,859 registered voters for these elections.

The 2005 local elections again failed to meet international election standards. Unlike the previous ones, these elections were not marked by violence but were characterised by numerous irregularities. They were the first to be held according to the territorial organisation of 2004, under which the country had 84 municipalities plus the City of Skopje. The International Election Observation Mission reported 30 cases of ballot-box stuffing. In nine municipalities, including the City of Skopje, voting in the first round was repeated due to a large number of complaints for electoral irregularities, which delayed the second round. The SDSM-led coalition won these elections with 36 mayoral seats, followed by the VMRO-DPMNE coalition with 21, and DUI with 15 mayors. Other parties and independent candidates won 13 mayoral positions, including the independent candidate for Skopje, Trifun Kostovski,

supported by VMRO-DPMNE. There were 1,711,293 registered voters in 2005.

The 2009 local elections were held on the same day as the presidential elections and were the first to generally comply with international standards. However, the OSCE/ODIHR Mission still noted numerous irregularities, mainly related to pressure and intimidation of voters, especially those employed in public administration and recipients of social assistance. VMRO-DPMNE won in 56 municipalities, DUI in 15, SDSM secured 7 mayoral seats, while other parties and independent candidates won 7. There were 1,792,082 registered voters in these elections.

The next **2013 local elections** took place in a calm atmosphere and received positive evaluations for the way they were conducted. Although rare, observer remarks included cases of breaching ballot secrecy, family voting, and destruction of campaign materials. This election cycle saw the first application of the new Law on Local Self-Government, under which mayors and councillors were elected in 80 municipalities and the City of Skopje. These elections recorded the highest voter turnout in the history of local elections, with 67% turnout in the first round and 59% in the second. VMRO-DPMNE was once again the winner with 56 mayoral seats, DUI won 14, SDSM 4, while other parties and independents secured 7. A total of 1,743,404 citizens were eligible to vote in 2013.

The 2017 local elections were held in a peaceful and competitive atmosphere, with no major incidents or irregularities, which did not significantly affect the outcome. Voter turnout was 59.91% in the first round and 51.92% in the second—noticeably lower than in the previous cycle. These elections were characterised by the restraint of candidates from major parties from using aggressive rhetoric on ethnic grounds, while some parties also reached out to voters from other ethnic communities. The SDSM-led coalition won with 57 mayoral positions, including the City of Skopje. The VMRO-DPMNE-led coalition won 5, DUI won 10, and the Alliance for Albanians, participating for the first time as a separate political party, secured 3 mayoral seats. BESA, DPA, and DPT each won one mayoral seat, and independent candidates won three.

The 2021 local elections were held on 17 October (first round) and 31 October (second round). They took place in a competitive ambience with respect for fundamental freedoms but were marked by predominantly negative rhetoric, especially during the second round. Voter turnout was 51.44% in the first round and 49.65% in the second—a decline compared to 2017. During the campaign, parties were able to campaign freely, with freedoms of association, assembly, and expression respected. These elections were notable for their increased focus on

environmental issues and the significant number of independent candidates for both mayoral and council positions. The coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE won 42 mayoral seats—37 more than in 2017. SDSM and its coalition won 16, which is 41 fewer than in the previous elections. DUI secured 11 mayoral positions, BESA and the Alliance for Albanians–Alternative coalition each won two, while DPA, GROM, and the “Determined for Change” coalition (LDP and DOM) each won one. Three independent candidates won in Kumanovo, Debarca, and the City of Skopje. VMRO-DPMNE won 469 council seats, SDSM - 402, DUI - 167, the AA/Alternative coalition 81, Levica - 49, BESA - 36, the “Determined for Change” coalition -29, DPTM - 17, and DPA - 9. The joint council list of DUI, the Alliance for Albanians, and Alternative in the Municipality of Chaska won 4 seats. TMRO won 3, GROM - 2, SRM - 2, PDT - 2, and DNET - 2. One council seat each was won by DSR, United Macedonia, Podem, BDS, DDPS, and “Rom-Romeske”. Independent lists collectively secured 67 council seats²².

For more information about the history of local elections from independence to the present day, please refer to the Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021²³.

Table 1: Voter Turnout in Local Elections (1996-2021)²⁴, First and Second Round²⁵

Year	1996	2000	2005	2009	2013	2017	2021
Turnout	60 % (51 %)	59 % (53 %)	56 % (53 %)	57 % (43 %)	67 % (65 %)	60 % (52 %)	51 % (49 %)

22 For more information, see: KAS, IDSCS Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021, second revised edition. Available at: https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf. (last accessed: 13 September 2025).

23 Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021, second revised edition. KAS and IDSCS, 2020, pp. 27–33. Accessed at: [belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf](https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf) (last accessed: 16 September 2025).

24 For more information, see: KAS, IDSCS, Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021, second revised edition. Available at: https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf. (last accessed: 13 September 2025).

25 The first percentage refers to voter turnout in the first round, and the second to turnout in the second round. The percentages are rounded.



2

Macedonian electoral system for local elections

2. The Macedonian electoral system for local elections

Electoral model²⁶

In the Republic of North Macedonia, elections for mayors in the local self-government units (LSGUs) are conducted under a majoritarian system, while elections for members of municipal councils are carried out under a proportional system. Local elections are held every four years, in the second half of October. The President of the Assembly calls the elections by an act published in the Official Gazette, and a period of 70 to 90 days must elapse between the announcement and the election date. A mayor is elected if a candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round, provided that the turnout is at least one-third of registered voters. If this condition is not met, a second round is held between the two candidates with the most votes. If only one candidate participates and fails to obtain a majority, the election is repeated. The second round takes place 14 days after the first, and the winner is the candidate who receives the higher number of votes. Councillors are elected proportionally according to the D'Hondt formula, whereby the total number of votes received by each list of candidates is divided by a series of divisors (1, 2, 3 ... up to the number of council seats). The highest quotients are then taken, and each list receives as many mandates as the number of its highest accepted quotients.

Electoral bodies

The State Election Commission (SEC), together with the Municipal Election Commissions (MECs), the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, the Election Boards (EBs), and Special Election Boards (SEBs), are responsible for administering local elections. The SEC consists of seven members elected by the Assembly with a two-thirds majority for a term lasting until a new composition is elected, but no longer than two years. It is responsible for publishing and providing public access to the Voters List. Following amendments to the Electoral Code in March 2024²⁷, the SEC was mandated to establish a Centre for Continuous Electoral Education as a separate organisational unit within its Secretariat. The Centre is headed by a State

26 "Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021," second revised edition. Accessed at: https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_versionnot_exceeding.pdf (last accessed: 11 September 2025).

27 "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia," Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code No. 58/2024.

Counsellor, rank B153, who reports to the Commission and the Secretary-General. Its role is to provide continuous training for electoral administration, voters, election participants, the media, and observers, as well as to conduct research and analyses at the initiative or upon the request of the SEC.

The MECs and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, comprising five members each with a five-year term, conduct elections and oversee the work of election boards within their jurisdiction. Election boards are formed for each polling station and consist of five members with a four-year term—some randomly selected from the civil service, and others nominated by ruling and opposition parties. The law guarantees appropriate representation of non-majority communities in municipalities where they constitute at least 20% of the population, at least 30% representation of each gender, and a prohibition on membership for persons holding specific state or administrative positions.

Right to be elected

Every adult citizen of North Macedonia who possesses legal capacity and has permanent residence in the municipality or the City of Skopje where elections are held has the right to vote. Voting is secret, and no one may demand that a voter disclose for whom they voted or why they did not vote. The SEC informs and educates citizens on voting procedures and provides instructions and candidate lists in all official languages at polling stations. A candidate for mayor or councillor must be at least 18 years old, legally competent, have permanent residence in the municipality, and not be serving or have an unserved prison sentence exceeding six months.

Restrictions for incumbent officials²⁸

The positions of mayor and councillor are considered professional roles and are therefore incompatible with the holding of high state or administrative functions, a parliamentary mandate, engagement in business activities, or membership in management boards of public enterprises and entities with state-owned capital. The Mayor of the City of Skopje may not simultaneously serve as a mayor or councillor in any of the municipalities that fall within the city's administrative territory. From the announcement of elections until their completion, certain activities are expressly prohibited. These include initiating new infrastructure projects without prior budgetary allocation, making extraordinary payments, undertaking

²⁸ Electoral Code (consolidated text). Accessed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yOTG7wUyNoUk1_AkIYrNbD4gHQWzS5y/view (last accessed: 19 September 2025).

new employment, disposing of state assets, signing collective agreements, or performing any other actions forbidden under the Electoral Code. Any violation of these provisions is subject to fines and criminal liability. Candidates who are members of the armed forces, police, or security services must suspend their employment during the election campaign and are not permitted to participate in campaign activities while wearing their official uniforms. Furthermore, within 20 days before the start of the election campaign, it is prohibited to hold public events for inaugurating or opening facilities financed from public or budgetary funds. The Ministry of Finance is obliged to publicly disclose all budget expenditures and to submit a pre-election financial report.

Number of council members

The number of members in a municipal council depends on the population size of the respective unit of local self-government. Municipalities with up to 5,000 inhabitants have councils composed of nine members, while those with between 5,001 and 10,000 residents have eleven. Municipalities with populations ranging from 10,001 to 20,000 elect fifteen councillors, and those between 20,001 and 40,000 elect nineteen. In municipalities with between 40,001 and 60,000 inhabitants, councils consist of twenty-three members; those with between 60,001 and 80,000 have twenty-seven; and municipalities with populations between 80,001 and 100,000 elect thirty-one councillors. The largest municipalities, with over 100,000 inhabitants, have councils composed of thirty-three members. The Council of the City of Skopje, as the capital, consists of forty-five members²⁹.

Right and procedure for submitting candidacies for mayor or councillor

The right to submit candidate lists for councillors and mayoral candidacies belongs to registered political parties, individually or in coalition, and groups of voters (independent lists). Independent candidates have been directly affected by the most recent amendments to the Electoral Code. In June 2025, a proposal was submitted to the Assembly to reduce the signature threshold required for independent candidates from 0.95% to 0.5% of registered voters. The proposal, however, did not receive sufficient support and was not adopted³⁰. This initiative followed a Constitutional Court ruling repealing Articles 17 and 18 of the Electoral Code, which had required independent candidates and lists to collect at least 1% of voter signatures in their municipality to be eligible. This effectively abolished the

29 Article 34 of the Law on Local Self-Government, "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 05/16.

30 Radio Free Europe: "The Assembly Did Not Adopt the Amendments to the Electoral Code." Accessed at: (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

highest threshold for signature collection³¹. In such conditions, the State Election Commission (SEC) adopted a formal conclusion³² annulling the previous regulation on signature collection and enacted a new Rulebook³³, under which independent candidates and groups of voters may stand for the 2025 local elections with only two signatures. Later, the Constitutional Court decided not to initiate proceedings to review the constitutionality of this Rulebook, leaving it in force³⁴.

Election campaign³⁵

The election campaign for the 2025 local elections begins 20 days before election day, i.e. at 00:00 on 29 September, and ends at 24:00 on 17 October³⁶. The campaign for the second round runs until 24:00 on 31 October. In both rounds, campaigning is prohibited 24 hours before and on election day. The day before the first round, 18 October, is a pre-election silence day, during which candidates may not campaign and media outlets may not broadcast campaign materials. The same rule applies on 1 November, the day before the second round.

The Electoral Code has undergone several amendments concerning campaign conduct. The March 2024 amendments introduced a new paragraph to Article 83, regulating individual donations to election campaigns. It stipulates that contributions from a natural person may not exceed EUR 3,000, and those from a legal entity may not exceed EUR 30,000, both in denar equivalent. From the confirmation of candidate lists until the official start of the campaign, participants may organise only one public event to promote confirmed lists and programmes, and no campaign funds may be spent during that period³⁷.

31 Decision of the Constitutional Court No. 186/224. Accessed at: <https://ustavensud.mk/archives/34667> (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

32 Conclusion of the State Election Commission on the annulment of the Rulebook regulating the procedure for collecting signatures and determining the notaries, No. 08-563-1 of 20 February 2024. Accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ySAw9lQVzj6w4l9ptHbs33jwVVC6gCD2/view> (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

33 Rulebook regulating the procedure for collecting signatures in support of candidate lists submitted by groups of voters and the manner of determining notaries for the 2025 Local Elections. Accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Cv5oZDTnL4KXwVEyf8VSDXv5GQ1wd3QC/view> (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

34 Press conference of President Dr Darko Kostadinovski following the 19th session of the Constitutional Court. Accessed at: <https://ustavensud.mk/archives/35722> (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

35 KAS, IDSCS, Handbook on Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2024, second revised edition. Accessed at: <https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-handbook-on-2024-parliamentary-elections-second-updated-mkd-version.pdf> (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

36 Timetable for the implementation of electoral activities for the conduct of elections for members of the municipal councils, the Council of the City of Skopje, and for mayors of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, 2025. Accessed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yxLT4YsZxAwu4faR_PcTTncyIVp1b5GZ/view (last accessed: 18 September 2025).

37 "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia," Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code No. 58/2024.

Role of the media³⁸

During the campaign, private media, online portals, and the public broadcaster must ensure equal, impartial, and balanced access for all electoral programmes and candidates. The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAVMS) monitors media coverage and initiates misdemeanour proceedings in case of violations of the principle of equality. Editors and journalists are prohibited from participating in campaigns; if they do, their professional engagement in the media is suspended until the end of the elections. The Macedonian Radio and Television (MRTV) provides free information on voting and ensures equal media representation, allocating airtime proportionally among the ruling parties, the opposition, and independent candidates. All participants are entitled to a free political presentation. Private broadcasters have no obligation to provide free airtime. From the announcement of elections until the campaign begins, paid political advertising and advertising funded by public resources are prohibited. Media outlets must record and retain their programming for at least 30 days after the elections.

Under the March 2024 amendments, both the public broadcaster and any television stations broadcasting paid political advertisements must ensure that election-related content is available in accessible formats for persons with disabilities, such as sign language, subtitles, audio description, or other accessibility tools, at least once between 16:00 and 24:00. Additionally, Article 75 requires service providers to submit, before the start of the campaign, a schedule to the AAVMS specifying which news editions and other programmes will be broadcast in accessible format. The Agency must then publish this information on its website.

Election observation³⁹

The right to observe elections is granted to accredited observers, authorised by the SEC. Accreditation may be issued to domestic and foreign civil society organisations that have been legally registered for at least one year before the elections and whose statutes include the protection of human rights. Representatives of foreign countries may also observe the elections. Authorised representatives of candidate submitters have the right to appoint their own representative to monitor the work of electoral bodies.

38 Electoral Code (consolidated text). Accessed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yOTG7wWUyNoUk1_AkIYrNbD4gHQWzS5y/view (last accessed: 9 September 2025).

39 KAS, IDSCS, "Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021," second revised edition. Available at: https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf (last accessed: 15 September 2025).

For more information about the Macedonian electoral system and election procedures in the context of local elections, see the Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021⁴⁰.

40 KAS, IDSCS, "Handbook on Local Elections in the Republic of North Macedonia 2021," second revised edition. Available at: https://izbornaarhiva.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/belegexemplar_2021_the_republic_of_north_macedonias_2021_local_elections_handbook_mkd_version.pdf (last accessed: 24 September 2025).



3

**Political parties, coalitions and
independent movements**

3. Political parties, coalitions and independent movements⁴¹

1. “Your Macedonia” coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE⁴²



VMRO-DPMNE is a party that declares itself as a people's party to the right of center, with an ideological Christian Democrat background.. Since independence, VMRO-DPMNE has been one of the two largest parties in the country. It has participated in almost all parliamentary and local elections, with the exception of the 1994 parliamentary elections when it boycotted the second round. In the previous local elections held in 2021, VMRO-DPMNE and its coalition nominated 63 candidates for mayor and lists for councilors (i.e. 1260 candidates for councilors), and won with 42 mayoral and 469 councilor seats. In 2024,

voters cast their ballots in double elections – regular parliamentary and presidential. In these elections, VMRO-DPMNE with the coalition “Your Macedonia” won 58 parliamentary seats or 14 mandates more than the previous parliamentary composition. They also won the presidential elections, where their candidate for president, Gordana Siljanovska Davkova, won with 561,000 votes, or 65.14% of the votes in the second round of the presidential elections.

From its founding until 2003, president of VMRO-DPMNE was Ljubčo Georgievski. At the party Congress in May 2003, Georgievski resigned, and Nikola Gruevski was elected in his place. Gruevski led the party until December 2017, when he resigned from the position, which was accepted by the Central Committee. At the 16th Extraordinary Congress of VMRO-DPMNE, held in December 2017, Hristijan Mickovski was elected president of the party. In 2021, the 17th Congress was held, where Hristijan Mickovski was re-elected president of VMRO-DPMNE.

41 The logos of the political parties were taken from the official websites of the respective parties. The internet was used as the source for all logos and photos.

42 The order of the participants in the elections is in alphabetical order, starting with the coalitions led by the largest parliamentary groups.



In these local elections, under the slogan “The right choice. Your man! Your place! For your future!”, the “Your Macedonia” coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE will run with 64 candidates for mayor and lists for councilors in 76 municipal councils and the city of Skopje. The coalition is composed of 25 political entities: 1. VMRO-DPMNE;

2. Socialist Party of Macedonia;
3. Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia;
4. Democratic Union;
5. MAAK;
6. Serbian Progressive Party in Macedonia;
7. Bosniak People’s Party;
8. Democratic Forces of the Roma;
9. PODEM;
10. Party of the Vlachs of Macedonia;
11. VOICE for Macedonia;
12. New Liberal Party;
13. SDU;
14. United Roma of Macedonia;
15. Workers’ and Agricultural Party of the Republic of Macedonia;
16. United Party for Equality of the Roma;
17. Dignity;
18. TMRO;
19. United for Macedonia;
20. Macedonian Concept;
21. Party of Croats in Macedonia;
22. Democratic Union of the Vlachs of Macedonia;
23. Coalition of Egyptians;
24. Adnan Cahil and a group of voters;
- and 25. Salko Kuch and a group of voters.

VMRO-DPMNE

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2. Coalition “Coalition for Local Elections 2025” led by SDSM



The Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) declares itself as a left-of-center party, with a social democratic ideological background. It was founded at a Congress on April 21, 1991, as the legal successor of the Union of Communists of Macedonia - Party for Democratic Transformation (SKM-PDP). The same year, the party changed its name to SDSM and its ideology from a communist to a social democratic party. It has participated in all parliamentary and local elections since independence to date. In the previous local elections, SDSM won power in 16 out of a total of

80 municipalities and lost the mayoral position of the city of Skopje. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the SDSM-led "For a European Future" coalition received 154,447 votes (15.35%) and secured 18 mandates.

At the same time, in the presidential elections held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections, the SDSM candidate, Stevo Pendarovski, lost in the second round with 251,899 votes (29.25%) against the VMRO-DPMNE candidate, Gordana Siljanovska Davkova, who won 561,000 votes (65.14%).

The party's president from the country's independence and the transformation from SKM-PDP to SDSM in 1991 until 2004 was Branko Crvenkovski. He stepped down from this position due to his victory in the 2004 snap presidential elections and became President of the country.

At an extraordinary congress of SDSM in November 2004, Vlado Bučkovski was elected president, leading the party until its defeat in the 2006 elections. After the elections, Bučkovski was voted out of office, and Radmila Šekerinska was elected party leader. Radmila Šekerinska remained president of SDSM until June 2008, when she resigned irrevocably due to the defeat in the early parliamentary elections. In September 2008, at the 8th Congress of the party, Zoran Zaev was elected acting president. In 2009, after the expiration of the presidential mandate at the party Congress, Branko Crvenkovski returned to lead SDSM.

He was the party leader until 2013, when he stepped down from the position, and the then party president Zoran Zaev was re-elected in his place. In 2021, Dimitar Kovačevski was elected president of the party in the extraordinary internal party elections.

After the defeat in the 2024 parliamentary elections, Dimitar Kovačevski stepped down from the position, and in his place, in the internal party elections held on June 30, 2024, Venko Filipče was elected. In the next internal party elections, held on April 6, 2025, Venko Filipče was re-elected president of SDSM.



**СЕ БОРИМЕ
ЗА НАШИОТ ДОМ!**

In these local elections, under the slogan **“We are fighting for our home”**, the coalition **“Coalition for Local Elections 2025”** led by SDSM will run with 64 candidates for mayor and lists for councilors in 76 municipal councils and the city of Skopje. The coalition is composed of 9 political parties: 1. Social Democratic Union of Macedonia – SDSM; 2. New Social Democratic Party – NSDP; 3. VMRO – People’s Party; 4. Party of the Movement of Turks in Macedonia – PDT; 5. Desnica; 6. Party for Social and Economic Progress – POEN; 7. Party of Democratic Action of Macedonia; 8. Party for Democratic Prosperity of the Roma – PDPR; and 9. Central Democratic Union – CDU.

Social Democratic Union of Macedonia

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www.sds.org.mk

3. Coalition “National Alliance for Integration” led by the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI)



The Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) was formed by former members of the former People’s Liberation Army (NLA), that began the armed conflict in 2001. Ideologically, DUI declares itself as a left-center party that advocates for greater rights for Albanians and the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. The party was formed in 2002, and since its foundation until today, the party’s president has been Ali Ahmeti. In the previous local elections in 2021, DUI, under the slogan “Choose life, vote green”, ran mayoral candidates in 19 municipalities and councilor lists in 34 municipalities, and in the municipality of Čaška they ran together with the Alliance for Albanians. In the regular parliamentary elections, held on May 8, 2024, the “European Front” coalition led by DUI won 137,690 votes, or 18 parliamentary seats. In the 2024 presidential elections, DUI nominated Buyar Osmani as its candidate, who won 120,811 votes, or 13.37% of the vote, in the first round, and did not enter the second round of voting.



In the local elections in 2025, the coalition “National Alliance for Integration (NAI)” led by DUI will run under the slogan “Together. Let’s make the change!”. Part of this coalition are the political parties European Democratic Party, People’s Movement, Alliance for Albanians (Ziyadin Sela), Movement of Turks of Macedonia for Justice and Democracy and the Union of Roma. The NAI coalition will run in the elections

with 23 candidates for mayors and 34 lists of candidates for municipal councilors.

Democratic Union for Integration

“Mala Rečica” Str. 1200 Tetovo

press@bdi.mk bdi.mk

<https://bdi.mk/>

4. Coalition “Worth” (VLEN)

The “**Vredi**” coalition includes the political parties Alternative, Besa Movement and Democratic Movement.



Alternativa is a political party that is defined as center-right in the ideological spectrum. The party was formed in 2019. The Central Assembly appointed Afrim Gashi as its first president. The party originates from former members of the Besa Movement, who formed the party after the poor results in the local elections in 2017. The political program is based on four main pillars: Development, Integration, Open Dialogue and Justice.



Besa Movement is a political party founded in 2014. The party's president is Bilal Kasami. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, Besa won five seats, becoming the second largest party in the Albanian political bloc in the Parliament. In the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party participated in a coalition led by SDSM and won 4 seats.



The Democratic Movement is a political party formed by supporters of Izet Mexhiti from the so-called "Fire Group" of DUI. Due to internal disagreements and revolt against the party, the Democratic Movement broke away and began to act independently since 2023. Respect for human rights, the rule of law, the advancement of the rights and status of Albanians, and the achievement of economic well-being are just a few of the core values that the Democratic Movement stands for.

The Vlen coalition won 106,937 votes, or 14 seats, in the 2024 parliamentary elections. In the presidential elections, held in parallel with the 2024 parliamentary elections, the Vredi coalition ran Arben Taravari as its presidential candidate. He won 83,337 votes (9.20%) in the first round, which was not enough to qualify for the second round.



Under the motto "One Voice", the "Vlen" coalition will participate in the 2025 local elections with 20 mayoral candidates and 28 councilor lists in different municipalities. The "Vredi"

coalition was formed in 2024, just before the parliamentary elections, as an alliance of four political parties, the three current members and the political wing of Arben Taravari from the Alliance for Albanians party. At the beginning of 2025, this wing left the coalition.

Alternative

Blvd. "Krstev Petkov Misirkov" No. 11/1, 68a, 1000 Skopje
kontakt@alternativa.mk
<https://alternativa.org.mk/>

Movement Besa

"Hristijan Todorovski - Karpoš" Str, no. 84a, 1000 Skopje
kontakt@levizjabesa.mk
<https://www.levizjabesa.mk/>

Democratic Movement

Goce Delčev Blvd., No. 10, 1000 Skopje
info@levizjademokratike.mk
<https://levizjademokratike.mk/>

5. Coalition "Experience for Success"

The **"Experience for Success"** coalition is an electoral coalition composed of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Civic Option for Macedonia (GROM), Integra - Macedonian Conservative Party, and the Party for the Full Emancipation of the Roma (PCER).



The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is a political party with a liberal orientation. It was formed on 19 April 1997 by the unification of the Democratic Party and the Liberal Party, thus inheriting their legal and political tradition. The first president of the newly formed party was Petar Gošev, the former leader of the Democratic Party. The current president of the party is Monika Zajkova.

In the 2021 local elections, the LDP ran as part of the "Decisive for Change" coalition, formed together with the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM). Out of a total of 19 mayoral candidates and 48 councilor lists presented by this coalition, they won one mayoral and 29 councilor seats. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, they were part of the "For a European Future" coalition, a coalition led by SDSM, consisting of 15 political parties. In these elections, "For a European Future" won 18 parliamentary seats.



Civic Option for Macedonia (GROM) is a political party founded in 2013. The party's president is Stevčo Jakimovski. GROM's principles are based on the original principles of democratic living: freedom of personal choice and the creation of a fairer society for every citizen. In the 2021 local elections, GROM won one mayoral and two councilor seats. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, GROM led the "Brave for Macedonia" coalition, which also included INTEGRA -

Macedonian Conservative Party and the Party for the Full Emancipation of the Roma of Republic of North Macedonia (PCER). This coalition won 4,522 votes (0.45%), which was not enough to secure a parliamentary seat.



Integra is a Macedonian conservative political party with a Christian Democratic ideology with a right-wing orientation. It was registered in 2019, and the president of the party is Ljupčo Ristovski. Its main commitments are the restoration of basic human values, material well-being and quality of life, and the preservation of the Macedonian national identity.

In the previous local elections, held in 2021, the party ran independently with its own mayoral candidates in 10 municipalities and the City of Skopje and a councilor list in 16 municipalities and the City of Skopje, but did not win a single mayoral or councilor position. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, it ran within the framework of the "Brave for Macedonia" coalition, together with GROM and PCER, but did not secure a parliamentary seat.

Party for the Full Emancipation of the Roma (PCER)

Ivo Lola Ribar St., No. BB, 1200 Tetovo

pol.partija_pcer@yahoo.com

6. Coalition “For a Green Future” led by the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia

The Coalition “For a Green Future” is an electoral coalition led by the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM), in cooperation with the Movement for Democracy, Rights and Freedom (DPS) and local civic initiatives.



Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM) was formed in 2006. In the 2006 parliamentary elections, DOM ran independently with the slogan “To remain a human being” and managed to get one MP, although in the following elections it integrated and acted through coalitions.

The president of the party from its founding until 2018 was Liljana Popovska. At the 4th Congress of the party, Maja Moračanin was elected as the new president, who still holds that same position.

In the 2021 local elections, DOM ran as part of the “Decisive for Change” coalition, formed together with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Out of a total of 19 mayoral candidates and 48 councilor lists presented by this coalition, they won one mayoral and 29 councilor seats in the 2021 elections. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, they were part of the “For a European Future” coalition, a coalition led by SDSM, consisting of 15 political parties. In these elections, “For a European Future” won 18 parliamentary seats.



The **Movement for Democracy, Rights, Freedom (MPD)** is a political party founded in 2021. At the founding assembly held in Bitola, Edin Jakupović was elected its president. In the 2021 local elections, this party ran independently with its own councilor list in Studeničani and with its own candidate for mayor in the Municipality of Tetovo, winning one councilor seat.



The **coalition “For a Green Future”** was formed in September 2025 under the motto “Green, fair and European future”, with the aim of promoting sustainable development, environmental protection and greater transparency at local level. In these local elections, it will run with 12 lists for municipal councils and the city of Skopje.

Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM)

5 Dame Gruev Street, 1000 Skopje
dommakedonija@yahoo.com
<https://dom.org.mk/>

Movement for Democracy, Rights, Freedom (DRF)

74 Metropolitan Teodosij Gologanov Street, 1000 Skopje
infodps.org@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/DemokratijaPravaSlobodaDPS>

Political parties participating in the elections:

1. Bosniak Democratic Union (BDS)



The **Bosniak Democratic Union** was founded on March 1, 2018 on right-of-center ideological principles, and its president is Munir Kolasinac. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, it ran in the “European Front” coalition led by DUI. In these elections, the party runs independently with its own candidate for mayor in the Municipality of Šuto Orizari. It also runs with its own candidates for councilors in 7 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Bosniak Democratic Union (BDS)

bosnjackidemokratskisavez@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/bds.org.mk/>

2. VMRO-People's Party



VMRO-People's Party was formed on July 4, 2004 in Skopje, by former Prime Minister Ljubčo Georgievski. Ideologically, this party is positioned center-right, promoting democratic, conservative and Christian Democratic principles. In previous election cycles, the party ran in coalitions led by SDSM. In these elections, the party is running independently with a candidate for mayor in the Municipality of Tetovo, while in the other municipalities they are running as part of the coalition led by SDSM.

VMRO People's Party

contact@vmro-np.org.mk

<https://www.facebook.com/vmronarodnapartija/>

3. Political party Civic Initiative - GRIN



Citizens' Initiative "GRIN" is a political party-initiative in North Macedonia founded on September 10, 2025, with headquarters in Skopje. The initiative presents itself as a new, civic platform that unites professionals and activists, competing in local elections with an emphasis on transparency, citizen involvement in decision-making, development of infrastructure, health and education, and the fight against partisanship of public functions. In these debut elections, they compete with a candidate for mayor in the Municipality of Rosoman, as well as with councilor lists in 9 municipalities.

Political party Civic Initiative - GRIN

gragjanskainicijativa.grin@gmail.com

4. ZNAM Movement

The ZNAM Movement – For Our Macedonia is a political party with a leftist ideology. The party was formed from the movement that emerged from the dissatisfied membership of SDSM, which, led by the then MP Dimitrievski, independently participated in the local elections in 2021 under the motto “For Our Kumanovo”.



With the victory of the mayoral candidate, Maksim Dimitrievski, the civic movement grew into a political party. On October 9, 2023, a founding Congress is held, where the current mayor of Kumanovo and candidate for president of the country in the 2024 presidential elections, Maksim Dimitrievski, is named president of the party. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the party ran

independently and secured six parliamentary seats. In the presidential elections, held simultaneously with the parliamentary elections, the party nominated Maksim Dimitrievski as its candidate; he won 83,856 votes (9.26%) in the first round, but did not advance to the second round. In the 2025 local elections, the party runs independently, with candidates for mayor in two municipalities, Kumanovo and Centar, and with candidates for councilors in more than 50 municipalities.

ZNAM Movement – For Our Macedonia

“St. Cyril and Methodius” Str., No. 50/1-1, 1000 Skopje

contact@dvizenjeznam.org.mk

<https://dvizenjeznam.org.mk/>

5. The Democratic Party of Roma

The Democratic Party of Roma was founded in 2013, the party's president is Milazim Sakipov. It competed in a coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE in the past local elections in 2021 and 2017 and in all parliamentary election cycles from 2014 to 2024, while in the local elections of 2025 it competes independently with a councilor list in the municipality of Rankovce.

The Democratic Party of Roma

“383” Str., no. 24, 1000 Skopje

dprpart1@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064274460538>

6. Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia



The Democratic Party of Turks in Macedonia (DPTM)

is a political party representing ethnic Turks in the Republic of North Macedonia. The party is led by Beykan Ilyas. For the 2021 local elections, the Democratic Party of Turks proposed 5 candidates for mayor in Vrapčište, Dolneni, Konče, Plasnica and Centar Župa, additionally with its own list of councilors in 15 municipalities. In other municipalities, the party is running in coalition with SDSM. In these elections, the party won 17 council seats. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the Democratic Party of Turks ran as part of the “European Front” coalition, led by DUI, when together with six other coalition partners, they won 18 parliamentary seats. In the local elections in 2025, DPTM will participate with mayoral candidates in three municipalities, and in 24 municipalities, it will run with its own councilors lists. In municipalities where it does not have its own mayoral candidates, the party will support VMRO-DPMNE representatives, in accordance with the reached strategic agreement for mutual support.

Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia

“Stiv Naumov” Street 1, 1000 Skopje

info@tdp.org.mk

<https://tdp.org.mk/>

7. Democratic Forces of the Roma



Democratic Forces of the Roma is a political party founded in 2011. The party's president is Shaban Saliu. Since its founding in 2006, the party has participated in the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE in four parliamentary elections in 2006, 2011, 2014 and 2016. The party had one seat in the Parliament between 2006 and 2008. In the 2020 parliamentary elections, the party participated in a coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE. In the 2021 local elections, it ran in a coalition with the Roma People's Party with one candidate for mayor and a councilor list in the

municipality of Šuto Orizari and won one councilor seat. In the 2025 local elections, the party will again run in a coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, which will run with 64 candidates for mayor and lists for councilors in 76 municipal councils and the City of Skopje.

Democratic Forces of the Roma

Indira Gandhi St. 56, 1000 Skopje

contact@dsr.com.mk

<https://dsr.com.mk/>

8. United Macedonia



United Macedonia is a political party founded in 2002 under the name "People's Movement for Macedonia". In 2018, the party's Central Committee decided to change its name to "United Macedonia", as well as a complete change in the party's policies regarding the European integration process. The party operates with open Euro-Atlantic skepticism, and in accordance with its Statute advocates membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and a strategic partnership with Russia. Its co-founder

and president is Janko Bacev. In the previous local elections in 2021, it secured one councilor seat. In the parliamentary elections in 2024, it ran independently with candidate lists in five constituencies, but failed to win a parliamentary seat.

United Macedonia

10 Dame Gruev Street, 1000 Skopje
press@edinstvenamakedonija.mk
<https://edinstvenamakedonija.mk/>

9. The Left



The political party The Left was founded in 2015. Statutorily, the party has an explicitly leftist ideology and advocates for leftist values, including anti-capitalism, anti-nationalism, anti-militarism, anti-clericalism, and anti-conservatism. The party focuses on workers' and basic human rights, and as a party advocates, above all, for the poor, the underprivileged, the marginalized, and the disenfranchised. The initiative to form The Left came from members of the Movement for Social Justice "Lenka", members of the leftist movement "Solidarity", members of the Communist Party of Macedonia, trade unionists, activists and leftist individuals. Until 2019, The Left has a collective presidency, the Presidium, consisting of seven members with an imperative mandate. At a regular session of the Plenum of the political party The Left, a new party statute is adopted, which makes a change in the organizational structure, introducing the position of president with a four-year term. The current president of The Left is Dimitar Apasiev. In the previous local elections in 2021, The Left submitted its candidate lists for the election of mayor in 8 municipalities, as well as candidate lists for councilors in 37 municipalities and the City of Skopje, and won 49 councilor seats. In the parliamentary elections in 2024, it ran independently and won six parliamentary mandates. In the presidential elections held in parallel with the parliamentary elections in 2024, The Left nominated Biljana Vankovska Cvetkovska for the presidential office. She won 41,331 votes (4.56%) in the first round of elections, but did not advance to the second round. In the local elections in 2025, the party nominated 20 candidates for mayor, and has its own candidate lists for councilors in 54 municipalities.

Political Party The Left

Gane Todorovski Street, No. 24/1-1, 1000 Skopje
contact@levica.mk
<https://levica.mk/>

10. Macedonian Era Third / Macedonian Independent Lists - Sovereignists



The political party **“Macedonian Era Third/ Macedonian Independent Lists – Sovereignists”** was formed in 2020, and advocates for the protection of Macedonian national interests and the liberation of the country from globalist slavery. The president of this party is Goran Taskovski. The party’s headquarter is located in Bitola.

In the local elections in 2025, this party will run with its own lists for councilors in the City of Skopje, Bitola, Prilep, Kičevo, Novaci and Kumanovo as well as with 4 candidacies for mayor for the City of Skopje, Bitola, Novaci and Prilep.

Macedonian Era Third / Sovereignists

ul. “Kliment Ohridski -Širok Sokak”, no. BB, 7000 Bitola

https://www.facebook.com/makedonskinezavisnilistiE3/?locale=mk_MK

11. Party for the Movement of Turks in Macedonia



Party for the Movement of Turks in Macedonia (PDT) — is a political party founded in 1992. For more than a decade, the party has participated in all elections in coalitions led by SDSM. In these elections, they are running with their own candidate for mayor in the Municipality of Centar Župa, as well as with candidate lists for councillors in Centar Župa and Plasnica. In the remaining municipalities, they are running as part of the Coalition for Local Elections 2025 led by SDSM.

Party for the Movement of Turks in Macedonia

www.thp.mk

thpmakedonya@yahoo.com

12. Serbian party in Macedonia



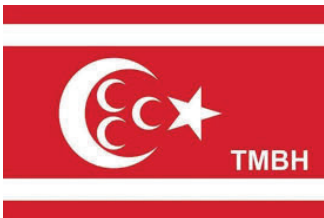
Српска Странка во Македонија

The political party **“Serbian Party in Macedonia” (SSM)** is a party of Serbs in the Republic of North Macedonia, formed on March 12, 2014. The president of this party is Miroslav Jovanović. The headquarters of SSM is in Kumanovo. In the local elections in 2025, this party will run with its own councilor list and a candidate for mayor in Staro Nagoricane.

Serbian Party in Macedonia

12 Gjorce Petrov Street, 1300 Kumanovo
srpskastrankavomk@hotmail.com
<https://ssm.mk/>

13. Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET)



The Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET) is one of the political parties that advocates the rights of the Turkish minority in the Republic of North Macedonia. Ideologically, this political party is positioned in the center. The president of the party is Erdoğan Saraç. The party first participated in the parliamentary elections in

2006. In the 2021 local elections, DNET ran in a coalition with VMRO-DPMNE, while outside the coalition, the party had its own candidate for mayor in Centar Župa, and candidates for councillors in five municipalities where it won two councillor seats. In the parliamentary elections, they ran within the framework of the “Your Macedonia” coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, a coalition that won 58 parliamentary mandates in the elections. In the 2025 local elections, DNET is running independently.

Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET)

“Major Čede Filiposki”, No. 96, 1230 Gostivar
tmbh-2006@t.mk
<https://tmbh.org.mk/>

14. Democrats



The party **Democrats** was founded in 2018, and Jorgo Ognenovski was elected president of the party at the Founding Assembly. The party advocates for democratic values and respect for fundamental human rights, including voting and expressing opinions in elections or referendums, and respecting the will of citizens. In the local elections in 2021, it ran independently with 6

candidates for mayor in the municipalities of Bitola, Dolneni, Struga, Gjorče Petrov, Centar and the City of Skopje and with 10 candidate lists for municipal councils, without a winner among the candidates. In the parliamentary elections in 2024, it ran with its own candidate lists in all six electoral districts, but failed to win a parliamentary seat. In these local elections, it is running with 7 candidates for mayor and 7 lists of candidates for councilors.

Political Party Democrats

Str. "Boris Trajkovski", No. 24-1/2, 1000 Skopje

contact@demokrati.mk

<https://demokrati.mk>

15. Worker's Party



The Workers' Party was founded in 2013. The party advocates for reducing the number of ministries and municipalities, electing judges through direct elections, decentralization and increasing the powers of local self-government, and etc. The party's president and founder is Goran Zafirovski. The party has participated in two parliamentary election cycles in 2014 and 2016, through participation in coalitions. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the party ran independently, but did not

achieve significant results. In the 2025 local elections, the Workers' Party will again run independently with a councilor lists in 3 municipalities and the City of Skopje, and will participate in the mayoral election in 4 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Workers' Party

ul. "Anton Popov", no. 103-b, 1000 Skopje
rabotnicka_partija@yahoo.com
<https://rabotnickapartija.org.mk/>

16. Homeland Macedonia (Rodina Macedonia)



The Homeland Macedonia party was founded in 2019 and is governed by the Presidency as a collective governing body. Statutorily, the party is against the country's membership in the European Union, and advocates for withdrawal from the NATO alliance, while advocating for accession to the Eurasian Economic Union and BRICS, as well as a strategic partnership with Russia.

The Chairman of the Presidency is Zoran Jovančev. In the 2024 parliamentary elections the Homeland Macedonia party ran in all six constituencies with candidate lists i and won a negligible number of votes. In the last local elections in 2021, the party ran independently with a councillor list in 9 municipalities and the City of Skopje, and with mayoral candidates in 2 municipalities and the City of Skopje. In the local elections in 2025, Homeland Macedonia is again running independently with a councillor list in the municipality of Konce and the City of Skopje, and in the mayoral elections, it is participating in Gevgelija, Sopište and the City of Skopje.

Homeland Macedonia

Nikola Parapunov Street, No. 3A/52, 1000 Skopje
organizacija@rodina.org.mk
<https://rodina.org.mk>

17. The Union of Roma from Macedonia



The Union of Roma from Macedonia is a political party formed in 1996 and its main goal is the protection of the rights of Roma in the Republic of North Macedonia. On the political scene in the Republic of North Macedonia, the party is known for its founder, the late Amdi Bajram, who was a member of parliament in several parliamentary compositions. In the local elections in 2025, this party will run with its own councilor list and a candidate for mayor in Šuto Orizari.

Union of Roma from Macedonia

“Vašingtonska” Str, no. 67, 1000 Skopje

sojuznaromite@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Sojuz-na-Romite-SRM-100068890570364/>

18. Your Party



Your Party was founded in 2020, and the founders are lawyer Aleksandar Torteovski and professor Mirjana Najčevska. In accordance with the party's statute, “Your Party” is a democratic party whose activity is based on combining policies for social change with policies for solving major environmental problems in national and international frameworks, with the aim of creating a just, fair and sustainable society. In the local elections in 2025, “Your” party submitted lists for councillors in the

City of Skopje and Kavadarci and one candidacy for mayor of the City of Skopje.

Your party

“Makedonija” Str., no. 25-1/6, 1000 Skopje

contact@tvoja.org.mk

<https://tvoja.org.mk/>

19. Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification (TMRO)



Permanent Macedonian Radical Unity (TMRO)

is a political party founded in 2002. Ideologically, the party has a right-wing orientation, promoting values of conservatism and Macedonian patriotism, understanding the state as a national state of the Macedonian people. The party's president and founder is Vančo Šehtanski. In the parliamentary elections of 2006 and 2008, the party achieved insignificant results. In the parliamentary elections of 2011, the party became part of a coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, with which it also competed in the elections of 2014 and 2016. In the local elections of 2017, TMRO competed independently, with its own candidates for mayor in the Municipality of Kavadarci and the City of Skopje, while in the local elections of 2021, TMRO competed independently with its own councilor list in 16 municipalities and the City of Skopje, and in the mayoral elections it participated in 8 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

In the local elections in 2025, TMRO again stands alone with a councilor list in almost half as many municipalities (9) and the City of Skopje, and in the mayoral election it participates in 3 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Permanent Macedonian Radical Unity

ul. "Bulevar Jane Sandanski", no. 67, 1000 Skopje

20. Union of Roma - Skopje



The Union of Roma - Skopje is a newly formed party, which has been operating since August 25, 2025. In the local elections, they will run with two councilor lists for the City of Skopje and the Municipality of Šuto Orizari.

Union of Roma - Skopje

32 Melnička Street, 1000 Skopjeunijanaromi@gmail.com


<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555689587174>

Independent movements participating in the elections:

The previous local elections in 2021 were characterized by the significantly increased participation of independent lists and mayoral candidates in most municipalities and the City of Skopje. Independent candidates, often in the form of an independent movement, won 67 council seats. The movement "For Our Kumanovo", which later grew into the political party ZNAM, won 8 council seats and one mayor in the Municipality of Kumanovo. The civic initiative "Chance for Center" won 3 mandates in the Municipality of Centar. The initiative "Differently" from Bitola won 3 council seats in the elections, and the leader of the list is also the current president of the Council in the Municipality of Bitola. The civic initiative "Enough is Enough", which ran with its own councilor lists in Strumica, Bosilovo and Novo Selo, won 3 mandates, "For the Protection of Karpoš" won 2 councilor mandates in the Council of the Municipality of Karpoš, and the movement "Green Human City" won 2 mandates in the Council of the City of Skopje. The initiative "Better for Tetovo" won two councilors, and "Together for Debrca" won a mayoral and one councilor position in the Council of the Municipality of Debrca. The remaining 43 seats went to other independent lists.

Their programs and activities in the past 4 years have mostly focused on local problems and policies, most often in the area of green policies, controlled urbanization, transparency and accountability in municipal governance. The promotion of their work is mostly done through social networks, and some of them also have their own websites.

Independent movements are also participating in the 2025 local elections in most municipalities and the City of Skopje. According to SEC data, a group of voters supported 56 independent candidates for mayor and 67 independent candidate lists for council members.



4

Overview of mayoral candidates

4. Overview of mayoral candidates⁴³

This section provides an overview of the mayoral candidates participating in the 2025 local elections. The nominees in 29 municipalities and in the City of Skopje⁴⁴ are presented with their biographies and photographs⁴⁵, while candidates in the remaining municipalities are listed only by their names and surnames, together with the entity that submitted their candidacy. The detailed overview focuses on the larger municipalities located in urban areas and includes all municipalities within the City of Skopje. The selection of municipalities featured in this handbook was based on several criteria: their urban status, population size—with priority given to larger municipalities—the ethnic composition of the population, ensuring the inclusion of as many multi-ethnic municipalities as possible, and the overall number of nominated mayoral candidates.



City of Skopje

Area	1854 km ²
Population	526 502
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (58.71%)
	Albanians (22.85%)
	Roma (3.51%)
	Serbs (1.80%)
	Turks (1.62%)
Number of council members	45
Budget for 2025	7 061 757 000
Address	Ilinden Boulevard 82, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3297 204
Website	http://www.skopje.gov.mk

⁴³ All photographs were sourced from the official websites of the political parties and the official social media profiles of the candidates.

⁴⁴ The presentation of mayoral candidates in the 29 municipalities and the City of Skopje follows the alphabetical order of the first letter of the candidates' surnames.

⁴⁵ Due to a lack of available information, biographies and/or photographs are not provided for certain candidates. The overview of mayoral candidates is based on the list of officially announced candidates published by the State Election Commission. The official list is available at <https://candidatelist.sec.mk/>

Mayoral candidates for the City of Skopje



Bashkim Bakiu (VLEN) is the Director of the Directorate for General Services at the University Clinical Centre – Skopje. He is the founder of the Institute for Policy Research and Good Governance (IPRGG) and has previously headed the Research Centre of the Alliance for Albanians. Bakiu has ten years of professional experience in the non-governmental sector and has worked as a consultant for the Ministry of Local Self-Government and the Ministry of Justice. He completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science at Ss.

Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and earned his master's degree through a joint programme of the Universities of Trento, Corvinus, and Ljubljana.



Orce Gjorgjievski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has served as the Mayor of the Municipality of Kisela Voda since 2021. Prior to that, from 2017 to 2021, he was a VMRO-DPMNE councillor in the Municipal Council of Kisela Voda. Gjorgjievski has professional experience in the private sector and has been active within the higher party structures of VMRO-DPMNE. He graduated from the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus I," Department of Political Studies, and holds a master's degree in Human Resource Management.



Goran Markovski (supported by Independent Together) is a professor and the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Skopje. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at the Faculty of Civil Engineering – Skopje, part of Ss. Cyril and Methodius University.



Amar Mecinović (The Left) has been a Member of Parliament since 2024. He is a member of the Praesidium and serves as the spokesperson for the Left (Levica), responsible for public communication. From 2022 to 2024, he served as a member of the City of Skopje's Council. Mecinović holds a degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus I" in Skopje.



Skender Rexhepi (DUI and coalition) is a current Member of Parliament serving his second term in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. In the past, he served as the coordinator of the parliamentary group of Alternativa / Alliance for Albanians, and in 2023, he founded his own political party, the Populi Movement. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy.



Aleksandar Torteovski (Your Party) is a lawyer and the founder of the political party Your Party.



Aleksandar Trajanovski (Coalition “Experience for Success”) has served as a member of the Council of the City of Skopje for two consecutive terms (2017–2025) and was, until recently, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Skopje.



Kaja Šukova (SDSM and coalition) served as the Minister of Environment of the Republic of North Macedonia from 2023 to 2024. Prior to that, she held the position of State Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning. Shukova graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, with key qualifications in environmental management, sustainable development, and the protection of air, water, soil, and natural resources from pollution.

Other candidates:

1. Srdjan Amet – Union of Roma Skopje
2. Vangel Božinoski – Rodina Macedonia
3. Demir Ismail – Union of Roma
4. Zoran Jovanoski – United Macedonia
5. Vladimir Kunovski – Workers’ Party
6. Sasho Manevski – Group of Voters Sasho Manevski
7. Dragan Nikolovski – Group of Voters Dragan Nikolovski
8. Aleksandar Rashković – TMRO



**Municipality of
Aerodrom**

Area	20 km ²
Population	77 735
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (85.22%)
	Serbs (2.77%)
	Albanians (1.09%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	1 530 128 000
Address	Jane Sandanski Boulevard
	109b, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2400 970
Website	http://www.aerodrom.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Aerodrom



Marjan Dimitriev (The Left) is currently employed at a regional real estate company. His previous experience includes work in the banking sector and consultancy in entrepreneurship and business development. Dimitriev holds a degree in Economics from the Faculty of Economics at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Dejan Miteski (VMRO and coalition) has served as Acting Mayor of the Municipality of Aerodrom since July 2024. He is the former President of the Municipal Council (2021–2024) and previously served as a councillor (2013–2017). He has significant experience working in several state institutions. Miteski holds a law degree from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus I” at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University and a master's degree from the University American College – Skopje.



Aleksandar Trajanovski (SDSM and coalition) is an orthopaedist and traumatologist, and until recently served as Director of the University Clinic for Orthopaedic Diseases “TOARILUC” – Skopje. Trajanovski has been actively involved in the work of several expert commissions at the clinic and is a licensed court expert in the field of orthopaedics and traumatology. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, where he also completed his doctoral dissertation in 2022.

Other candidates:

1. Dejan Lazarevski – Experience for Success (LDP, GROM, Integra, PCER)
2. Vladimir Mihajlovski – TMRO



Municipality of Butel

Area	57 km ²
Population	37 968
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (44.80%)
	Albanians (37.12%)
	Turks (3.46%)
	Bosniaks (2.98%)
	Serbs (1.60%)
Roma (1.32%)	
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	789 624 173
Address	Butelska Street 4, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2600 506
Website	http://www.opstinabutel.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Butel



Isamedin Azizi (DUI and coalition) is a research associate and assistant professor at the Institute of National History and a member of the Joint Multidisciplinary Expert Commission on Historical and Educational Issues between the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria.



Darko Kostovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Butel since 2021. He previously served as a councillor in the Municipal Council of Butel (2013–2017) and as a Member of Parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (2020–2021). His professional career began as an adviser in the Cabinet of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy (2014–2017). Alongside his political career, he has also been the selector and coach of the Macedonian national taekwondo team. Kostovski

holds a degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Law "Iustinianus I" in Skopje, where he also earned his master's degree in Applied Politics and Political System.



Olivera Livrinić (SDSM and coalition) is a current councillor in the Municipal Council of Butel. She works at the Ministry of Culture as Head of the Sector for the Protection of Cultural Heritage. She graduated in Art History with Archaeology from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, where she also earned a master's degree in Human Resource Management.



**Municipality of
Gazi Baba**

Area	92 km ²
Population	69 626
Ethnic composition	Macedonians(64.98%)
	Albanians (20.32%)
	Roma (2.76%)
	Serbs (1.91%)
	Bosniaks (1.08%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	1 693 797 328
Address	Arhimedova Street 2, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3226 655
Website	http://www.gazibaba.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Gazi Baba



Vlatko Mitovski (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Gazi Baba. He previously served as Director of the Public Utility Enterprise in Gazi Baba.



Boban Stefkovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Gazi Baba since 2021. He previously served as a member of the Municipal Council of Gazi Baba (2009–2013), State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, and as an associate and State Counsellor in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. He graduated as a professor of Defence and Protection from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University and obtained his master's degree in Security Studies from the same university.



Zlatko Trenchevski (The Left) is a former owner of a private company and has served as a manager at “Hotel Continental.” He also has experience working with international companies such as “Amazon Germany” and “Kromberg & Schubert,” where he was a quality control team manager. Trenchevski holds a degree in Metallurgical Engineering and has over three decades of professional experience.

Other candidates:

1. Tone Dimkovski – Workers’ Party
2. Marija Majkić – United Macedonia
3. Zoran Petkovski – Democrats
4. Vlatko Utevski – Macedonian Third Era / Macedonian Sovereignists



Municipality of Gjorče Petrov

Area	67 km ²
Population	44 844
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (80.21%)
	Albanians (3.94%)
	Serbs (2.82%)
	Roma (2.38%)
	Bosniaks (1.02%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 029 338 033
Address	Gjorče Petrov Street 73,
	Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2039 307
Website	http://www.opstinagpetrov.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Gjorče Petrov



Kostadin Acevski (SDSM and coalition) is a former Member of Parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, serving from 2016 to 2020. In the past, he held the position of Acting Director of “Makedonija Pat” and Acting Director of the Administration for Hydrometeorological Services. He has also served as a member of the Executive Board of SDSM. Acevski holds a degree in Electrical Engineering from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Aleksandar Dimitrijević (The Left) is a lawyer and the founder and owner of a law office established in 2013. He graduated from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Aleksandar Stojkoski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjorče Petrov since 2021. Previously, from April 2009 to May 2014, he held the position of President of the Municipal Council of Gjorče Petrov, and from May 2014 to December 2016, he served as a Member of Parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia. Before entering public office, he worked as a specialist radiologist and assistant doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Medicine, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje.

Other candidates:

1. Ljupčo Janevski – Experience for Success (LDP, GROM, Integra, PCER)



**Municipality of
Karposh**

Area	35 km ²
Population	63 760
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (80.94%)
	Albanians (3.64%)
	Serbs (2.56%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	1 587 617 000
Address	Radika Street 9, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3061 353
Website	http://www.karpos.gov.mk

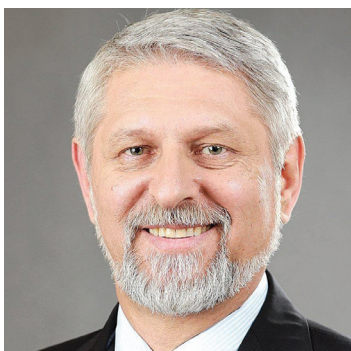
Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Karposh



Nevena Georgievska (Independents for Karposh) is a current councillor of the civic initiative Independents for Karposh in the Municipal Council of Karposh. She holds a degree in Electrical Engineering, Informatics, and Automation from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering – Skopje.



Antonio Dimitrov (The Left) is the current Director of the Cultural Information Centre – Skopje. He graduated as a professor of philosophy and holds a master's degree in Communications and New Media, with additional education in law, journalism, and graphic design.



Stevčo Jakimovski (Coalition “Experience for Success”) is the current Mayor of the Municipality of Karposh. He is the founder and president of the political party GROM. Jakimovski is a former Member of Parliament and has served as Minister of Economy (2003–2004) and Minister of Labour and Social Policy (2004–2006). He has held the position of Mayor of Karposh multiple times (2000–2002; 2009–2017; and again since 2021). He graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Skopje.



Sotir Lukrovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is the Director of the Sales and Marketing Operations Department at Alkaloid Kons, as well as a civic activist and advocate for the rights of Macedonians in Greece. Lukrovski holds a degree in Economics.



Maja Mojsova-Mijovska (SDSM and coalition) is a medical doctor, specialist in anaesthesiology and intensive care, former National Coordinator for Transplantation, and former Head of the Clinic for Anaesthesia, Resuscitation and Intensive Care (KARIL). She is the President of the Association of Anaesthesiologists and has furthered her education in several European countries. In 2016, she obtained the title of Doctor of Science in the field of transplantation from the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje.



Municipality of Kisela Voda

Area	47 km ²
Population	61 965
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (83.97%) Serbs (1.54%) Turks (1.18%) Vlachs (1.03%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	1 301 699 958
Address	Petar Deljan Street 17, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2785 400
Website	http://www.kiselavoda.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kisela Voda



Jane Acevski (The Left) is the Head of the Department of Botany and Dendrology and a professor at the Faculty of Forestry in Skopje. He earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at the Faculty of Forestry in Skopje.



Beti Stamenkoska-Trajkoska (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as a Member of Parliament since 2020. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of the VMRO-DPMNE Women's Union since 2018. Stamenkoska-Trajkoska holds a degree in Geography and a master's degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Tourism and Management in Skopje (UTMS).



Goran Trajkovski (SDSM and coalition) is the President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Kisela Voda and the former Director of the State Market Inspectorate.

Other candidates:

1. Oliver Popovski – Experience for Success (LDP, GROM, Integra, PCER)
2. Marko Saldžievski – Your Party
3. Keti Staleska – Group of Voters Keti Staleska
4. Marko Taškov – Group of Voters Marko Taškov



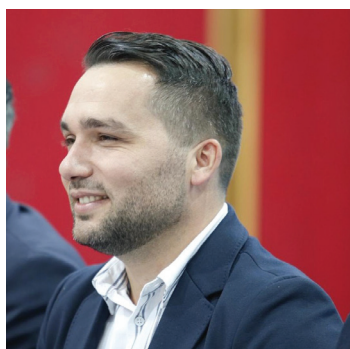
Municipality of Saraj

Area	241 km ²
Population	38 399
Ethnic composition	Albanians (90.07%)
	Bosniaks (2.72%)
	Macedonians (2.62%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	697 554 281
Address	Recreational Centre Saraj, Municipality of Saraj
Telephone	02/ 2057 990
	02/ 2057 996
Website	http://www.saraj.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Saraj



Muhamet Elmazi (VLEN) is the Executive Director of NOMAGAS AD Skopje. He is a former member of the Council of the City of Skopje and the Municipal Council of Saraj. Elmazi graduated from the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Department of Business Administration, at the University of Tetovo.



Blerant Ramadani (DUI and coalition) is an assistant professor at Mother Teresa University. He is a former National Coordinator for the Implementation of New Technologies and a doctoral candidate in Electrical Engineering at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University.

Other candidates:

1. Tenzi Beluli – Democrats
2. Remzi Mamuti – Group of Voters Remzi Mamuti



Municipality of Centar

Area	10 km ²
Population	43 893
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (76.85%)
	Serbs (2.96%)
	Albanians (2.51%)
	Roma (1.42%)
	Vlachs (1.26%)
Turks (1.25%)	
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 713 643 000
Address	Mihail Cokov Street, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3203 600
Website	http://www.opstinacentar.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Centar



Goran Gerasimovski (SDSM and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Centar since 2021 and is the former Director of the State Office of Industrial Property. He holds a degree in Sociology and a master's degree in Human Resource Management.



Biljana Ivanovska (independent) is the former President of the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) and has long-standing experience as an independent auditor and team leader at the State Audit Office. She graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. In the elections, she is running with the support of the civic initiative Chance for Centar.



Miroslav Labudović (ZNAM) is the current Deputy Minister for Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources and the President of the City Organisation of the ZNAM Movement – Skopje. He has extensive experience in managerial positions in the private sector. Labudović holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Marija Srebrova (The Left) is the coordinator of The Left's councillor group in the Municipality of Centar and the Chair of the Commission for Culture. She has many years of experience in the private sector as a translator. Srebrova graduated from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, and obtained a master's degree from the Faculty of Tourism and Management.



**Municipality of
Čair**

Area	4 km ²
Population	62 586
Ethnic composition	Albanians (67.40%)
	Macedonians (8.56%)
	Turks (6.68%)
	Bosniaks (4.04%)
	Roma (2.14%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	1 258 453 932
Address	Hristijan Todorovski Boulevard 5, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2603 001
Website	http://www.cair.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Čair



Izet Mexhiti (VLEN) is the current Minister of Environment and Physical Planning and First Deputy Prime Minister. He is also the President of the Democratic Movement, a former Mayor of the Municipality of Chair (2005–2017), and a former Member of Parliament.



Bujar Osmani (DUI and coalition) is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs (2020–2024) and former Minister of Health (2008–2011), as well as a former Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European Affairs (from 2017). He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje and is a specialist in digestive surgery.

Other candidates:

1. Itso Kolevski – Workers' Party



**Municipality of
Šuto Orizari**

Area	7 km ²
Population	25 726
Ethnic composition	Roma (43.80%)
	Albanians (34.32%)
	Macedonians (3.52%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	434 004 949
Address	Hadži Jovan Šiško Street, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2614 666
Website	http://www.sutoorizari.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Šuto Orizari



Elvis Bajram (Union of Roma) is a former Mayor of the Municipality of Šuto Orizari, having served two terms (2009–2017).



Erdjan Demir (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is the President of the Municipal Committee of VMRO-DPMNE in the Municipality of Šuto Orizari.



Gege Demirovski (Bosniak Democratic Union) is the President of the People's Party of the Roma.



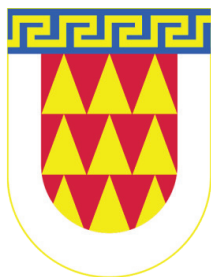
Kurto Dudush (Union of Roma) has been serving as the Mayor of Šuto Orizari since the 2017 elections. He previously served as a Member of Parliament from 2016 to 2017. Dudush holds a degree in Business Management from MIT University in Skopje.



Shaban Saliu (Democratic Forces of the Roma) is Minister without Portfolio responsible for the integration and implementation of the Roma Inclusion Strategy. He is a former Member of Parliament and former Director of the Protection and Rescue Directorate (2008–2017). Saliu holds a law degree from the Faculty of Law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, a master's degree in Political and Legal Sciences from FON University in Skopje, and a PhD in Political-Legal and Security Sciences from Megatrend University in Serbia.



Edis Hasan (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Management Board of the Central Registry. He is a former member of the Advisory Board of the NGO “Romaversitas.” Hasan holds a degree in Political Science from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Municipality of Bitola

Area	792 km ²
Population	85 164
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (81.23%)
	Albanians (4.72%)
	Roma (3.39%)
	Vachs (1.41%)
	Turks (1.38%)
Number of council members	31
Budget for 2025	2 551 171 092
Address	'1 May' Boulevard 61, Bitola
Telephone	047/ 208 442
Website	http://www.bitola.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Bitola



Gabriela Ilievska (independent) is the leader of the independent civic initiative Poinaku and the current President of the Municipal Council of Bitola. Ilievska is a member of the Supervisory Board of ZELS and the Council of Commissions of ZELS. She graduated as a specialist medical laboratory analyst from the Higher Medical School in Bitola.



Toni Konjanovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Bitola since 2021. He previously worked for many years as a senior professional associate and later as Director of the Centre for Public Health in Bitola. Konjanovski graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and obtained the professional title of Primarius in 2014.



Metodija Kunovski (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Bitola. Previously, he worked for many years as a journalist and editor at the local television station Orbis and also served as spokesperson for REK Bitola.

Other candidates:

1. Vasko Delovski – Group of Voters Vasko Delovski
2. Kjire Dimov – TMRO
3. Mirjana Mirčevski – Macedonian Third Era / Macedonian Sovereignists
4. Zoran Nikolovski – Group of Voters Zoran Nikolovski
5. Jorgo Ognenovski – Democrats



Municipality of Veles

Area	462 km ²
Population	48 463
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (75.99%)
	Albanians (5.65%)
	Bosniaks (3.77%)
	Turks (2.14%)
	Roma (1.05%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 305 803 652
Address	Panko Brašnar Street 1, Veles
Telephone	043/ 232 406
Website	http://www.veles.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Veles



Marko Kolev (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Veles since 2021. He previously worked at the Centre for Development of the Vardar Planning Region, where he served as an adviser from 2009 and as head of the centre from 2013. Kolev holds a degree in Geography from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Maja Hesko (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Veles. In the past, she has held several party and public positions, including serving as a member of the Municipal Council of Veles. Hesko holds a degree in Sociology and works as a professor of Sociology and Civic Education at the Secondary Vocational School "Dimitrija Chupovski" – Veles.

Other candidates:

1. Marijana Delovska – Democrats



Municipality of Gevgelija

Area	485 km ²
Population	21 582
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (91.64%) Vlachs (1.23%) Serbs (1.01%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	704 102 538
Address	Dimitar Vlahov Street 4, Gevgelija
Telephone	034/ 213 843
Website	http://www.gevgelija.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Gevgelija



Toni Avramov (The Left) is the current President of the association From Station to Border, founder of several civic organisations in Gevgelija, freelance journalist, and former editor-in-chief of TV Nova 12. He holds a degree in Macedonian Language and Literature and works as a teacher at the Secondary School “Josif Josifovski.”



Mile Atanasov (SDSM and coalition) is a former manager with many years of experience in public hygiene. He previously worked in the public hygiene sector and has been actively involved in party activities, holding various positions at the local level. Atanasov graduated from the Faculty of Customs and Freight Forwarding at St. Kliment Ohridski University – Bitola, specialising in Customs and Freight Forwarding Management.



Andon Saramanov has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Gevgelija since 2021. He previously served as a member of the Municipal Council of Gevgelija (2017–2021) and worked at the State Inspectorate for Agriculture. Saramanov graduated from the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

Other candidates:

1. Ljupčo Bučkov – Rodina Macedonia
2. Magdalena Karkalaševa – Group of Voters Magdalena Karkalaševa



**Municipality of
Gostivar**

Area	519 km ²
Population	59 770
Ethnic composition	Albanians (55.34%)
	Macedonians (21.43%)
	Turks (12.71%) Roma (3.80%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 660 500 000
Address	Braka Gjinoski Street 61, Gostivar
Telephone	042/ 213 511
Website	http://www.gostivavri.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Gostivar



Visar Ademi (independent) is the founder and Executive Director of My Career. Ademi holds a PhD in Economics.



Darko Grujoski (The Left) is an IT specialist and information systems operator. He holds a degree in Computer Engineering and Technologies.



Sabedin Dauti (VLEN) is a notary and former judge and president of the Basic Court in Gostivar, with prior service in the Ministry of the Interior. He holds a law degree from the University of Pristina.



Valbon Limani (DUI and coalition) has been serving as the acting Mayor of the Municipality of Gostivar since 2024. Previously, from 26 November 2021 to 8 July 2024, he was the President of the Municipal Council of Gostivar. Professionally, he is a specialist in endocrinology and works at the University Clinic for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders in Skopje. Limani graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Trakya University, where he also completed his specialisation in endocrinology in 2019. From 2022 to 2024, he served as an assistant at the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the State University of Tetovo.



Municipality of Debar

Area	145 km ²
Population	15 412
Ethnic composition	Albanians (54.75%)
	Turks (17.73%)
	Macedonians (7.49%) Roma (7.40%)
Number of council members	15
Budget for 2025	527 126 376
Address	'8 September' Street 72, Debar
Telephone	046/ 831 196
Website	http://www.dibra.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Debar



Ramadan Imeri (independent) is the Director of the "28 November" High School in Debar and previously served as Director of the primary school "Penestija." He is a former member and activist of DUI.



Fisnik Mela (VLEN) is the current Deputy Director of the Public Revenue Office (UJP) and Secretary for Strategic Policies of the political party Alternativa. He has many years of professional experience as a software engineer. Mela earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Science from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom.



Ilirijan Fetahu (DUI and coalition) is the head of the local branch of the Alliance for Albanians in Debar. He is running as a candidate nominated by the Alliance for Albanians led by Zijadin Sela, with the support of the National Alliance for Integration coalition.



Municipality of Kavadarci

Area	1132 km ²
Population	35 733
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (89.59%) Roma (2.04%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	1 502 453 000
Address	Marshal Tito Square, no number, Kavadarci
Telephone	043/ 416 130
Website	http://www.kavadarci.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kavadarci



Mitko Jancev (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Kavadarci since 2017. He is the owner and manager of DPTU “Kozuvčanka.” Jancev holds a master's degree in Technical Sciences and, in 2022, earned a PhD in Technical Sciences from Goce Delchev University in Štip, with a dissertation focused on environmental hot spots.



Viktor Veleviski (SDSM and coalition) is the former Director of the State Student Dormitory – Skopje and former Secretary General of the Social Democratic Youth of Macedonia. He previously worked at the Public Revenue Office. Veleviski completed his postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus.”

Other candidates:

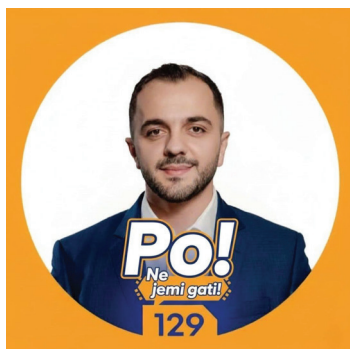
1. Zdravko Boškov – TMRO



**Municipality of
Kičevo**

Area	839 km ²
Population	39 669
Ethnic composition	Albanians (41.27%) Macedonians (40.38%) Turks (6.44%) Roma (5.05%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	1 149 418 000
Address	Boris Kidrič Street 1, Kavadarci
Telephone	045/ 223 001
Website	http://www.kercova.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kičevo



Shkodran Alili (independent) is a lawyer from Kičevo and an independent candidate for mayor.



Fatmir Dehari (DUI and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Kičevo since 2013 and previously held the position of Mayor of the Municipality of Oslomej. Before being elected mayor, he served as Director of the Public Enterprise Macedonian Post in Kičevo, Deputy Minister of the Interior, and Deputy Director of the Security and Counterintelligence Directorate (DBK). Dehari graduated from the Faculty of Physical Education at the University of Pristina.



Aleksandar Jovanovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is a medical doctor specialising in general medicine and is employed at his own private healthcare institution, Draga-Medika, in Kičevo.



Fatmir Limani (VLEN) is the Minister of Social Policy, Demography and Youth. He is a former Deputy General Director and member of the Management Board of AD ESM (2001–2021), a member of the Supervisory Board of AD MEPSO (2007–2011), and President of the civic organisation NDRISHE (2007–2010). Limani graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy at the State University of Tetovo, specialising in History.



Area	382 km ²
Population	31 602
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (84.80%) Roma (5.99%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	345 103 000
Address	Rade Kratovče Street 1, Kočani
Telephone	033/ 274 001
Website	http://www.kocani.gov.mk

Municipality of Kočani

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kočani



Vladko Grozdanov (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is a specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics with more than 20 years of medical experience in the private healthcare sector and has recently joined the General Hospital in Kočani.



Venko Krstevski (independent) has been serving as the acting Mayor of the Municipality of Kočani since March 2025. He is a former member of the Municipal Council of Kočani, having served several terms.



Zoran Todorov (independent) is the Head of the Centre for Solidarity Sakam Zhivot in Kočani and a long-time civic activist. He is the founder of several organisations and associations, including the Rotary Club Kochani-Vinica, Voskresenie, and the Committee for a Healthy Life.



Žaklina Filipova-Svečarovska (The Left) has been employed as a teacher of Macedonian language and literature at the Municipal Secondary School "Gošo Vikentiev" since 2003. She graduated from the Department of Literature and Macedonian Language at the Faculty of Philology "Blaže Koneski."



Igor Hristov (SDSM and coalition) is a civic activist and a teacher at the Secondary School "Ljupčo Santov."

Other candidates:

1. Daniel Gligorov – United Macedonia



Municipality of Kriva Palanka

Area	481 km ²
Population	18 059
Ethnic composition	Macedonian (92.34%) Roma (2.48%)
Number of council members	15
Budget for 2025	263 887 253
Address	Sv. Joakim Osogovski Street 175, Kriva Palanka
Telephone	031/ 375 035
Website	http://www.krivapalanka.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kriva Palanka



Oliver Aleksovski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is a former Member of Parliament. He graduated from the Institute of Defence at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje.



Saško Mitovski (SDSM and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of Kriva Palanka since 2021. He holds a degree from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tourism and Management in Skopje (UTMS).



**Municipality of
Kumanovo**

Area	504 km ²
Population	98 104
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (55.80%) Albanians (25.99%) Serbs (6.52%) Roma (2.85%)
Number of council members	31
Budget for 2025	2 991 022 424
Address	11 October Street, Kumanovo
Telephone	031/ 475 800 031/ 438 633
Website	http://www.kumanovo.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Kumanovo



Selver Ajdini (DUI and coalition) is the former Deputy Director of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services and a former member of the Broadcasting Council. In the past, he served as the manager of TV Hana Kumanovo.



Maksim Dimitrievski (ZNAM) has been serving as the Mayor of Kumanovo since 2017. He is a former Member of Parliament in the Macedonian Assembly and former Chair of the Committee on Security and Defence. Since 2023, he has been the President of the political party Movement ZNAM – For Our Macedonia. Dimitrievski earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences at the American University of Europe – FON in Skopje.



Martin Kostovski (SDSM and coalition) has been serving as a Member of Parliament since 2020. He is the President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Kumanovo and a former Director of the Official Gazette. Kostovski holds a law degree from the Faculty of Law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Miroslav Petrović is a Macedonian actor and holds a master's degree in Performing Arts.



Goran Stojkovski (independent) is employed in the Urban Planning Department of the Municipality of Kumanovo and is a former Director of the Public Utility Enterprise Vodovod – Kumanovo, having served two terms.



**Municipality of
Negotino**

Area	414 km ²
Population	18 194
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (86.28%)
	Roma (2.71%)
	Turks (1.92%)
	Serbs (1.89%)
Number of council members	15
Budget for 2025	/
Address	Aco Adži Ilov Street 2, Negotino
Telephone	043/ 361 045
Website	http://www.negotino.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Negotino



Petar Mantev (SDSM and coalition) is a physical education teacher and former Director of the Primary School Goce Delčev in Negotino.



Marija Naceva (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is the current Secretary of the Municipality of Negotino.

Other candidates:

1. Jasminka Ristova - Democrats



Municipality of Ohrid

Area	390 km ²
Population	51 428
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (78.73%)
	Albanians (3.78%)
	Turks (3.56%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 957 195 223
Address	Dimitar Vlahov Street 57, Ohrid
Telephone	046/ 262 492
Website	http://www.ohrid.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Ohrid



Kiril Pecakov (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Ohrid since 31 October 2021. He is a former councillor in the Municipal Council of Ohrid (2009–2013 and 2017–2020) and a former Member of Parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (2020–2021). Pecakov graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry “St. Pantelejmon” in Skopje and specialised as a Specialist in Paediatric and Preventive Dentistry.



Stevče Stevoski (Your Party) has been employed at the Ohrid Police Department (SVR – Ohrid) for nearly three decades. He is a former independent mayoral candidate, now supported by the political party Democrats. Stevoski graduated from the Faculty of Security in Skopje, specialising in the field of combating organised crime.



Goce Cvetkovski (independent) is a former member of The Left, a mayoral candidate for the Municipality of Ohrid in 2021 supported by TMRO, and an activist of the Bojkotiram movement.



Asen Šajn (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Ohrid and a former Director of the Public Health Institution "General Hospital" Ohrid.



Municipality of Prilep

Area	1194 km ²
Population	69 025
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (84.53%)
	Roma (5.75%)
	Turks (1.54%)
Number of council members	27
Budget for 2025	2 134 797 237
Address	Prilepski braniteli Street, Prilep
Telephone	048/ 401 701
Website	http://www.prilep.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Prilep



Petra Lukaroska (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Prilep. She is a former Director of the Secondary School “Gjorgje Petrov” in Prilep and a teacher by profession. Lukaroska completed her studies in Mental Health at the Higher Medical School in Bitola.



Dejan Prodanoski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is a current Member of Parliament. He is a former President of the Municipal Council of Prilep, former councillor, and Head of the Department at the State Archive – Prilep. Prodanoski holds a degree in Transport Engineering from St. Kliment Ohridski University – Bitola.

Other candidates:

1. Žarko Boškoski – Experience for Success (LDP, GROM, Integra, PCER)
2. Vladimir Gjorgjioski – Macedonian Third Era / Macedonian Sovereignists
3. Ljupčo Dunimagloski – Group of Voters Ljupčo Dunimagloski
4. Gjorgjija Igeski – Group of Voters Gjorgjija Igeski
5. Pavlinče Mateska – Group of Voters Pavlinče Mateska
6. Jasminka Stojkovska – Democrats
7. Borče Čupetreski – Group of Voters Borče Čupetreski



**Municipality of
Radoviš**

Area	497.48 km ²
Population	24 122
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (71.63%)
	Turks (16.64%)
	Roma (1.08%)
Number of council members	19
Budget for 2025	669 592 575
Address	Aleksandar Makedonski Boulevard 7, Radoviš
Telephone	032 / 617 700
Website	https://radovis.gov.mk/

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Radoviš



Strahil Gavritov (independent) is the current President of the Municipal Council of Radoviš. In the past, he served three terms as President of the Council and also worked as Head of the User Control Department at the Public Enterprise Plavaja – Radoviš. Gavritov holds a degree in Electrical Engineering.



Ljupče Počivalec (VMRO-DPMNE) is the current Secretary of the Municipality of Radoviš and President of the Municipal Committee of VMRO-DPMNE – Radoviš. He is a former branch manager at the Public Enterprise for Forestry “Plačkovica.” Počivalec holds a law degree from the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” in Skopje.



Risto Spasov (SDSM) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Radoviš and a professor of Physical Education. He is a former councillor in the Municipal Council of Radoviš.



**Municipality of
Resen**

Area	739 km ²
Population	14 373
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (70.48%)
	Turks (10.14%)
	Albanians (9.61%)
	Roma (2.18%)
Number of council members	15
Budget for 2025	/
Address	Tsar Samoil Square 20, Resen
Telephone	047/ 551 884
Website	http://www.resen.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Resen



Aleksandar Buzlevski (SDSM and coalition) is the former Director of Galichica National Park.



Jovan Tozievski (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) is the current Mayor of the Municipality of Resen and a former member of the Municipal Council of Resen, serving from 2013 to 2021. Tozievski holds a degree in Economics.

Other candidates:

1. Igor Mitrevski – Group of Voters Igor Mitrevski
2. Maliq Shemshedini – Coalition “National Alliance for Integration”



Municipality of Struga

Area	507 km ²
Population	50 980
Ethnic composition	Albanians (50.58%)
	Macedonians (29.23%)
	Turks (6.81%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 468 828 910
Address	Mother Teresa Square, Struga
Telephone	046/ 781 223
Website	http://www.struga.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Struga



Arsım Dalipi (DUI and coalition) is a medical doctor, specialist urologist, and Head of the Department for Vascular Access at the Public Health Institution – Specialised Hospital for Nephrology in Struga.



Mendi Qura (independent) is the President of the Chamber of Commerce of North-West Macedonia and a former co-founder of the Alliance for Albanians. He is the owner and manager of the company Trim & Lum and the owner of the football club Struga Trim Lum.



Jovana Mojsoska (The Left) has been serving as a Member of Parliament since 2024 and is the Secretary General of the political party The Left. She graduated from the Faculty of Security.

Other candidates:

1. Besnik Asani – Group of Voters Besnik Asani
2. Igor Maleski – Group of Voters Igor Maleski
3. Robert Mileski – Democrats
4. Nasto Palioski – Group of Voters Nasto Palioski
5. Ljube Petrevski – Workers' Party
6. Mirko Saveski – Group of Voters Mirko Saveski



Municipality of Strumica

Area	32 km ²
Population	49 995
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (77.91%) Turks (7.85%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 482 428 450
Address	Sando Masev Street 1, Strumica
Telephone	034/ 348 030
Website	http://www.strumica.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Strumica



Marjan Daskalovski (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Council of Strumica and President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Strumica. He holds a degree in Law.



Petar Jankov (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) previously worked at the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia (2007–2018) as a senior customs officer and has been active in the private sector since 2018. He graduated from the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality in Ohrid, specialising in Customs and Freight Forwarding.

Other candidates:

1. Dragan Koturović – Group of Voters Dragan Koturović
2. Risto Caskonoje – United Macedonia



**Municipality of
Tetovo**

Area	1080 km ²
Population	84 770
Ethnic composition	Albanians (71.32%)
	Macedonians (18.32%)
	Roma (2.22%)
	Turks (2.06%)
Number of council members	31
Budget for 2025	2 278 738 856
Address	Dervish Cara Street, Tetovo
Telephone	044/ 511 930
Website	http://www.tetova.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Tetovo



Katka Božinovska (The Left) is employed at the State University of Tetovo. She holds a PhD in Legal Sciences from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.



Izet Zejnelović (Democrats) is the Vice President of the political party Democrats. He is a lawyer with many years of professional experience in the Ministry of the Interior.



Samka Ibraimovski (Coalition “Experience for Success”) is the current President of the political party PCER. He is a former Minister of Labour and Social Policy (2004–2006), former Minister without Portfolio (2016–2017), and former Member of Parliament. Ibraimovski graduated from the Faculty of Management in Novi Sad.



Bilal Kasami (VLEN) is the current Mayor of the Municipality of Tetovo. He is the founder and first President of the BESA Movement. In the past, he served as a Member of Parliament and worked as a professor at the International Balkan University and Dardania University. Kasami holds a degree in Economics from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, and earned his PhD in Economic Sciences in 2011.



Bajram Rexhepi (DUI and coalition) is the current Vice President of DUI, a former Member of Parliament, and former Executive Director of NOMAGAS. He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, specialising in Informatics.

Other candidates:

1. Stevica Sarkoski – VMRO–People’s Party



**Municipality of
Štip**

Area	556 km ²
Population	44 866
Ethnic composition	Macedonians (77.46%)
	Roma (5.13%)
	Vlachs (3.53%)
	Turks (2.97%)
Number of council members	23
Budget for 2025	1 515 172 000
Address	Vasil Glavinov Street, Štip
Telephone	032/ 266 600
Website	http://www.stip.gov.mk

Mayoral candidates for the Municipality of Štip



Pavel Ivanov (SDSM and coalition) is the current President of the Municipal Organisation of SDSM in Štip. In the past, he served as Head of the Regional Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture in Štip.



Ivan Jordanov (VMRO-DPMNE and coalition) has been serving as the Mayor of the Municipality of Štip since 2021. Previously, he was a Member of Parliament in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (2020–2021), a member of the Central Committee of VMRO-DPMNE, and President of the Municipal Committee of VMRO-DPMNE in Štip. Jordanov graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Goce Delčev University – Štip, specialising in International Economics, and obtained a master's degree in Human Resource Management from the International Slavic University "Gavrilo Romanovich Derzhavin."

Mayoral candidates for the remaining municipalities:

Municipality	Candidate	Submitter of Candidacy
Aračinovo	Fekri Bakiu	Group of Voters Fekri Bakiu
	Skender Isufi	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
	Daut Beqiri	Coalition VLEN
Berovo	Mirče Kirovski	The Left
	Petar Ružinski	Coalition "Your Macedonia"
	Ilija Runtevski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Bogdanci	Blaže Šapov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Marjan Peev	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Bogovinje	Feti Abazi	Coalition VLEN
	Besnik Emši	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Bosilovo	Mirče Karmažičeva	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Risto Mančev	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Brvenica	Svetlana Mitreska Anđelkoska	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Haqim Ramadani	Coalition VLEN
	Jovica Ilievski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Enver Pajaziti	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Valandovo	Pero Kostadinov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Gjoko Kamčev	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Vasilevo	Slave Andonov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Vančo Novoselski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM

Vevčani	Stefan Radinoski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Spase Kočovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Gospodin Poposki	Workers' Party
Vinica	Vane Cekov	Group of Voters Vane Cekov
	Biljana Ilievska	United Macedonia
	Goce Milevski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Mitko Kostadinovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Vrapčište	Mehmet Seferi	Coalition VLEN
	Isen Šabani	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Gradsko	Kiro Nackov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Dragoslav Simonović	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Debarca	Dimče Andreski	Group of Voters Dimče Andreski
	Ljupčo Paunkoski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Zoran Nogačeski	Group of Voters Zoran Nogačeski
	Zlatko Siljanoski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Daniel Ognenoski	Coalition "Experience for Success"

Demir Kapija	Natalija Dimitrieva	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Blaže Dimitriev	Group of Voters Blaže Dimitriev
	Zoran Petrov	Group of Voters Zoran Petrov
	Stiven Petkovski	Group of Voters Stiven Petkovski
	Lazar Petrov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Demir Hisar	Dragančo Šulevski
Demir Hisar	Marjanče Stojanovski	Group of Voters Marjanče Stojanovski
	Oliver Ivanovski	Group of Voters Oliver Ivanovski
	Zlatko Kuzmanovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Nikola Najdovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Dojran	Milan Majkić	Democrats
	Risto Džinev	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Ilija Tentov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE

Dolneni	Abdula Bajramoski	Group of Voters Abdula Bajramoski
	Suad Adilović	Group of Voters Suad Adilović
	Blerim Islami	Coalition VLEN
	Ramadan Durmoski	Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET)
	Isuf Sinani	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Fljamur Gjoleka	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Želino	Saško Veljanoski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Blerim Sejdiu	Coalition VLEN
Zelenikovo	Emir Sulejmani	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
	Branko Prodanovski	Group of Voters Branko Prodanovski
	Kosta Manevski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Zoran Markoski	Coalition "Experience for Success"
	Borče Gievski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Zrnovci	Vančo Mitev	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Boro Kocev	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE

	Marjan Marinkovski	The Left
Ilinden	Žika Stojanovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Aleksandar Georgievski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Darko Blažeski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Jegunovce	Nasir Abazi	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
	Dimitar Kostadinovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Viktor Paunov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Karbinci	Ljubica Sokolovska	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Zlatko Ristov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Konče	Blagoj Iliev	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Fikri Usinov	Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia
	Vlatko Spirovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Kratovo	Todorče Nikolovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Igor Karaviloski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Krivogaštani	Sašo Graoroski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE

	Zoran Janeski	The Left
Kruševo	Džemil Fejzulloski	Coalition VLEN
	Tome Hristoski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Niko Čoneski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Lipkovo	Nađmedin Sadiki	Coalition VLEN
	Erkan Arifi	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Lozovo	Svetla Aleksić	United Macedonia
	Aco Velkovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Milan Ašikovski	TMRO
	Boško Cvetkovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Mavrovo and Rostuša	Anes Ahmeti	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Oner Jakuposki	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Makedonska Kamenica	Miran Mitrevski	Group of Voters Miran Mitrevski
	Slobodan Velinovski	Group of Voters Slobodan Velinovski
	Sonja Stamenkova	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Dimčo Atanasovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE

Makedonski Brod	Marjan Gjurčeski	The Left
	Milosim Vojneski	Group of Voters Milosim Vojneski
	Ivica Stojkoski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Žarko Risteski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Mogila	Dragančo Sabotkovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Zoran Risteovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Sašo Pivkovski	Group of Voters Sašo Pivkovski
Novaci	Peco Micevski	Macedonian Third Era / Macedonian Sovereignists
	Ljupčo Stojanovski	Group of Voters Ljupčo Stojanovski
	Ljube Kuzmanoski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Vasko Naumovski	Democrats
	Goran Talevski	Group of Voters Goran Talevski
	Stevče Stefanovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Novo Selo	Gjorgje Božinov	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Petar Spasov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Petrovec	Borče Mitevski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Elizabeta Zelenikovska	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM

	Nevenka Trenčevska	The Left
Pehčevo	Zlatko Nikolovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Aleksandar Kitanski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Plasnica	Elsan Nurçeski	Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia
	Alija Jaoski	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
	Dragan Anastasov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
Probištip	Toni Tonevski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Saše Donev	Group of Voters Saše Donev
	Ivan Neševski	The Left
Rankovce	Daniel Krstevski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Daniel Pavlovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Branko Janev	Civic Initiative GREEN
Rosoman	Atanas Stojanov	United Macedonia
	Gjorgji Krstevski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Stojan Nikolov	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM

Sveti Nikole	Dejan Gičev	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Gordan Stošević	Group of Voters Gordan Stošević
	Dejan Vladev	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Sopište	Vasil Ainovski	Rodina Macedonia
	Zvonko Vasev	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Jane Micevski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
Staro Nagoričane	Andrej Dimitrijeviški	The Left
	Miroslav Slavkovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Dalibor Trajkovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Vlaste Dimković	Serbian Party in Macedonia
Studeničani	Azem Sadiki	Group of Voters Azem Sadiki
	Sedat Bislimi	Coalition VLEN
	Ejup Abazi	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Tearce	Nazim Taipi	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
	Daut Memiši	Coalition VLEN

Centar Župa	Inajet Baki	Party for the Movement of Turks in Macedonia
	Alil Emrula	Movement for the National Unity of Turks (DNET)
	Arijan Ibrahim	Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia
Čaška	Goran Stojanovski	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Dejan Andonovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Suat Šaćirov	National Alliance for Integration (NAI) led by DUI
Češinovo-Obleševo	Sane Jovanov	Group of Voters Sane Jovanov
	Gorančo Krstev	SDSM
	Jordanče Kostadinov	VMRO
Čučer Sandevo	Vlatko Smokovski	Group of Voters Vlatko Smokovski
	Saško Komnenović	Coalition for the 2025 Local Elections led by SDSM
	Zoran Bajovski	Coalition "Your Macedonia" led by VMRO-DPMNE

A large, stylized number '5' is centered on the page. It is filled with a dense pattern of thin, parallel diagonal lines. The number is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page, partially overlapping a dark teal geometric shape that extends from the top-left corner.

**Electoral archives of the
elections in the Republic
of North Macedonia
since 1990**

5. Election Archive of the Republic of North Macedonia, Comprehensive Database from 1990 Onwards

Since March 2016, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation's office in North Macedonia and the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje (IDSCS) have been implementing the joint project "Electoral Archive of the Republic of North Macedonia since 1990 to date". The aim of the project is to enable comprehensive monitoring of the electoral processes in the Republic of North Macedonia. The project encompasses all previously held presidential, parliamentary, and local elections, consolidating all available documents related to these electoral processes into a single repository.

The need to implement such a project arises from the lack of an official state archive containing all documents and data on election cycles since the declaration of independence of the Republic of North Macedonia. The Election Archive groups the documents into seven sections:

1. Election Announcement Document
2. Voter List
3. Candidate Lists
4. Election Results
5. Election Report
6. Observation reports from international and domestic organizations
7. Electoral Code

In parallel with the organization of the elections, the Election Archive is updated and all relevant documents are uploaded in the above sections. A key feature of the Election Archive is its collection of election handbooks. These handbooks, which cover presidential, parliamentary, and local elections, are created in real time alongside the electoral events in a collaborative effort of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje.

The Election Archive has released a series of ten in-depth handbooks covering various elections. These include detailed information on the 2013, 2017, and 2021 local elections, the 2014, 2019, and 2024 presidential elections, as well as the 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2024 parliamentary elections. The handbooks are available on the Election Archive website (izbornaarhiva.mk) in Macedonian, Albanian, and English.

