



P R E S E N T S

Global Electoral Calendar

2026

Complete Worldwide Analysis

Over 60 significant national and regional elections spanning all continents

SOLUTIONS THAT PROTECT DEMOCRACY

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The year 2026 represents one of the most consequential electoral cycles in recent history, with **over 60 significant national and regional elections** spanning all continents. Critical votes in Brazil, the United States, Hungary, and Bangladesh will reshape geopolitics, while first-ever elections in South Sudan and Bangladesh's first competitive vote in 15 years test democratic transitions under extraordinary circumstances.

This comprehensive guide maps every significant 2026 election worldwide, providing Votident with the political context, key stakeholders, strategic stakes, and timing essential for electoral business planning. The calendar begins with Portugal's presidential race in January and extends through South Africa's municipal elections into early 2027.

60+

MAJOR ELECTIONS

6

CONTINENTS

2B+

POTENTIAL VOTERS

Three Transformative Elections

- **Hungary's** potential end to the Orbán era would reshape EU cohesion and Ukraine policy overnight
- **Brazil's** contest between Lula and Bolsonarismo will define Latin America's largest democracy's trajectory
- **Bangladesh's** first competitive vote in 15 years tests post-authoritarian democratic consolidation

Cross-Cutting Themes for Electoral Service Providers

First competitive elections after authoritarian periods: Bangladesh (first in 15 years), South Sudan (first ever), and Haiti (first since 2016) all require extensive electoral infrastructure development, voter education, and international monitoring support.

Long-serving leaders extending terms: Uganda's Museveni (40 years), Congo's Sassou Nguesso (40 years), Djibouti's Guelleh (27 years) all seek additional terms after constitutional modifications, presenting legitimacy challenges for electoral observers and technology providers.

Post-conflict and transitional elections: Ethiopia, South Sudan, Myanmar, and New Caledonia all hold votes amid active conflicts, displacement, or recent violence, requiring enhanced security protocols and contingency planning.

Constitutional transformation votes: Thailand's referendum on replacing military-drafted constitution, New Zealand's potential parliamentary term extension, and Turkey's possible constitutional referendum represent significant governance change opportunities.

Far-right surge in Europe: Portugal's Chega, Germany's AfD, Sweden Democrats, and Hungary's Mi Hazánk all polling strongly, suggesting electoral integrity monitoring and anti-manipulation technologies will see elevated demand across the continent.

United States — November 3, 2026

Midterm Elections: 435 House seats, 35 Senate seats, 36 Governorships

The **US midterm elections** represent the largest single electoral event of 2026. President Donald Trump, in his second non-consecutive term, faces the traditional midterm penalty with approval ratings declining due to affordability concerns and tariff policy disputes. Republicans currently hold slim majorities (Senate 53-47, House 220-215), meaning Democrats need only **3 House seats or 4 Senate seats** to flip control.

Two special Senate elections in Ohio (JD Vance's vacated seat) and Florida (Marco Rubio's vacated seat) add complexity. Term-limited governorships in California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, and Texas create high-stakes open races that will influence 2028 presidential positioning.

Brazil — October 4, 2026 (runoff October 25)

Presidential, Congressional, and all 27 Gubernatorial Elections

Latin America's largest democracy holds simultaneous elections at all levels. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, 79, seeks an unprecedented fourth term with former President Jair Bolsonaro **barred from running until 2030** following his conviction for the January 2023 coup attempt. Bolsonaro's son, Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, has announced his presidential pre-candidacy and polls second. São Paulo Governor Tarcísio de Freitas offers a market-friendly conservative alternative polling around 10%.

Security concerns dominate voter priorities, with **38% of Brazilians** citing crime as their top issue. The election's outcome will determine Brazil's stance on environmental policy, its relationship with the Trump administration, and regional power dynamics across South America.

Colombia — Presidential May 31, Legislative March 8

Presidential and Legislative Elections

Colombia faces its most competitive election in decades following President Gustavo Petro's turbulent term as the country's first leftist president. Petro is constitutionally barred from reelection, and a record **107 pre-candidates** have registered. Senator Iván Cepeda leads polls at **31.9%** for the ruling Historic Pact coalition, facing far-right lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella (18.2%) and centrist former Medellín mayor Sergio Fajardo (8.5%). The US decertified Colombia as an antinarcotics ally—**81% of Colombians** want the next president to restore positive US ties.

Peru — April 12 (runoff June 7)

Presidential + Return of Bicameral Legislature after 34 years

Peru's election marks the **return of bicameral legislature** after 34 years, with voters electing both a 130-seat Chamber of Deputies and a new 60-seat Senate. Lima Mayor Rafael López Aliaga, a Trump admirer, leads polls at 14.2%, followed by comedian Carlos Álvarez at 10.9%. Peru has experienced **nine presidents in ten years**, making political instability the defining context.

Other Americas Elections

COUNTRY	DATE	TYPE	KEY CONTEXT
Costa Rica	Feb 1 / Apr 5	Presidential	Opens Latin America's calendar; Laura Fernández leads but 55% undecided
Haiti	August 30	Presidential, Legislative	First elections since 2016; gang violence controls 90% of Port-au-Prince
Bahamas	By Sept 2026	General	PM Philip Davis seeks reelection; cost of living central issue
Bolivia	March 22	Subnational	First test of new non-MAS government after historic 2025 defeat
Trinidad	January 12	Tobago Assembly	42 candidates contesting regional legislature

Hungary — April 12, 2026

Parliamentary Election — Europe's Most Consequential Vote of 2026

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in power since 2010, faces his most serious challenge from Péter Magyar and the newly formed Tisza Party. Polls show an extraordinarily tight race—Fidesz at **38-44%** versus Tisza at **37-51%**, though methodological differences explain the wide range.

An Orbán defeat would transform EU politics overnight: Hungary has blocked billions in EU cohesion funds, obstructed Ukraine support, and cultivated close ties with both Putin and Trump's MAGA movement. Magyar has pledged improved Brussels relations while maintaining conservative values. The electoral system, modified under Orbán, requires opposition parties to lead by **3-5 percentage points** to overcome structural advantages built into gerrymandered districts.

Sweden — September 13, 2026

General Election

Sweden's election could return the Social Democrats to power after four years of center-right governance. PM Ulf Kristersson's minority government relies on external support from the far-right Sweden Democrats via the Tidö Agreement. Magdalena Andersson's Social Democrats lead polls at **34-36%**, with the center-left bloc ahead by 5-6 points overall. Gang violence, which dominated 2022 campaigning, has since declined, shifting focus to healthcare, education, and cost of living. Sweden's 2024 NATO membership enjoys bipartisan support.

Portugal — January 18 (runoff February 8)

Presidential Election — Opens Europe's 2026 Calendar

Portugal's presidential election is the **most competitive race in Portuguese democratic history**. With incumbent Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa term-limited, a record seven party-backed candidates are competing. Far-right Chega leader André Ventura (18-21%) faces former Socialist leader António José Seguro (19-21%), military admiral Henrique Gouveia e Melo (18-25%), and center-right candidate Luís Marques Mendes (15-19%). Ventura's potential victory would mark a watershed for Portugal's far-right, mirroring trends across Europe.

Germany — Five State Elections

Baden-Württemberg (Mar 8), Rhineland-Palatinate (Mar 22), Saxony-Anhalt (Sep 6), Berlin (Sep 20), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Sep 20)

The Saxony-Anhalt election is particularly watched: the AfD polls at approximately **40%**, potentially positioning the far-right for its first state government. CDU leaders have maintained a "firewall" against AfD coalitions, but a dominant AfD showing would test this commitment.

France: Municipal elections March 15-22 serve as a critical test before the 2027 presidential election, with Macron at record-low approval and Marine Le Pen's National Rally rising. **Spain:** Regional elections in Aragon (Feb 8), Castilla y León (Mar 15), and Andalusia (June) test PM Sánchez's struggling PSOE.

Other European Elections

COUNTRY	DATE	KEY CONTEXT
Slovenia	March 22	Janez Janša's SDS leads polls; potential return of Orbán ally
Denmark	By Oct 31	PM Frederiksen's grand coalition collapsed; Greenland sovereignty issue dominates
Latvia	October 2026	56% want government to resign; National Alliance leads polls
Cyprus	May 24	New anti-corruption party ALMA polling strongly; holds EU presidency H1 2026
Bulgaria	Spring + Nov 8	Seventh snap election since 2021; presidential election November 8
Bosnia	October 4	Post-Dodik conviction; complex ethnic power-sharing system
Armenia	June 7	Critical test of Pashinyan's pivot from Russia toward the West

Bangladesh — February 12, 2026

General Election + Constitutional Referendum — First Competitive Vote in 15 Years

Bangladesh holds its **first competitive election in over 15 years** following the August 2024 student-led uprising that ended Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus leads the interim government, with Hasina in exile in India after being sentenced to death for crimes against humanity. The Awami League is **banned from participating**.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by former PM Khaleda Zia, enters as frontrunner, with acting chair Tarique Rahman returning from 17 years in exile. The Jamaat-e-Islami Islamic party has allied with 11 other parties, while the National Citizen Party (NCP) formed from uprising leaders offers a new political force. A constitutional referendum runs concurrently. This election will reshape Bangladesh-India relations (significantly strained post-Hasina) and test whether democratic institutions can stabilize after decades of authoritarian drift.

Thailand — February 8, 2026

General Election + Constitutional Referendum

Thailand votes on both a **general election and constitutional referendum** to potentially replace the 2017 military-drafted constitution. The snap election was triggered when the Constitutional Court removed PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra—the second consecutive Shinawatra-linked PM removed by courts within 18 months. Caretaker PM Anutin Charnvirakul's Bhumjaithai Party has been boosted by nationalist sentiment over the Thai-Cambodian border conflict. The progressive People's Party (successor to dissolved Move Forward) and Thaksin-linked Pheu Thai remain competitive. Former PM Abhisit Vejjajiva has returned to lead the Democrats.

Nepal — March 5, 2026

General Election — Post-Uprising Democratic Test

Nepal's election follows the **September 2025 Gen-Z protests** that toppled PM KP Sharma Oli's government, with elections moved forward two years. Interim PM Sushila Karki oversees the transition with approximately **18.9 million eligible voters** choosing 275 House seats. Traditional parties—Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, and unified communists under Prachanda—face challenges from uprising activists and outsider candidates. Over 130 parties have registered, reflecting extraordinary political fragmentation.

India — State Elections (March-May 2026)

Five Major State Elections — Mid-term Test for PM Modi

West Bengal (294 seats): Incumbent TMC under Mamata Banerjee versus BJP. **Tamil Nadu** (234 seats): DMK under M.K. Stalin challenged by AIADMK and actor Vijay's new Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam party. **Kerala** (140 seats): LDF under Pinarayi Vijayan could win unprecedented third consecutive term. **Assam** (126 seats): Tests BJP's Himanta Biswa Sarma. Combined, these elections cover approximately **824 assembly seats** and will influence Rajya Sabha composition and 2029 positioning.

Vietnam — March 15, 2026

National Assembly Election

Vietnam's National Assembly election follows the Communist Party's 14th National Congress in January 2026. All **500 deputies** must be approved by the Vietnam Fatherland Front, with requirements for at least 40% full-time legislators, 35% women, and 18% ethnic minorities. While not competitive democratically, the election formally ratifies new party leadership and signals policy priorities.

Other Asian Elections

COUNTRY	DATE	KEY CONTEXT
Japan	Possibly Feb	PM Takaichi considering snap vote; bare 233-seat majority
South Korea	June 3	First major test post-martial law crisis and snap presidential election
Taiwan	November 28	Nine-in-One local elections under China pressure; DPP vs KMT mayors
Philippines	Mar 30 / Nov 2	First-ever Bangsamoro Parliament; nationwide barangay elections
Myanmar	Dec 2025-Jan 2026	Military junta "sham" elections; controls less than 1/3 of territory
Laos	February 22	Single-party communist state parliamentary election

Uganda — January 15, 2026

Presidential Election — Africa's Third-Longest-Serving Leader Seeks 7th Term

President Yoweri Museveni, 81, seeks an unprecedented **seventh term** after nearly 40 years in power. His main challenger, musician-turned-politician Robert Kyagulanyi ("Bobi Wine"), 43, represents generational change through the National Unity Platform. Term limits were abolished in 2005 and age limits removed in 2017.

Ethiopia — June 1, 2026

General Election — First Since 2021

Ethiopia's first election since 2021 occurs against a backdrop of **ongoing insurgencies in Amhara and Oromia** regions. The 2020-2022 Tigray civil war killed an estimated 600,000 people. PM Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party won 96.8% in 2021 when many regions couldn't vote.

Republic of Congo — March 22, 2026

Presidential Election

President Denis Sassou Nguesso, 82, seeks another term after approximately **40 combined years in power**. The opposition 2AD2026 coalition has formed, but two prominent opposition candidates remain imprisoned.

South Sudan — December 22, 2026

First Elections Since 2011 Independence — Year's Highest-Risk Vote

South Sudan's **first elections since 2011 independence** represent the year's highest-risk vote. President Salva Kiir and suspended First VP Riek Machar remain rivals. Critical prerequisites remain unfulfilled: **no permanent constitution, no completed census, no unified national army**.

Zambia — August 13, 2026

Presidential Election

President Hakainde Hichilema seeks reelection after his 2021 victory that continued Zambia's **35-year tradition of peaceful democratic transitions**. The main opposition Patriotic Front is internally divided after former president Edgar Lungu was ruled ineligible.

South Africa — November 2026-January 2027

Municipal Elections

South Africa holds **municipal elections** following the 2024 Government of National Unity coalition between the ANC and DA. With 508 registered parties and over 80 hung councils in 2021, the election tests local governance amid service delivery failures.

Other African Elections

COUNTRY	DATE	KEY CONTEXT
Benin	Jan 11 / Apr 12	Post-coup attempt; opposition largely excluded; Talon successor favored
Djibouti	By April 2026	Guelleh's 6th term after removing age limits; strategic Horn location
Cape Verde	Apr / Oct	Stable two-party democracy; highest Freedom House score in Africa
Algeria	By June 2026	Routine renewal under Tebboune; economic diversification key issue
Morocco	September	4 million first-time voters; 2030 World Cup preparations underway
São Tomé	Jul / Sep	Presidential (July) and parliamentary (September); political instability
Gambia	December 5	Barrow's third term controversy; failed constitutional reforms

Middle East

Israel — October 27, 2026 (potentially June)

Knesset Election

Israel's Knesset election may be moved to **June 2026** as PM Netanyahu seeks to capitalize on potential normalization deals with Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Former PM Naftali Bennett's new "Bennett 2026" party has emerged as the main challenger, polling **20-22 seats** versus Likud's 24-25 seats. The October 7, 2023 attack aftermath dominates the political landscape, with accountability debates, hostage deal outcomes, and Gaza's future governance central issues. The Haredi military draft exemptions controversy and cost-of-living crisis add domestic pressure. Coalition politics remain complex—no party has ever won a Knesset majority.

Lebanon — May 2026

Parliamentary Election — First Major Test of Post-Hezbollah Era

Lebanon's parliamentary election marks the **first major test of the post-Hezbollah era**. The October 2024 Israeli strikes killed Hassan Nasrallah and decimated Hezbollah's leadership, while Assad's fall in December 2024 eliminated Syrian influence. President Joseph Aoun and PM Nawaf Salam, both elected/appointed in January 2025, represent a potential reset. Saad Hariri is preparing a political comeback through the Future Movement. The expansion to potentially 134 seats (adding diaspora representation) and electoral law reforms remain under debate. The confessional system distributing seats among Maronites, Sunnis, Shia, Druze, and other communities continues structuring competition.

Armenia — June 7, 2026

Parliamentary Election — Russia vs. West Orientation at Stake

Armenia's election tests PM Nikol Pashinyan's **pivot from Russia toward the West** following the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war defeat and Azerbaijan's 2023 takeover of the region. Pashinyan's Civil Contract party polls at only 11%, facing opposition blocs backed by former President Robert Kocharyan. A peace treaty with Azerbaijan is finalized but unsigned, with Baku demanding constitutional reform. US-backed infrastructure projects compete with Russian influence. The election outcome will determine whether Armenia continues its Western reorientation or returns to Moscow's orbit.

Bahrain — By November 2026

Council of Representatives (40 seats)

Bahrain holds elections for its 40-seat Council of Representatives, though the main opposition Al-Wefaq remains banned since 2016 following the 2011 Arab Spring suppression. The strategic location hosting the US Fifth Fleet and Abraham Accords signatory status make stability paramount for Western interests.

Palestinian Territories — April 25, 2026

Local Council Elections (West Bank and Gaza)

Palestinian local council elections are scheduled for the West Bank and Gaza, with Palestinian National Council elections planned later in 2026. President Mahmoud Abbas declared 2026 "the year of Palestinian democracy," though general elections remain indefinitely postponed since 2006. Hamas is boycotting unless national elections are also held, and Gaza elections depend on post-war stabilization.

Oceania

Australia — State Elections Only (No Federal Vote)

South Australia (March 21) and Victoria (November 28)

South Australia: Premier Peter Malinauskas's Labor government enters heavily favored, with polls showing **61-66% two-party preferred** leads. Opposition Leader Ashton Hurn took the Liberal leadership only in December 2025. **Victoria:** The most competitive Australian election of 2026. Labor, governing for 12 consecutive years under Premier Jacinta Allan, faces strong headwinds with "it's time" sentiment. New Liberal Leader Jess Wilson polls better than Allan as preferred premier (47-31). Recent polls show 50-50 results—a genuine toss-up. No federal election; May 2025 returned PM Albanese's Labor with a historic 94-seat majority.

New Zealand — By December 19, 2026

General Election under MMP

New Zealand's election will determine whether PM Christopher Luxon's three-party National-ACT-NZ First coalition continues or Labour's Chris Hipkins returns to power. A referendum on extending parliamentary terms from 3 to 4 years may run concurrently, with cross-party support and **NZ\$25 million allocated** for the vote. The race is expected to be close, with coalition negotiations likely determining outcomes.

Fiji — 2026 (date TBD) & New Caledonia — May-June 2026

General Election (Fiji) & Provincial Elections (New Caledonia)

Fiji: Tests PM Sitiveni Rabuka's coalition following the October 2025 conviction of former PM Frank Bainimarama for abuse of office, which disqualifies Bainimarama from contesting. **New Caledonia:** Provincial elections amid uncertainty about the Bougival Accord referendum. The May 2024 protests killed 14 and caused **€2 billion in damage** (10% of GDP). Pro-independence FLNKS parties demand a new independence referendum.

2026 Monthly Calendar & Strategic Outlook



January

Portugal presidential, Uganda general, Trinidad regional, Benin parliamentary

February

Costa Rica (1st round), Bangladesh general + referendum, Thailand general + referendum, Laos parliamentary

March

Nepal general, Vietnam legislative, Colombia legislative, Slovenia, Bolivia subnational, Congo presidential, South Australia state, France municipal

April

Costa Rica runoff, Peru (1st round), Hungary parliamentary, Benin presidential, Djibouti, Cape Verde parliamentary, Palestinian local

May

Colombia presidential (1st round), Lebanon parliamentary, Cyprus legislative, New Caledonia provincial

June

Colombia runoff, Peru runoff, Ethiopia general, Armenia parliamentary, India state elections, South Korea local, Algeria parliamentary

July

São Tomé presidential

August

Zambia general, Haiti presidential (if held)

September

Sweden parliamentary, Germany state elections (3), Morocco parliamentary, São Tomé parliamentary

October

Brazil general, Bosnia general, Latvia parliamentary, Israel Knesset, Cape Verde presidential

November

US midterms, Philippines barangay, Victoria state, Taiwan local, Bulgaria presidential, Bahrain

December

Gambia presidential, South Sudan general, New Zealand general

Conclusion: 2026 Demands Comprehensive Electoral Preparedness

The 2026 global electoral calendar presents **unprecedented scope and complexity** for electoral service providers. With over 60 significant elections across all continents, the year offers substantial commercial opportunities while demanding exceptional operational flexibility.

Three elections carry transformative geopolitical significance: **Hungary's potential end to the Orbán era** would reshape EU cohesion and Ukraine policy; **Brazil's contest between Lula and Bolsonarismo** will define Latin America's largest democracy's trajectory; and **Bangladesh's first competitive vote in 15 years** tests post-authoritarian democratic consolidation.

For Votident specifically, priority markets include the **Americas** (10+ major elections including US midterms and Brazil), **Europe** (Hungary, Sweden, Portugal, Germany states), and **post-transition democracies** (Bangladesh, Nepal, South Sudan) where electoral infrastructure needs are acute. Technology deployment windows cluster heavily in Q1-Q2 for Asia and Latin America, with European and North American peaks in Q3-Q4.

The rise of far-right parties across Europe, combined with authoritarian resilience in Africa and Asia, suggests electoral integrity monitoring and anti-manipulation technologies will see elevated demand. Meanwhile, first-time elections in conflict-affected regions will require enhanced biometric registration, security-hardened voting systems, and robust results transmission infrastructure.

Success in 2026 requires **regional expertise deployment**, advance engagement with electoral commissions in transitional democracies, and scalable solutions capable of serving both mature democracies with sophisticated requirements and emerging democracies building foundational electoral capacity.

Contact Votident

For deployment inquiries and partnership opportunities

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