

Parliamentary Elections in Cyprus 1960 – 2026

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Introduction:

As the May 2026 parliamentary elections approach, Cyprus enters that familiar period where public life takes on a particular pulse. Each electoral contest takes place in a different context — new conditions, traditional, but also new party formations.

At dedomenon.eu we aim to enrich the picture of electoral processes for the House of Representatives through numbers. Using longitudinal data from the websites of the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Interior, we attempt to understand changes in the Cypriot society and the political landscape.

In this study we examine, among other topics:

- ❖ How voter turnout changes across different election periods
- ❖ The number of party formations and the composition of parliament
- ❖ How the number of elected women fluctuated
- ❖ Who was the longest-serving MP
- ❖ The representation of votes

12 parliamentary elections since 1960.

36 parties took part in the Cypriot parliamentary elections since 1960.

17 parties were represented in the Parliament between 1960 and 2026.

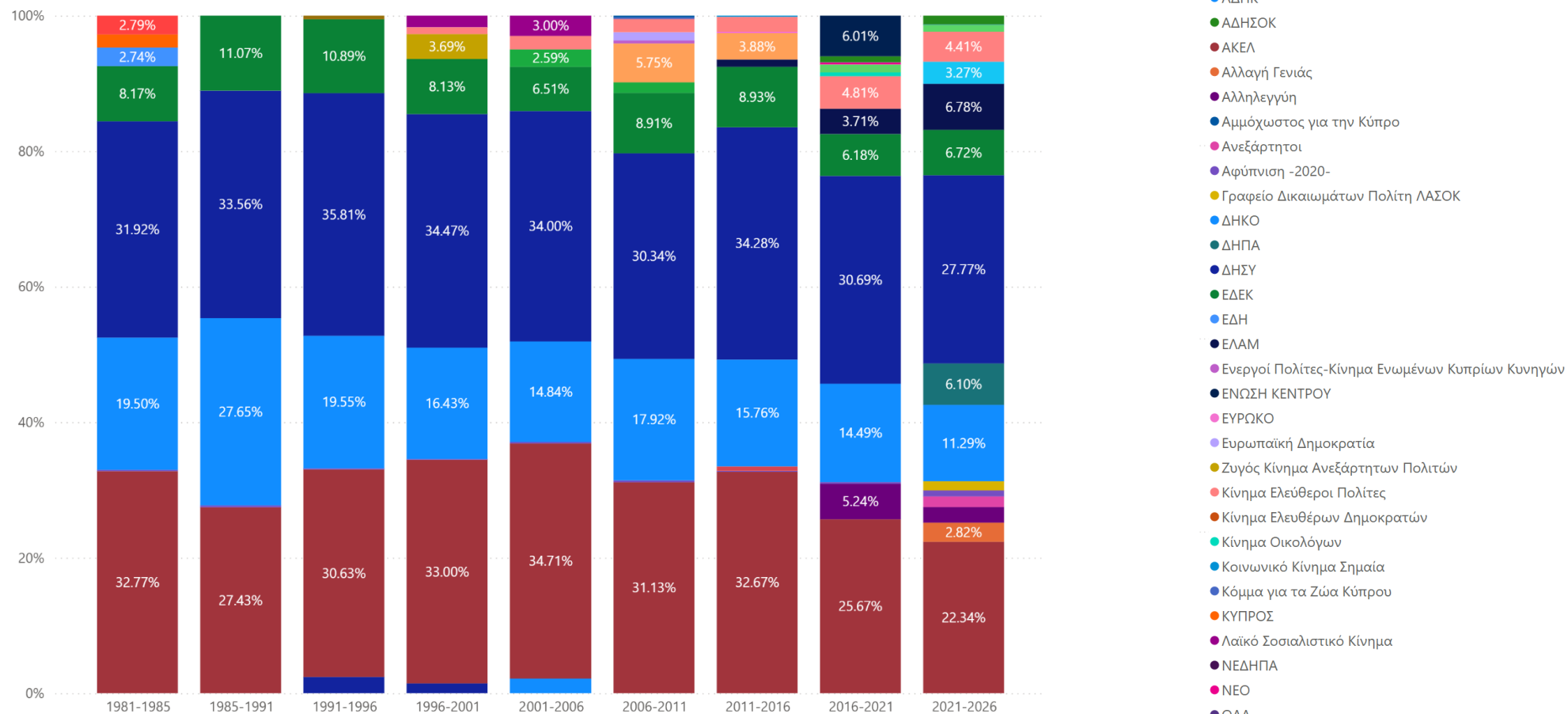


List of names of political parties and independents, transliterated in Latin characters:

Party Name in Greek	Transliteration	Party Name in Greek	Transliteration
ΑΔΗΚ	ADIK	Ζυγός Κίνημα Ανεξάρτητων Πολιτών	Zigos Kinima Anexartiton Politon
ΑΔΗΣΟΚ	ADISOK	Κίνημα Ελεύθεροι Πολίτες	Kinima Eleftheri Polites
ΑΚΕΛ*	AKEL*	Κίνημα Ελευθέρων Δημοκρατών	Kinima Eleftheron Dimokraton
Αλλαγή Γενιάς	Allagi Genias	Κίνημα Οικολόγων	Kinima Ikologon
Αλληλεγγύη	Allileggi	Κοινωνικό Κίνημα Σημαία	Kinoniko Kinima Simea
Αμμόχωστος για την Κύπρο	Ammohostos gia tin Kipro	Κόμμα για τα Ζώα Κύπρου	Kinima gia ta Zoa Kiprou
Ανεξάρτητοι	Independent	ΚΥΠΡΟΣ	KIPROS
Αφύπνιση -2020	Afipnisi -2020	Λαϊκό Σοσιαλιστικό Κίνημα	Laiko Sosialistiko Kinima
Γραφείο Δικαιωμάτων Πολίτη ΛΑΣΟΚ	Grafio Dikaiomaton Politi - LASOK	ΝΕΔΗΠΑ	NEDIPA
ΔΗΚΟ*	DIKO*	ΝΕΟ	NEO
ΔΗΠΑ	DIPA	Νέοι Ορίζοντες	Nei Orizontes
ΔΗΣΥ*	DISY*	ΟΑΔ	OAD
ΕΔΕΚ*	EDEK*	Όλοι στον αγώνα	Oli ston Agona
ΕΔΗ	EDI	ΠΑΚΟΠ	PAKOP
ΕΛΑΜ	ELAM	ΠΑΜΕ	PAME
Ενεργοί Πολίτες-Κίνημα Ενωμένων Κυπρίων Κυνηγών	Energi Polites - Kinima Enomenon Kinigon	Πατριωτικό Μέτωπο	Patriotiko Metopo
Ενιαίον	Enieon	Πατριωτικός Συνασπισμός	Patriotikis Sinaspismos
ΕΝΩΣΗ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ	ENOSI KENTROU	Πνοή Λαού	Pnoi Laou
ΕΥΡΩΚΟ	EUROKO	Πολιτικό Κίνημα Κυνηγών	Politiko Kinima Kinigon
Ευρωπαϊκή Δημοκρατία	Europaiki Dimokratia	Συμμαχία Πολιτών	Simmahia Politon

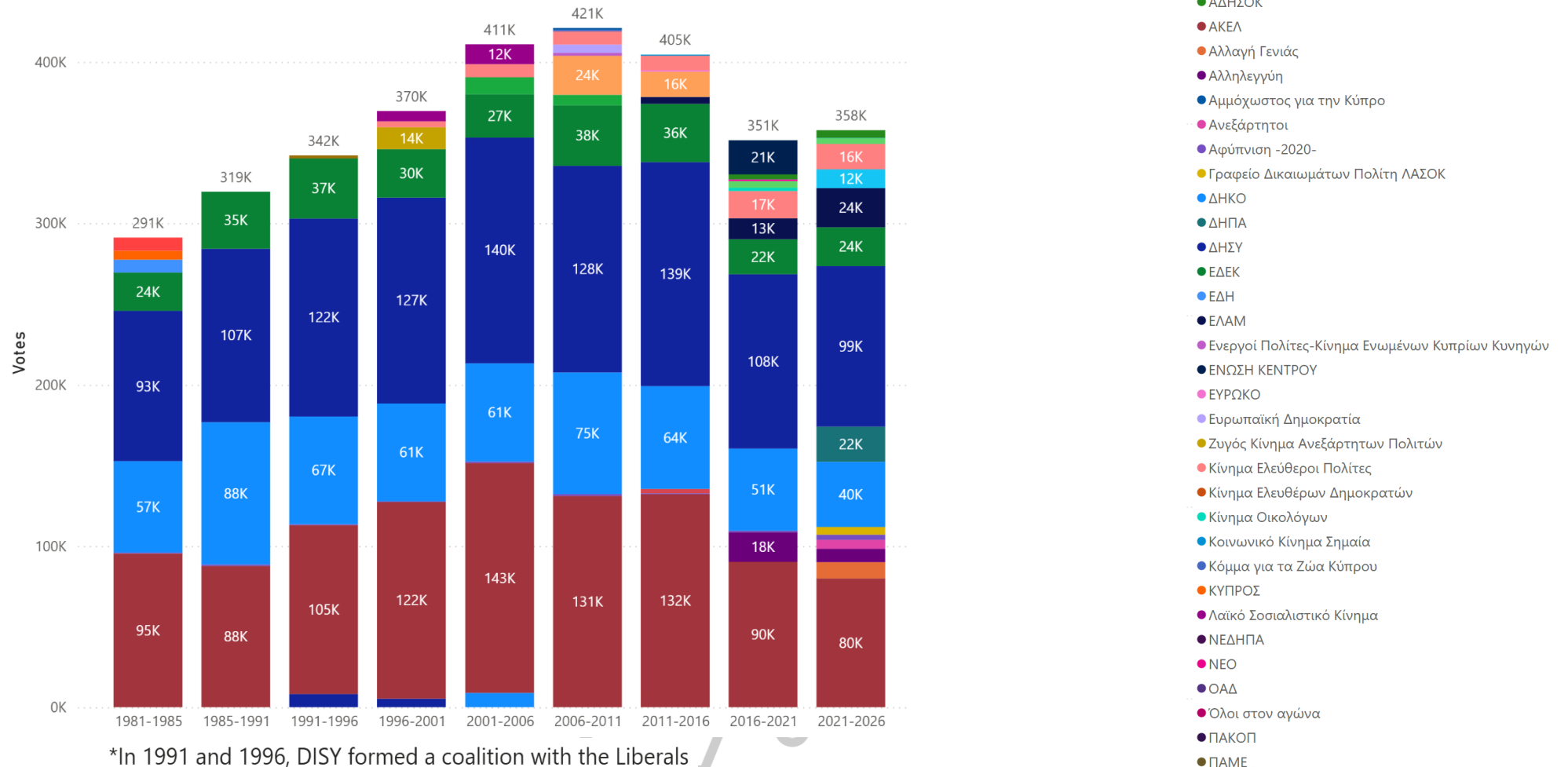
* “Traditional” parties

Election results - %



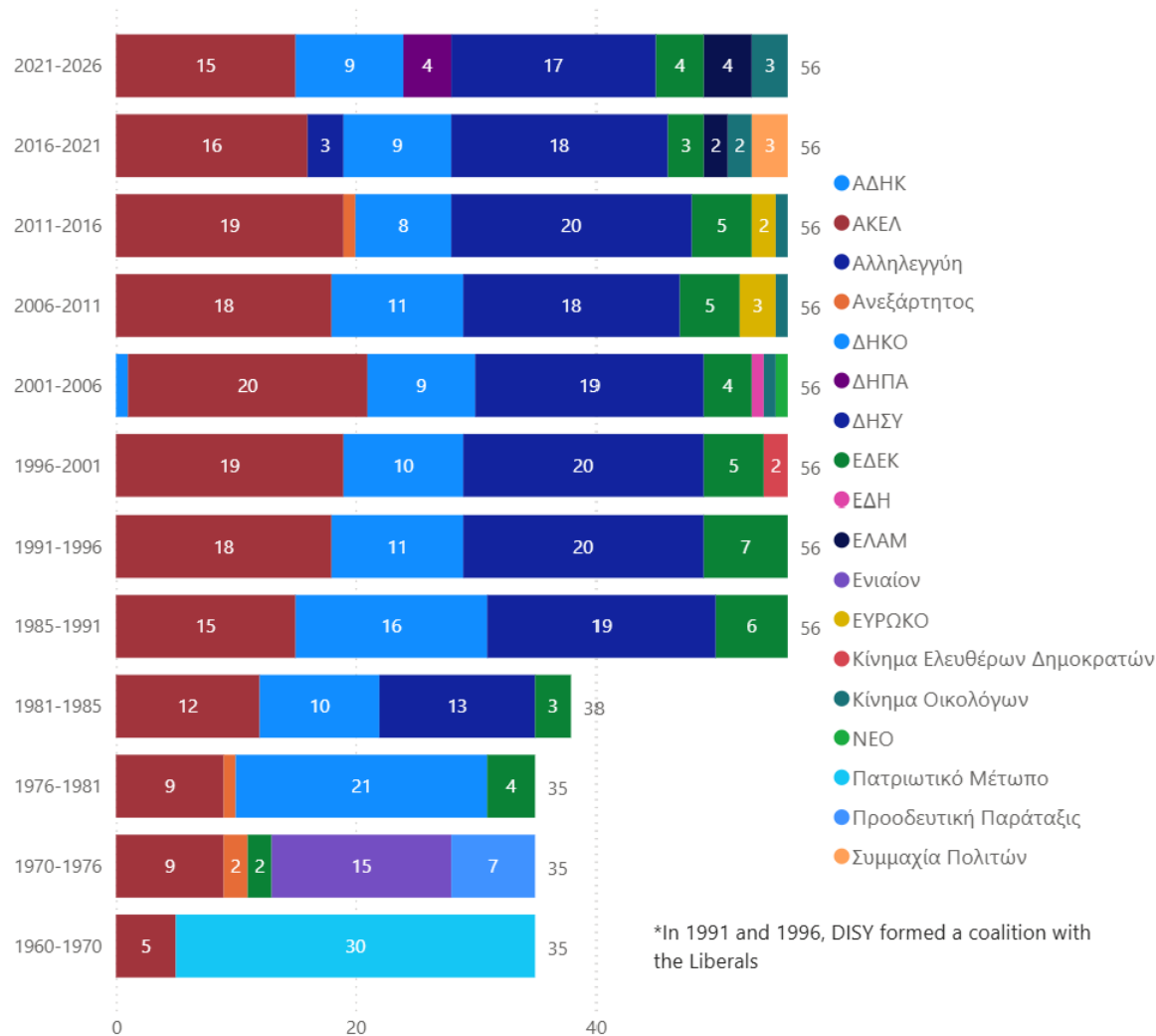
- ❖ A rise in the number of parties participating in elections can be observed since 1981. In the 1985 elections only 4 parties ran, while in 2021 there were 15 party formations.
- ❖ The highest percentage recorded for a party since 1981 was 35.81% in 1991 (DISY).
- ❖ "Traditional" parties (AKEL, DIKO, EDEK, DISY), while remaining dominant, have seen their combined share decline from 99.71% in 1985 to 68.12% in 2021.

Election Results - # of Votes



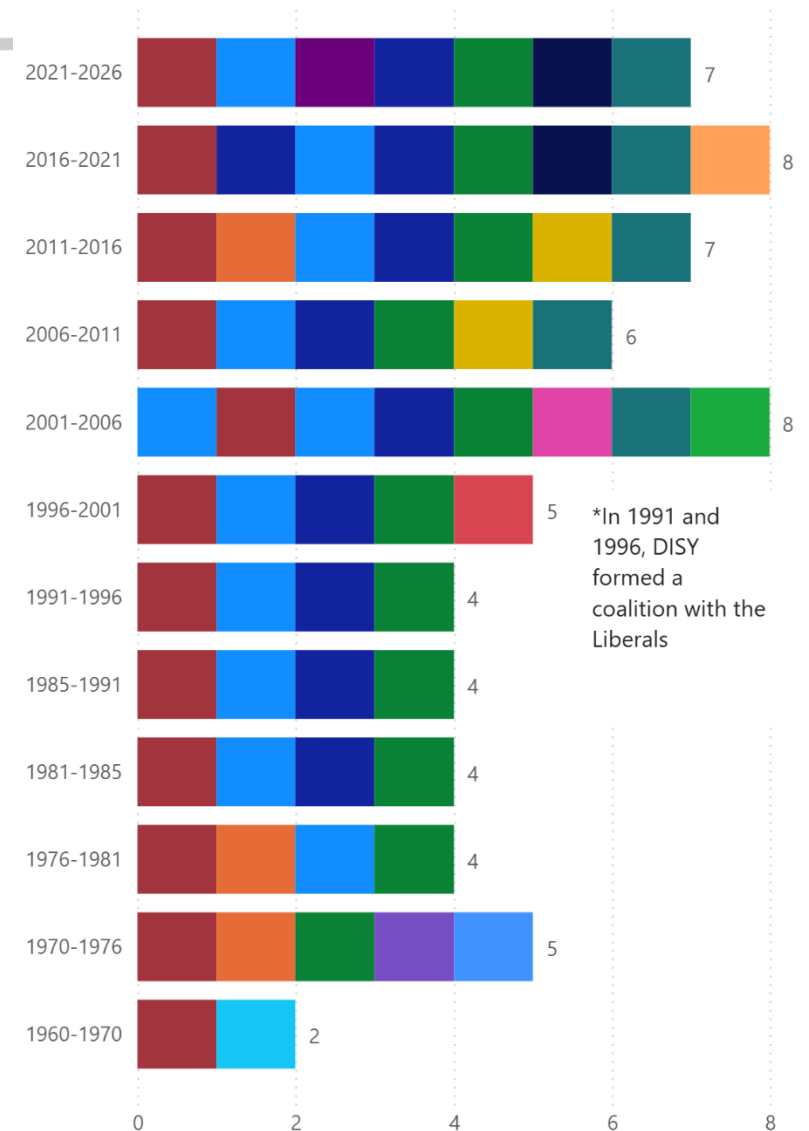
- ❖ The only elections where no party received over 100,000 votes were those of 1981 and 2021 — the former due to a small electorate (309k), the latter due to abstention (191k) and vote fragmentation across 15 parties.
- ❖ The electoral law changed in 2017: voting was no longer compulsory as it had been since 1960.

MPs per political party



- ❖ A total of 17 party formations have been represented in parliament.
- ❖ Independent candidates have been elected in three different parliamentary periods, most recently in 2011–16 (Zacharias Koulias).
- ❖ AKEL is the only party to have elected MPs from the founding of the Republic of Cyprus to the present day.
- ❖ The Patriotic Front held the most seats (30) in any single election.
- ❖ DISY (3 times) and AKEL (1 time) have been represented by 20 MPs.
- ❖ 10 parties have been represented only once in parliament: ADHK, Allilengyi, DIPA, EDI, Eniaion, Movement of Free Democrats, NEO, Patriotic Front, Progressive Alliance, Citizens' Alliance.

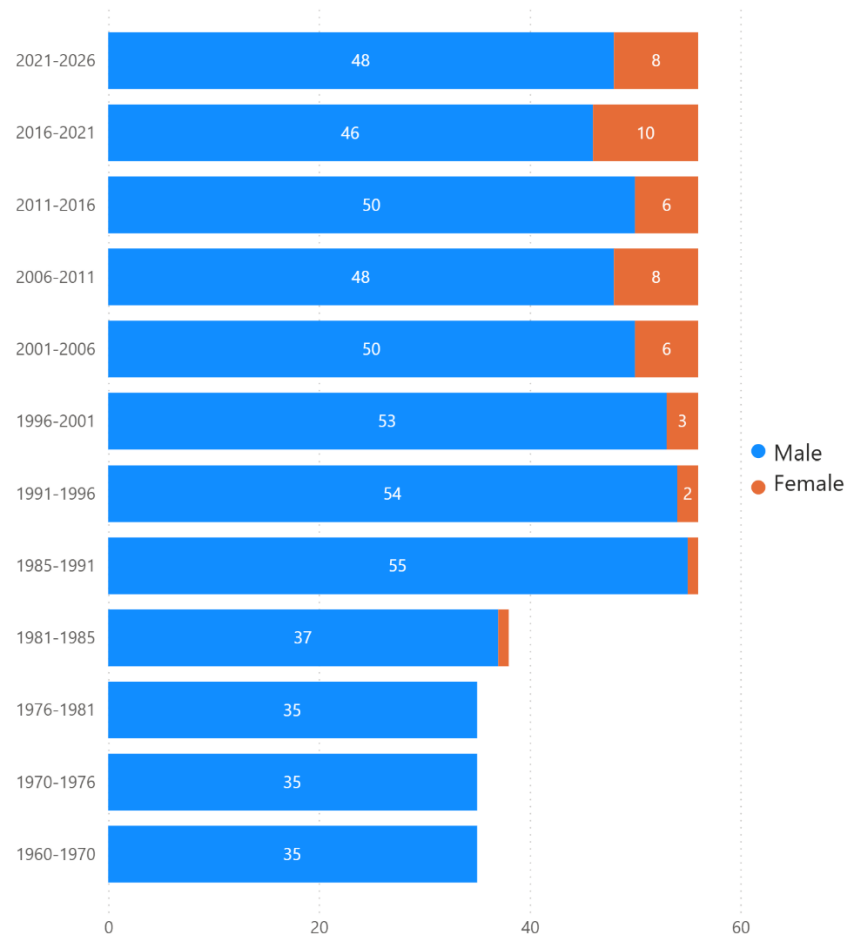
Number of political parties in the Parliament



- ❖ The maximum number of party coalitions represented in parliament was 8 (in the periods 2016–21 and 2001–06).
- ❖ The minimum was 2 (in 1960, immediately after independence) — that parliament lasted 10 years (1960–70).

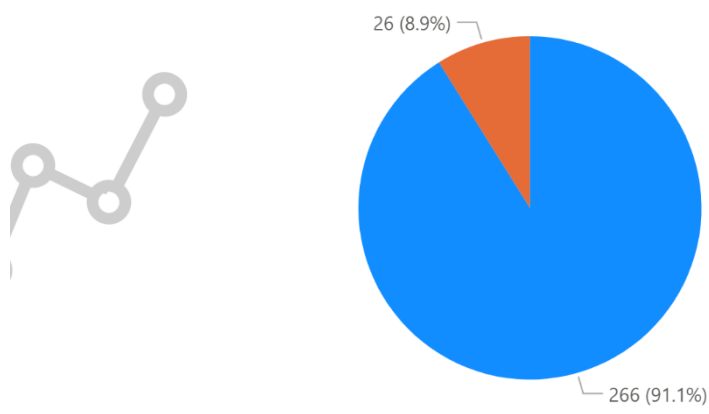
In 1981 the first female MP was elected (Rina Katseli)

Female MPs



- ❖ A total of 292 different MPs have been elected to parliament: 266 men and just 26 women.
- ❖ The first female MP was elected in 1981 — Rina Katseli in the Kyrenia district with DIKO, who served three parliamentary terms.
- ❖ The most women ever elected was in 2021: 10 (18%). Despite an upward trend, women remain underrepresented.

Participation of each gender in the total number of MPs elected since 1960



9 Speakers of the Parliament since 1960.

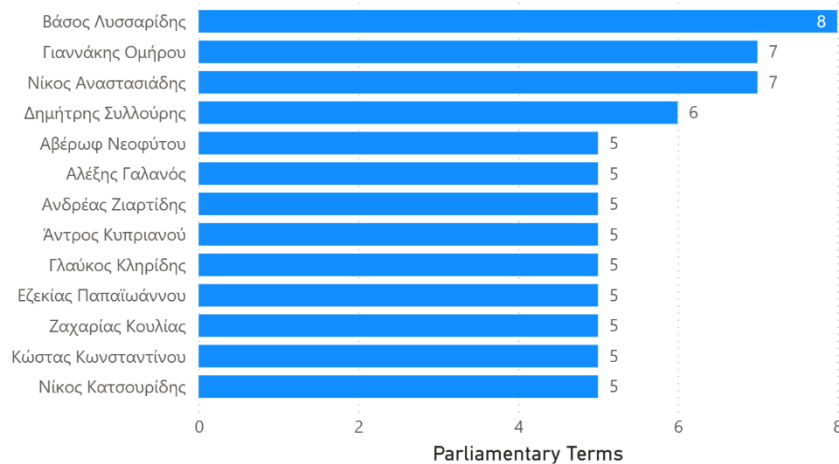
Βουλευτική περίοδος	Πρόεδρος της Βουλής	Κόμμα
1960-1970	Γλαύκος Κληρίδης	Πατριωτικό Μέτωπο
1970-1976	Γλαύκος Κληρίδης	Ενιαίον
1976-1981	Σπύρος Κυπριανού	ΔΗΚΟ
1981-1985	Γεώργιος Λαδάς	ΔΗΚΟ
1985-1991	Βάσος Λυσσαρίδης	ΕΔΕΚ
1991-1996	Αλέξης Γαλανός	ΔΗΚΟ
1996-2001	Σπύρος Κυπριανού	ΔΗΚΟ
2001-2006	Δημήτρης Χριστόφιας	ΑΚΕΛ
2006-2011	Δημήτρης Χριστόφιας	ΑΚΕΛ
2011-2016	Γιαννάκης Ομήρου	ΕΔΕΚ
2016-2021	Δημήτρης Συλλούρης	Αλληλεγγύη
2021-2026	Αννίτα Δημητρίου	ΔΗΣΥ

- ❖ Across 12 parliamentary periods since 1960, there have been nine different Speakers.
- ❖ Eight were men; one (current Speaker Annita Demetriou) is a woman.
- ❖ DIKO-affiliated Speakers were elected in four parliamentary periods.
- ❖ Three Speakers also went on to serve as Presidents of the Republic.
- ❖ Note: The parliamentary period 1970–1975 was extended until September 1976, during which Tassos Papadopoulos served as Speaker.

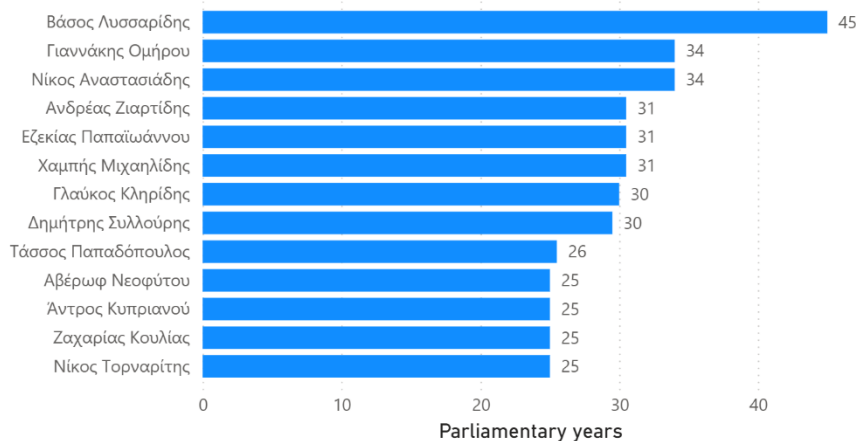
* Refers to Speakers as elected at the beginning of each parliamentary period.

8 terms, for Vassos Lyssarides

How many terms did I serve as MP?

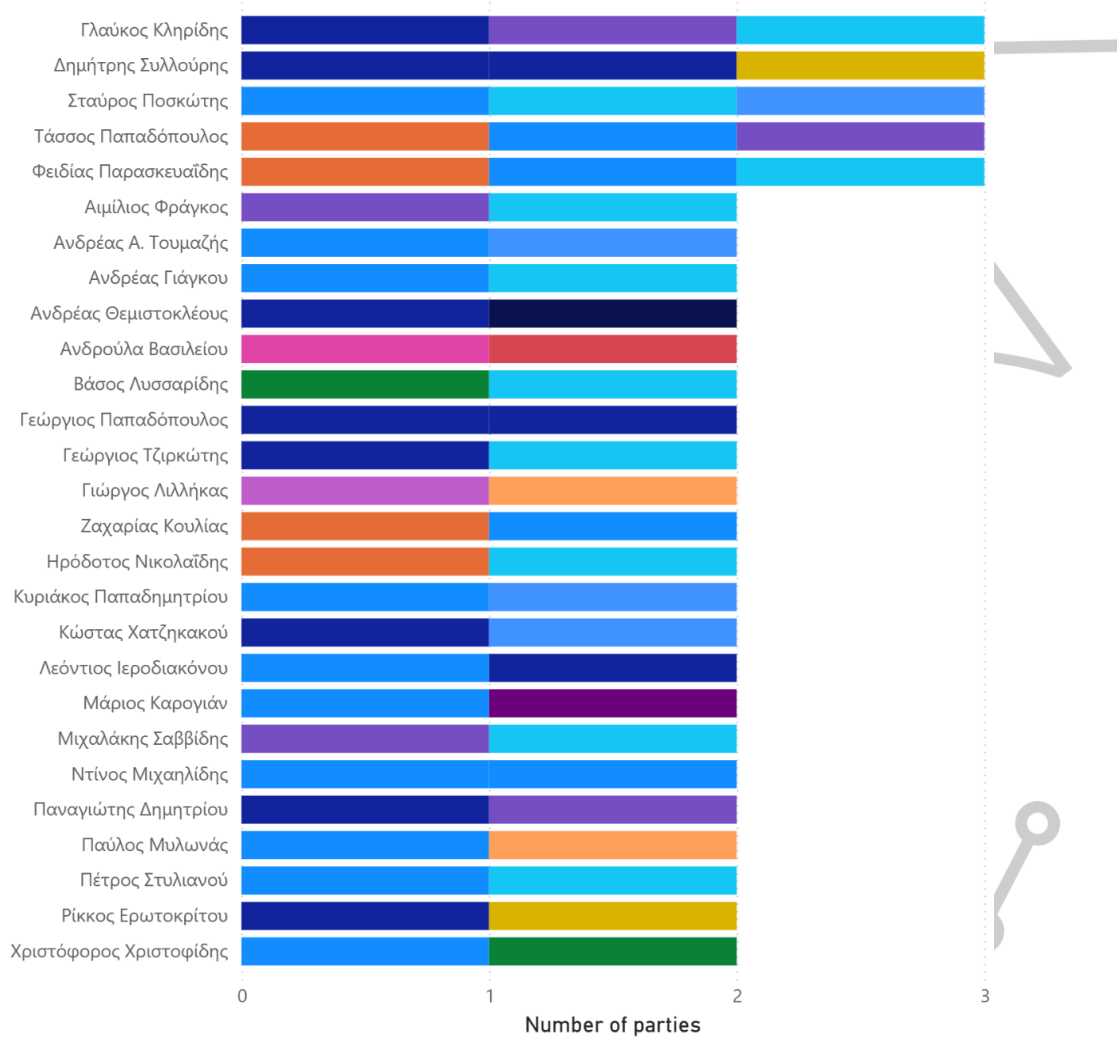


How many years did I serve as MP?



- ❖ The longest-serving MP was Vassos Lyssarides with 45 years and eight parliamentary terms.
- ❖ In second place: Yiannakis Omirou and Nikos Anastasiades, both with 34 years and 7 terms.
- ❖ The top spots are exclusively held by men.
- ❖ Among women, four have served three terms: Eirini Charalambidou, Eleni Mavrou, Stella Kyriakidou, and Rina Katseli.

Have always been elected with the same political party?



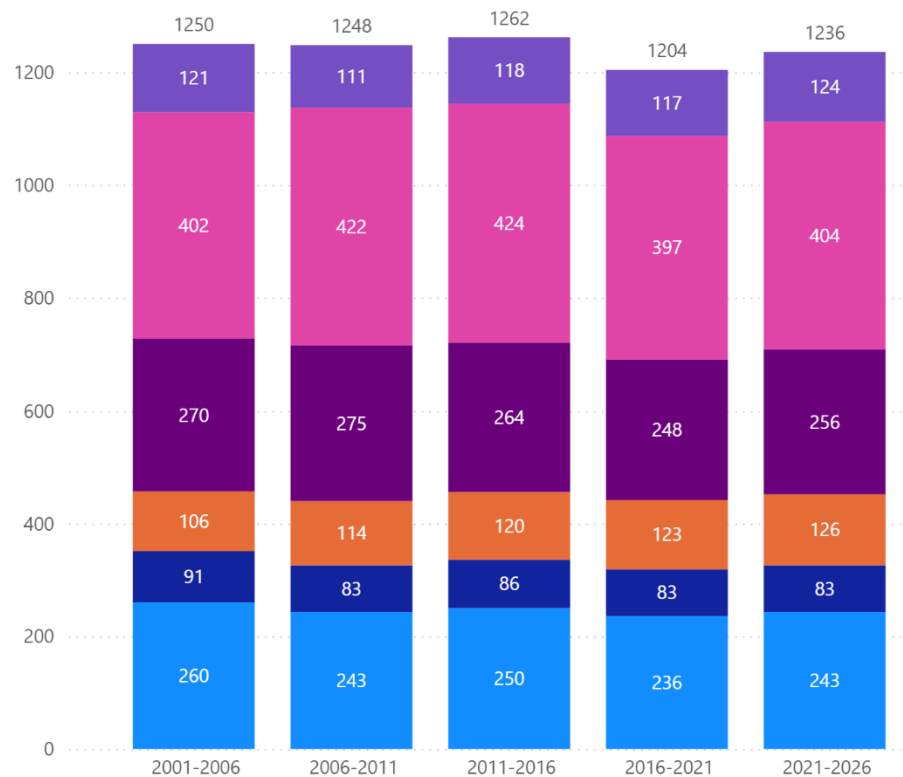
- ❖ Five Members of Parliament have been elected under three different parties (or as independents). Among them, two later served as Presidents of the Republic (Glafcos Clerides and Tassos Papadopoulos).
- ❖ Similarly, Glafcos Clerides and Demetris Syllouris were elected as Presidents of the House of Representatives.
- ❖ Twenty-two individuals were elected under two different political formations.
- ❖ Except for Androulla Vasiliou, all 26 individuals who were elected under more than one party were men.

1236

polling stations for 2021.

Polling Stations per district

● Famagusta ● Kerynia ● Larnaca ● Limassol ● Nicosia ● Paphos

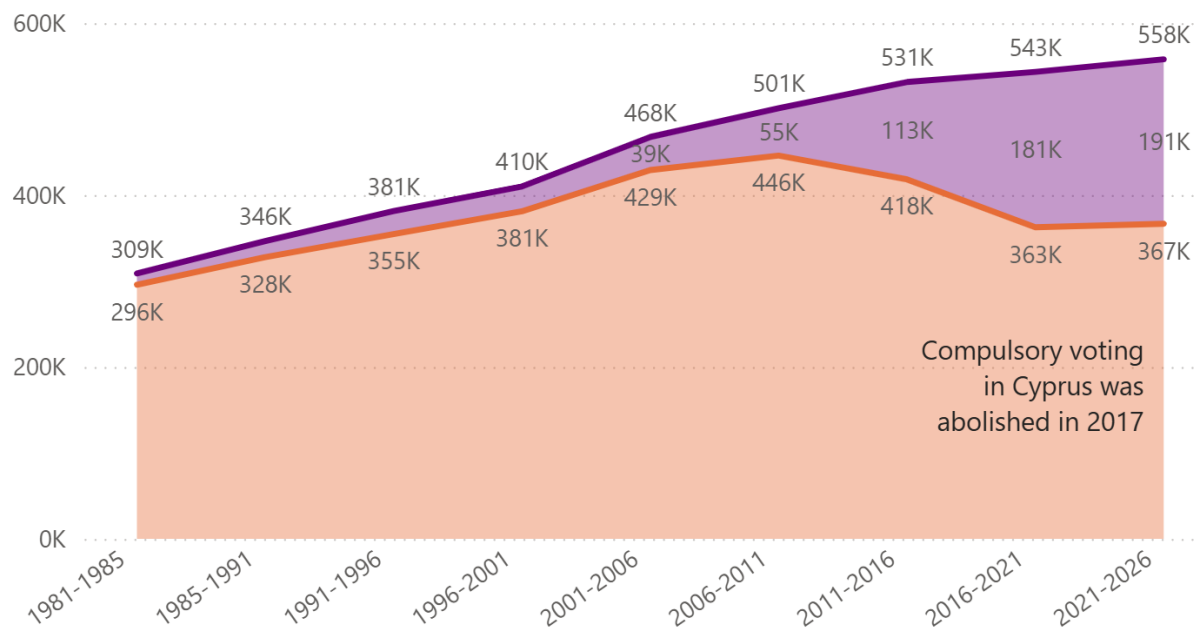


- The number of polling stations per district has shown slight fluctuations since 2001 and has always exceeded 1,200.
- Nicosia district has consistently had the most, with a peak of 424 in 2011.
- Kerynia district has consistently had the fewest, with a minimum of 83 in the 2006, 2016, and 2021 elections.

191k or 34% abstained in 2021's elections.

Participating in the elections

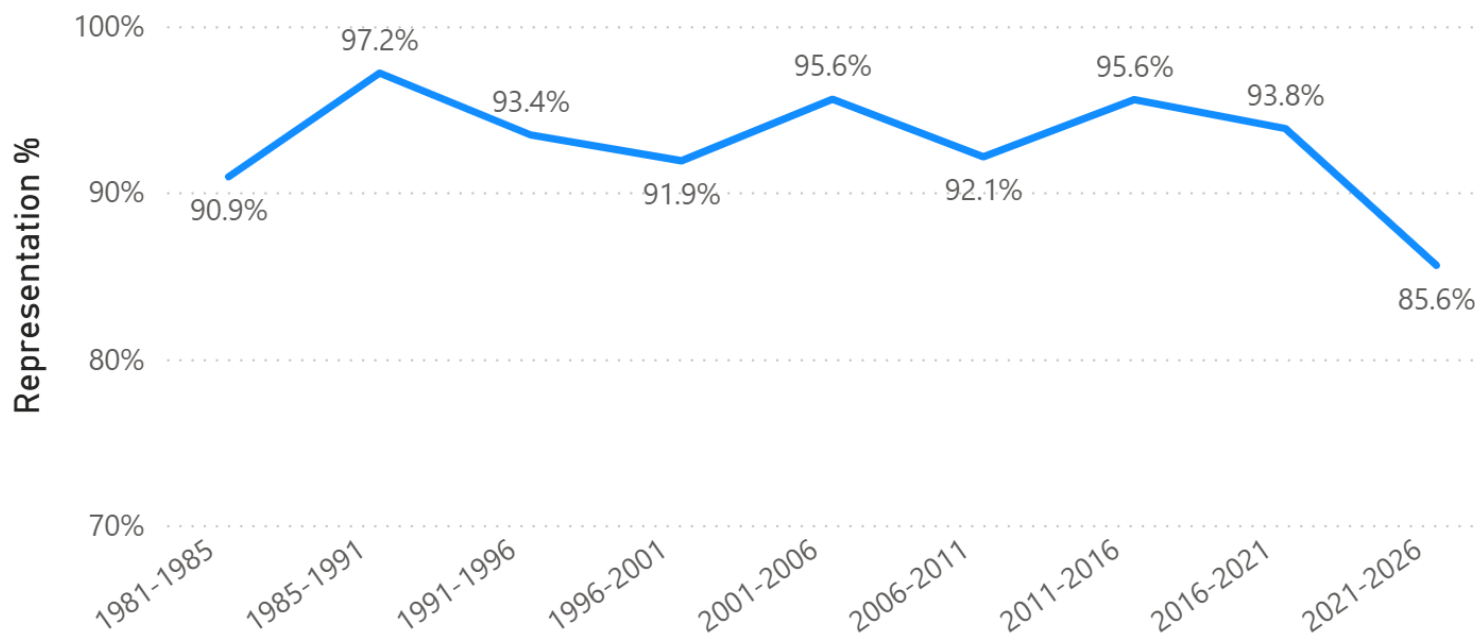
● Voted ● Abstained



- ❖ The electorate has grown from 309k in 1981 to 558k in 2021 (+81%).
- ❖ Over the same period, abstention has steadily risen, peaking in 2021 when only 66% of voters participated.
- ❖ Notably, the rise in abstention predates the change to voluntary voting in 2017.
- ❖ The highest number of counted votes was recorded in 2006 at 446k. Since then, despite electorate growth, participation has declined.

Is your vote represented in the Parliament?

The party I voted for, elected at least one MP



- ❖ Representation is the percentage of voters who exercised their right to vote and whose vote is translated into parliamentary representation, i.e. seats in the House of Representatives. In other words, it is the share of valid votes allocated to parties or independent candidates who ultimately elect Members of Parliament. If a party or independent candidate does not pass the electoral threshold, their votes are not represented in Parliament.
- ❖ From 1981 until 2016, representation consistently exceeded 90%.
- ❖ In 2021, in addition to the record-high abstention rate, approximately 14.5% of votes went to parties or independent candidates that ultimately did not secure parliamentary representation. It is worth noting that 15 political formations participated in the 2021 elections, of which only 7 elected an MP. Furthermore, none of the 7 independent candidates achieved representation in Parliament.

Definitions and sources:

1. Data was drawn from the websites of the House of Representatives (parliament.cy) and the Ministry of Interior (results.elections.moi.gov.cy).
2. The study covers the period 1960–2021, unless otherwise stated.
3. Although elections have been held since 1960, some data is only available in digital form from 1981 or 2001 onwards. Information is presented according to availability.
4. The data refers to the parliamentary elections of the Republic of Cyprus.
5. Party names or candidate names sometimes change between elections. For consistency, one name is kept throughout. Examples:
 - i. Instead of KISOS, EDEK
 - ii. Instead of DISY–Liberals Coalition, DISY
 - iii. Instead of Leandros V. Zachariades, Leandros Zachariades
 - iv. Instead of Yiannakis Matsis, Ioannis Matsis
6. *The aim is a statistical assessment of electoral contests. With this in mind, only the initial results at the level of elected MPs are tracked — not any subsequent changes or by-elections held during a parliamentary period.*