

Summary

- Democracy is under threat and needs strengthening everywhere. Data shows that global freedom is declining and in their recent report, the World Economic Forum identified misinformation and disinformation as the most severe risk the world is facing.
- In 2024, countries home to more than half of the global population will hold elections in a year that could prove a tipping point for democracy around the world. Elections to watch are listed on the second page of this document.
- Electoral integrity is pivotal. Electoral integrity boosts institutional legitimacy and trust and leads to more stability and better governance.

What is at stake?

- **Democracy is under threat and faces strategic assault from autocrats.** International IDEA's November 2023 [report](#) highlighted declines in representation, rights, and the rule of law the world over.
- The World Economic Forum [identified](#) misinformation and disinformation as the most severe global risk anticipated over the next two years.
- **Democracy helps drive prosperity and security:** [Evidence shows](#) that democracy helps protect rights, reduces the risk of conflict, and increases the likelihood of sustainable economic growth and effective social policies.
- **Action is needed to protect and strengthen democracy at home and abroad.**
- The UK Government white paper on international development acknowledges the challenge of autocratisation and that strong democracies underpinned by strong institutions support sustainable development.

Elections = democracy?

- Elections are one of the most visible elements of democracy and its one of its essential ingredients. The right to vote is a human right. But **holding elections alone does not always mean democracy**. This year, Belarus, Russia, and Iran will go to the polls in elections that are unlikely to be free or fair, offering a veneer of legitimacy to regimes that are in fact autocratic.
- **Electoral integrity is pivotal:** Electoral integrity extends beyond voting day and the credibility of the outcome – it is built on inclusion, transparency, and accountability throughout the entire electoral cycle.
- Electoral integrity is important because credible **electoral processes boost institutional legitimacy and trust in representatives**. This leads to **more stability and better governance**.
- Credible elections help make sure everyone gets to have a say in how their society is run and has the chance to influence change for the better.
- Electoral integrity is best supported through broad, long-term governance programmes that address challenges throughout the electoral cycle. **WFD supports electoral integrity globally through analysis, research, and election observation missions.**

Key elections in 2024

Among the elections taking place this year, here are ones to watch. Freedom and Fairness Scores on a scale of zero (least free and fair) to one (most free and fair) are taken from [Our World In Data's index](#) based on [V-Dem](#) (Varieties of Democracy) expert assessments.

February: Pakistan

Population: 243 million

Election(s): National Assembly

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.3

February: Azerbaijan

Population: 10.4 million

Election(s): Presidential

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.08

February: Indonesia

Population: 279 million

Election(s): Presidential,
Regional Representative
Council, House of
Representatives

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.68

March: Maldives

Population: 0.52 million

Election(s): People's Majlis
(Parliament)

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.66

March: Ukraine

Scheduled, though may not
occur due to martial law.

Population: 37.4 million

Election(s): Presidential

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.57

March: Russian Federation

Population: 144 million

Election(s): Presidential

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.25

April: India

Population: 1.44 billion

Election(s): Lok Sabha
(Parliament)

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.53

May (TBD): Sri Lanka

Population: 21.9 million

Election(s): Presidential,
Parliamentary

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.76

May-August: South Africa

Population: 60.7 million

Election(s): National Assembly

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.72

June: Mexico

Population: 129 million

Election(s): Presidential,
Senate, Chamber of Deputies

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.75

June: Mongolia

Population: 3.5 million

Election(s): State Great Khural
(Parliament)

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.65

June: European Union

Population: 448 million

Election(s): European
Parliament

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.91 (average)

October: Georgia

Population: 3.7 million

Election(s): Presidential,
Parliamentary

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.59

November: USA

Population: 341 million

Election(s): Presidential

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.83

November: Jordan

Population: 11.4 million

Election(s): House of
Representatives

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.49

November: Moldova

Population: 3.4 million

Election(s): Presidential

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.82

December: Ghana

Population: 34.4 million

Election(s): Presidential,
Parliamentary

Freedom and Fairness Score:
0.6

About WFD

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK's democracy support agency.

Our partners include parliaments, political parties, electoral bodies, civil society organisations, and others that are addressing critical policy and governance challenges. We draw on Britain's democratic experience and build relationships internationally.

To find out more, including how you can support our work visit www.wfd.org/support.