Scirocco - Latest news from Italy

13.10.2026: The "Melonellum" passed

On October 8, the Chamber of Deputies gave its final approval to the electoral reform, renamed "Melonellum" by the press, with 227 votes in favor and 164 against. In our Scirocco article on 29 September we outlined the main changes the reform introduces.

The bill has thus completed its passage through Parliament and has been sent to the President of the Republic for promulgation and publication in the Official Gazette. President Sergio Mattarella has formally signed the law, which governs how Italians will vote in the next general election. As reported by *la Repubblica*, the new electoral law is still little known to the public. Three out of four citizens say they know little or nothing about its content. Yet once the main provisions are explained to them, opinion shifts: 41% view the reform favorably, while 37% oppose it. What many Italians do not yet realize is how the reform will change future election campaigns.

The return of preference votes will give an advantage to lists with candidates who are firmly rooted in their local areas. Such candidates can bring their parties, and therefore their coalitions, a kind of submerged support that is hard to capture in opinion polls. Candidates will thus once again become a genuine tool for winning votes.

The reform also introduces an explicit threshold of 42% for the majority bonus, which will directly shape party strategy. First, building broad alliances will no longer be merely a tactical choice but an increasingly pressing necessity. The center-right will try to do without Vannacci and his National Future, although this will not be easy. To manage it, the coalition will have to widen its perimeter as far as possible, as the recent agreement with Cateno De Luca suggests. In a race decided by the narrowest of margins, with the center-right and center-left neck and neck, small parties could be not only important but decisive. In addition, appeals for tactical voting in favor of the coalitions will grow louder, to prevent votes from being wasted on parties outside the alliances. The next campaign will therefore be fought on two levels: the national level, where every vote can bring a coalition closer to the majority bonus or push it further away, and the local level, where every preference vote can decide a candidate's fate.

Even after the bill's final approval, the opposition remains determined to mobilize against the reform. Representatives of the Network for a Free and Equal Vote will present their plan for legal challenges to the electoral law. The goal is to obtain a ruling from the Constitutional Court before the general election. Many constitutional experts believe that Mattarella's swift signature and signals coming from the institutions suggest this is precisely the intention: to speed up promulgation so that the Court can decide in time for the vote. The outcome of this race depends on the judges and on the deadlines of the various stages of the appeals, which will be filed once the electoral law enters into force.