

Scirocco - Kurzinfo aus Italien

29.09.2026: The Electoral Reform: Genuine Reform or Political Calculation?

After Meloni's government presented a draft law for electoral reform in July, it has now been passed by the Senate with 113 votes in favour, 71 against, and 2 abstentions. In our [Scirocco of 31.07.2026](#), we already explained how the Italian electoral system has worked so far and what [major changes](#) the electoral reform would bring.

Here's an overview once again:

- Preference votes (Preferenze) are making a comeback:

In future, voters will no longer be able to vote only for a list, but will also be able to personally tick up to 3 candidates. The criticism: the top candidate of each list still remains "locked in" (predetermined by the party) — only the remaining 6 list positions are open to preference voting. The opposition therefore speaks of "fake preference votes."

- Majority bonus:

The coalition that reaches 42% of the vote receives a seat bonus (70 additional deputies/35 additional senators) — capped at a maximum of 220 deputies/113 senators. According to the government, the aim is to prevent a stalemate in parliament.

- Higher hurdles for new parties:

In order to run at all, new parties will in future have to collect 450,000 signatures — for critics, a hurdle that is barely surmountable and that holds back smaller/newer political forces.

- Advance declaration of the prime ministerial candidate

Parties/coalitions must already state, at the time of registration, whom they are proposing as head of government.

The effects of the electoral reform on promoting [women's access to politics \(so-called gender quotas\)](#), as provided for in Article 51 of the constitution, still need to be examined. Neither gender may make up more than 60% of the candidates on the aforementioned "list." However, this ceiling does not apply to the top candidates of the lists in the multi-member constituencies, who are elected first. There is therefore a risk that male presence in parliament will become even greater than it already is. A positive [innovation](#) of the electoral reform could be that in future it will be possible to vote away from one's place of residence in parliamentary and European elections as well as in referendums.

Critical voices on the electoral reform, however, stress that the planned majority bonus would lead to a parliament that does not represent the will of the voters and that violates the principle of proportionality and equality of votes. Moreover, this could allow the governing majority to single-handedly determine the President of the Republic.

Plenary debate is scheduled for the end of September, once the review of the amendments has been completed. There are around sixty amendments, all of which come from the opposition. About forty of these are joint amendments submitted by a broad alliance (PD, M5S, AVS, Italia Viva, and +Europa).

Furthermore, after Giorgia Meloni decided to secure the bill with a vote of confidence and declared that she would be prepared to resign should the Chamber of Deputies vote no, speculation has repeatedly arisen that she wants to deliberately force early elections. There is in fact a possibility that the centre-right alliance could bring down the electoral law in the Chamber of Deputies by rejecting the reform in the final vote, which will almost certainly be held by secret ballot.

But why might the centre-right majority reject its own electoral reform, thereby most likely triggering a government crisis?

The centre-right coalition's doubts about the reform it proposed itself are largely attributable to the founding and subsequent rise in the polls of "Futuro Nazionale," the party of former general Roberto Vannacci. At present, "Futuro Nazionale" does not appear willing to enter into alliances, and the centre-right camp has likewise not declared any intention of allying with Vannacci's party. However, as Riccardo Magi, secretary of "Più Europa," pointed out to "Pagella Politica," an alliance with Vannacci would be decisive for the centre-right camp in order to obtain the majority bonus provided for in the reform, should the electoral reform be passed in its current form. With 7.4 percent of the vote, "Futuro Nazionale" would in fact be the second-strongest force within the centre-right camp, on a par with "Forza Italia," and its inclusion in the coalition could prove decisive for electoral victory.

It remains unclear whether Meloni is hoping for a clear victory for the electoral reform or has calculated on bringing forward parliamentary elections. What does remain clear, however, is that she is not acting in the interests of the people, but rather seeking to further retain and expand her power, at the expense of marginalised groups.

The Senate passed the law on 15 September with 113 votes in favour. It now returns to the Chamber of Deputies (Camera) for its final, third reading on 28 September. The final vote is expected to take place between 7 and 8 October.