

## Saxony: 6th State Elections on 31. 8.2014

### Overview Results

*Voter turnout:* The new state parliament of Saxony was elected by less than half of the constituency. Voter turnout reached a historical low for state elections in Saxony with 49.2 per cent but was as high as turnout for European Parliament elections earlier this year. On election night numerous times the holidays were mentioned (Sunday was the last day of summer holidays in Saxony) as a reason for this. This argument can not convince: If results had been open, if there had been a thematic profilation during the campaign, or an actual fight for power – then voter turnout would have been clearly higher. De facto, the results were foreseeable.



*Gregor Gysi, chairman of the left fraction DIE LINKE at the Bundestag, during the election campaign in Saxoni.*

79 per cent of the pollees – more than ever before at state elections in Saxony - assessed the economic situation as good (2009: 38 per cent; 2004: 26 per cent; 1999: 40 per cent, Infratest dimap). 75 per cent considered the economic situation in Saxony as better than in any other Land (Forschungsgruppe Wahlen). There was no issue topping all other election issues and, as already mentioned, no alternative to a further five years of CDU government and Minister-President Tillich.

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## DIE LINKE

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Neither the outlook for change nor the necessary defense of existing power positions could unfold a special mobilising effect. Thus, all parties beside the Greens lost votes to the nonvoters. Only the new party AfD could mobilise former nonvoters. Considering the overall constellation of state parliament elections in Saxony, the sinking voter turnout could be interpreted as manifestation of general contentment with the way things go in the Land as well as the result of the impotence of the opposition parties: the CDU governs already for a (too) long time, but supersession is not in sight.

The legitimacy of the elected representatives is formally not curtailed by the low voter turnout. 86.2 per cent of the valid votes are represented in the new Saxon state parliament; a mere 14 per cent are not represented. Those votes come – similar to federal elections – predominantly from the rightwing political spectre. The representatives in the new state parliament represent 48.1 per cent of eligible voters, a new Saxon state government of CDU and SPD could only refer to the active approval of a mere quarter of the electorate.

## *First assessment*

The party political constellation after elections

The Saxon state parliament changed from a six party to a five party parliament. The FDP (liberals) were clearly, the NPD (nationalists) only barely voted out of parliament while the AfD (Alternative for Germany, right wing eurospectacists) distinctly entered their first state parliament.

The CDU won elections for the 6th Saxon state parliament; it will remain governing party, place the Minister President and can, arithmetically, form a governing majority with any other party. The conservative liberal coalition was voted out which can be called the “credit” of the CDU since it consistently denied a vote lending campaign in favour of the smaller partner. The CDU loses 10 per cent of its votes compared to 2009 and for the first time gains less than 40 per cent of valid votes – which is no merit of the left opposition parties but of the AfD. The federal CDU categorically

ruled out a coalition with the AfD. This comes in view of the coming elections in Thuringia in two weeks but it is also about keeping the distance to the AfD for further applying pressure on the social democrats to keep the same distance to the left party.

DIE LINKE missed its election aim to push the CDU below 40 per cent by its own strength. It was only about gaining a respectable result as “eternal opposition party”. This was actually achieved.

The SPD received rather disappointing results. 12.4 per cent are no sign for a social democratic renaissance in the Free State. With Martin Dulig the party has a land chair person who could immensely increase his name recognition.

The Greens lose nearly a fifth of their share of votes from 2009. Considering the shift of votes the assumption suggests itself that flirting with a conservative green coalition might have motivated many voters to rather vote for the social democrats and the left party.

The AfD becomes fourth strongest party in state parliament with 9.7 per cent. It is represented in a state parliament for the first time. On the one hand it takes up the function of teaching-a-lesson and protest voters’ party but can rely on the other hand on a high number of convinced voters from the conservative and rightwing spectre. It is the actual election winner, its success owing to the exclusion of the NPD and the below 40 per cent of the CDU.

The FDP was clearly voted out of the state parliament; not only due to the strength of the AfD. The voting conduct of former FDP voters points to a turning away from politics and elections towards a national-liberal and conservative as well as social liberal direction. The FDP is not part of any Land government anymore. In Thuringia and Brandenburg further failure is impending. How a comeback of the FDP as a liberal party could look like is more unclear then ever.

The NPD failed narrowly due to the election threshold but remained astonishingly strong measured against intermediate polls. A right wing voter spectre has established itself in Saxony which can be mobilised by the NDP as well as the rightwing populist conduct of the AfD.

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For the formation of government in Saxony at first talks of CDU with SPD and Greens are to be expected. The signals from the federal CDU but also from SPD and Greens point to the formation of a neoconservative bloc of CDU, SPD, and Greens. In how far those three parties can and will negotiate government formation on federal and Land level in the future, will presumably be decided in Thuringia if the results there admit several options.

The already during federal elections diagnosed weakness of parties left from the CDU continues in Saxony: Linke, SPD and Greens combined lose about 10 per cent of the votes compared to 2009. Their common share of votes drops from 37.4 to 37 per cent.



*Katja Kipping and Bernd Riexinger*

## International Community to Speak and Act Concertedly

Party Chairs of DIE LINKE, Katja Kipping and Bernd Riexinger, as well as the Chair of DIE LINKE parliamentary group in Bundestag, Gregor Gysi, make the following common statement regarding the events in North Iraq. (Press Release of Katja Kipping, Bernd Riexinger, Gregor Gysi, 12. August 2014)

[Read more:](#)

## Summer-Interview ARD Gregor Gysi

On 11th August Gregor Gysi, chair of DIE LINKE fraction in Bundestag, spoke with TV channel ARD about current armed conflicts in the world as well as German arms exports.

[Video:](#)

## Economic Warriors on Escalation Path

Article by Sahra Wagenknecht on the Ukraine policy of the Federal Government. 11. August 2014

[Read more:](#)

## New Chance for Testimony of Edward Snowden in Germany

Bernd Riexinger asks the federal government for safe conduct of the former US secret service employee in view of the new Russian residence permit. (8. August 2014)

[Read more:](#)

## Immediate Ceasefire. Protection of Civilians

Declaration of the vice chair of DIE LINKE faction in Bundestag, Wolfgang Gehrcke, on the extraordinary meeting of the foreign committee

Today, on the 24th of July 2014, the foreign committee scheduled an extraordinary meeting about the war in Gaza and the crisis in Ukraine. DIE LINKE requested the meeting and the president of the Bundestag approved.

[Read more:](#)

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