



**2022**

**Regional  
elections in  
Castilla y León**

February 14, 2022



**Junta de  
Castilla y León**



## INTRODUCTION

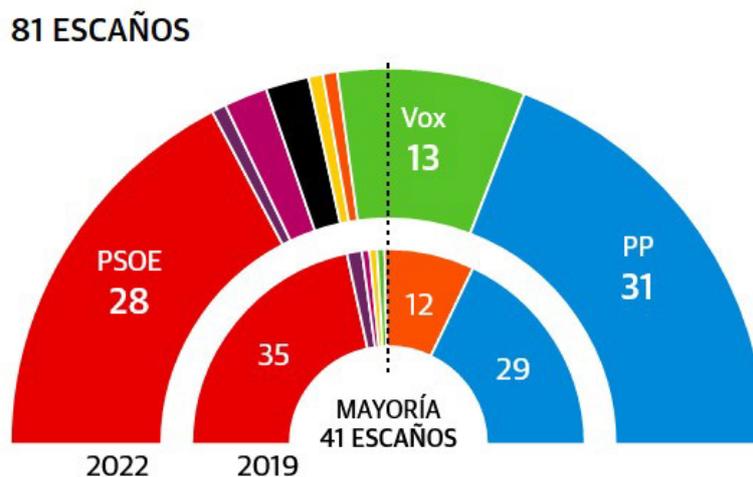
The region of Castilla y León held early elections on Sunday, February 13, in which the centre-right People's Party (PP) was the most voted party. However, it did not obtain the necessary majority to govern alone, so it will need the support of other parties to form a government, foreseeably Vox (far-right). The 2022-2026 legislative term will be the most fragmented hemicycle in the history of Castilla y León, with 8 political formations.

The PP-Ciudadanos coalition government broke up after President Alfonso Fernández Mañueco (PP) dissolved the parliament and called elections to avoid a second possible vote of no confidence led by the PSOE (the first, in March 2021, failed) and seconded by the liberal Ciudadanos.

This decision took place in the week in which the regional budgets were to be voted, where the PP-Ciudadanos coalition was having difficulties in obtaining the necessary votes for their approval (specifically from the deputy of the localist formation Por Ávila).

The electoral appointment was announced on Twitter by Mañueco on December 20, 2021.

## RESULTS



## ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The electoral campaign took place in a **climate of polarization** between the ideological spectrum of the center-left and left (PSOE and Unidas Podemos) and that of the center-right and right (PP and Vox), with a growing voice of localist and regionalist candidacies of the movement in favor of the rural territories 'Empty Spain'.

**The decline in participation continues:** 63.4% of the people went to the polls, less than in the 2019 elections (65.79%). It is the first time that the regional elections have not coincided with other electoral appointments (municipal, European) and that they were called in winter.

### Winners:

- **People's Party** (centre-right) (31 parliamentarians, +2)
  - It is the objective winner of the elections by being the most voted party (368,355 votes amounting to 31.53%).



- The PP wins again an election after losing it in 2019 and begins to recover after losing 13 parliamentarians then.
- It is the second worst result of the formation in the region, who from 1991 to 2019 had achieved absolute majorities (the first regional win was in 1987 by simple majority).
- Likewise, the PP does not even come close to the absolute majority (41 seats) to which they aspired when the elections were brought forward.
- **Vox** (far-right) (13 parliamentarians, +12)
  - The results make Vox the winner of the election night.
  - They depend on themselves: they have the power to abstain or support the PP and become part of the government.
  - It achieves a great impulse adding 12 new parliamentarians, which allows it to form its own parliamentary group.
  - Vox obtains representation in eight of the nine provinces of Castilla y León, improving the polls (which gave them between 9 and 10 seats) and their own aspirations.
- **Soria ¡Ya!** (pro rural territories, regionalist) (3 parliamentarians, +3)
  - The grouping of voters from Soria burst with force in the hemicycle of Castilla y León with three parliamentarians of the five that corresponds to the province.
  - It achieved 42.57% of the votes, comfortably surpassing the PP and PSOE.
  - It is the only party of the political and social movement for an 'emptied Spain' to obtain parliamentary representation, the first time it has contested elections in Castilla y León. This formation comes from the social movement willing to defend the rural territories in Spain, the so called 'Emptied Spain'.

### Losers:

- **Ciudadanos** (liberal) (1 parliamentarian, -11)
  - Very bad result: from being the third political force in the region and being a member of the government (vice-presidency and four ministries), it survives with only one parliamentarian in the Mixed Group.
  - Relieved after saving the possible disappearance of the party in the region, but confirming the resounding fall already begun at the national level.
  - Francisco Igea, until now vice-president and regional health minister, as well as candidate to the presidency for the formation, will be the only representative of the party in the opposition.
- **Socialist Party** (centre-left) (28 parliamentarians, -7)
  - In spite of having won the last elections by a wide margin, it loses support and leaves 7 parliamentarians at the polls.
  - The loss of support reflects the discomfort of the electorate with the decisions of the national government, translated into support for localist and regionalist candidacies.
  - This defeat will most probably lead to the departure of the leader of the socialist party and candidate for the presidency, Luis Tudanca.
- **Unidas Podemos** (far-left) (1 parliamentarian, -1)
  - It continues the loss of votes in the 2019 elections and loses another representative.
  - The candidate of the formation, Pablo Fernández, will be the only representative of the party in the regional parliament.

### Other formations:

- **Unión del Pueblo Leonés** (regionalist) (3 parliamentarians, +2)
  - This regionalist party, which aims to create a new autonomy for the provinces of León, Zamora and Salamanca, gained more votes than in the last elections and gets again the representation in the regional parliament which they already obtained in 1995 and 1999.
- **Por Ávila** (regionalist) (1 procurador, 0)
  - This regionalist and centre-right party maintains one representative although surveys indicated it would lose it.



### Scenarios for a government (Absolute majority: 41 parliamentarians)

- **Government of People's Party alone**
  - With 31 seats, the PP is far from the absolute majority needed to govern alone (41 seats).
  - The PP will try to govern alone with the support of other political forces. This is the order from the national headquarters: avoid a coalition government with Vox and negotiate an external support as in Madrid and Andalusia.
  - A possible abstention of formations such as Vox or other parties such as PSOE, UPL, Soria ¡Ya! and Por Ávila would give the key to government to the PP.
- **Coalition government PP-Vox (31+13 = 44)**
  - This is the most likely scenario since Vox has obtained enough seats to have a voice and vote in the negotiations. In addition, other partners are not enough for Vox to be able to govern.
  - Vox has reiterated during the campaign that Castilla y León was not the Community of Madrid (where Vox supported a PP government but without having entered the regional government) and that they would ask now to enter the government.
  - In the first declarations after the results were known, Vox has already asked for the vice-presidency of the regional government for its candidate Juan García-Gallardo.
  - Likewise, they need to show themselves useful to their voters and demonstrate to the rest of the parties the strength they are achieving 14 months before the municipal and regional elections, with special attention to the Andalusian elections.
- **Without possibility of 'Frankenstein government'**
  - A government pact between the rest of the parties (PSOE, UPL, Soria Ya!, Ciudadanos, Unidas Podemos and Por Ávila") is ruled out, since the sum of their seats does not reach the necessary majority (37 seats compared to 41).

## IMPLICATIONS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

**The position of the ideological spectrum of the right in relation to the left is confirmed, increasing the fragmentation of the vote and complicating governability:** the right has gained 14 points on the left in these elections in a scenario in which the two-party system (traditional parties) loses 172,000 votes (PSOE 117,600 and PP 54,900).

**Advance of the so called 'Emptied Spain'** (social movement defending the rural territories). The localist and regionalist parties bring together the dissatisfaction of the citizens with the traditional parties. The leader of Soria Ya!, Ángel Ceña, has declared in the media that the formation will make the leap to national level (Congress and Senate), replicating the model of the regionalist party in Teruel Existe. This confirms the rise of the 'Emptied Spain' and of the local candidacies, whose objective is to be able to have a relevant parliamentary representation at national level, with a Congress in which nowadays the vote of each deputy, especially of the small parties, is necessary to achieve legislative agreements, as illustrated a few weeks ago with the labor reform. The future elections in Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura will play a key role in determining the representation that 'Empty Spain' may have in the future in the national parliament.

The results have not been as good as expected for the **PP**, frustrating the initial expectations that led to the electoral advance. Any result other than an absolute majority was detrimental to the internal leadership of PP national leader Pablo Casado, who is weakened. The results of Castilla y León confirm that the victory in Madrid was not of the party but of the "Ayuso effect", where the leader of the PP in Madrid, Isabel Díaz Ayuso, obtained in 2021 a broad majority in the regional elections.

In spite of winning against Unidas Podemos, the **PSOE** harvests a bad result in Castilla y León as the traditional left loses support and fragments into localist and regionalist parties. However, the rise of Vox facilitates the narrative to the left, mobilizing its voters under the threat of the extreme right.

**Ciudadanos and Unidas Podemos** confirm their attrition. The parties of change that put an end to the bipartisanship are reduced to irrelevance, with Ciudadanos on the way to disappearance. The confirmation of the



Podemos will reinforce the position of its party leader, Yolanda Díaz as a future candidate for the presidency of the national government, having to bet on a renewed and differentiated formation.

**Elections in Andalusia:** The abstention or support of Vox in Castilla y León will influence the calling of elections in Andalusia: a coalition government with Vox may harm the president of the Andalusian government, Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (PP) and strengthen the candidacy of Macarena Olona (Vox), as well as the mobilization of the left to stop the right-wing bloc.

## CALENDAR

Date	Event
13 February	Elections
10 March	Constitution of the regional parliament of Castilla y León
25 May	Deadline to form a government
July	Repetition of elections in case no government is formed



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