The Basque Country and Galician Regional Elections

President Rajoy’s latest test

In October 2012, two regions of the north of Spain celebrated their parliamentary elections. There was much attention to Galicia as one of the ruling Popular Party strongest feuds. On the opposite side, in the Basque Country, PNV-EAJ regained power after a short one term parenthesis of Socialist rule.

Regional Profiles

**Galicia 2012**
- Population: 2,795,422
- GDP: 57,677,946 Thousand € (5.4% of Spain)
- GDP per capita: 21,112€ (2,271€ for Spain)
- Exports: 17,322M€ (8.2% of Spain)
- Age average: 45.2 years old (41.3 for Spain)
- Unemployment: 20.13% (25.02% for Spain)
- Public Debt/GDP: 13.3%
- Immigration rate: 3.47%
- Competences: Health, Education and Administration of Justice

**Basque Country 2012**
- Population: 2,184,606
- GDP: 66,575,414 Thousand € (6.2% of Spain)
- GDP per capita: 31,288€ (2,271€ for Spain)
- Exports: 21,067M€ (9.8% of Spain)
- Age average: 43.7 years old (41.3 for Spain)
- Unemployment: 15.48% (25.02% for Spain)
- Public Debt/GDP: 10.8%
- Immigration rate: 5.87%
- Competences: Health, Education, Administration of Justice and Police. Special Fiscal Status (concierto económico) for the collection and distribution of taxes

National and Regional Government Timelines (1977-2012)

Sources: INE, National Institute of Statistics.
Produced by CIDOB
Basque Country (2012 Elections)

The Basque Parliament (Eusko Legebiltzarra/Parlamento Vasco) has 75 members, elected by province through the proportional d’Hondt formula. The representatives come from a closed party-list, with a 3% threshold by province.

Main Political Parties in 2012

- **PNV-EAJ**
  - Basque Nationalist Party - Euzko Alderdi Jeltzalea
  - Leader: Iñigo Urkullu
  - Conservative nationalist party

- **EH- BILDU (Gathering)**
  - Leaders: Pello Urizar, Oskar Matute and Bakartxo Ruiz
  - Progressive secessionist coalition

- **PSE-EE**
  - Euskadi’s Socialist Party – Euskadiko Ezkerra
  - Leader: Patxi López
  - Progressive
  - Basque section of the national Socialist Party (PSOE)

- **PP**
  - Popular Party
  - Leader: Antonio Basagoiti
  - Conservative
  - Basque section of the national Popular Party (PP)

- **UPyD**
  - Progress and Democracy Union
  - Leader: Gorka Mañero
  - Centrist and unionist

The three provinces elect the same proportion of seats of the Regional Parliament (25), even though they are very different in terms of population (Biscay 1,155,772 inhabitants, Guipuzkoa 709,607, and Álava 319,227). The number of votes to win a seat show also important differences: 37,937 votes to win seat in Biscay; 23,037 in Guipuzkoa; and 10,040 in Álava.

Sources: INE, National Institute of Statistics and Dept. of Interior, Justice and Public Administration, Basque Government.
Produced by CIDOB
Basque Country. Previous results (1990-2009)

Sources: INE, National Institute of Statistics and Dept. of Interior, Justice and Public Administration, Basque Government.
Produced by CIDOB
Galicia (2012 Elections)

The Parliament of Galicia (Parlamento de Galicia) has 75 members, elected by province through the proportional d’Hondt formula. The representatives come from closed party-list with a 5% threshold by province.


A Coruña is the most populated province with 1,147,124 inhabitants, where 45,348 votes are needed to win a seat; Pontevedra 963,511, with 40,615 votes for a seat; Lugo 351,530 with 23,386 votes for a seat; and Ourense 333,257 inhabitants with 25,992 votes for a seat.

Sources: Party’s official webpages and own elaborated information, Xunta de Galicia and El País.

Produced by CIDOB
Galicia. Previous results (1989-2009)

Sources: Party’s official webpages and own elaborated information, Xunta de Galicia and El País.
Produced by CIDOB