

# The Legitimacy of the 2023 Turkiye Presidential Election

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**Abstract:** *The Presidential New Era Ceremony, which took place without manners, in a pretense of royal coronation ceremonies was an effort to find a solution to the problematic legitimacy. When the number of voters and the increase in the last 20 years are examined, it is seen that there is an increase in the number of voters that do not comply with the mathematics, and the official information is given when you calculate the annual average number of deaths, the number of voters who are over the age of 18, foreign immigrants given new citizenship, and citizenship sold. In addition, knowing that there are voters who do not live at the address where they are registered, the legitimacy of the last elections is questioned. This article focuses on why the picture that emerged during and after the election in Turkey lacks legitimacy.*

**Keywords:** Legitimacy, Turkey Election, Presidency, Constitution, EU Countries Biases

## 1. Introduction

Constitutional and legal violations during the 2023 Presidential and parliamentary elections were among the issues discussed throughout the process but could not be resolved. Most importantly, Erdogan's candidacy was the third time and could not be accepted. The Supreme Election Board (YSK) did not accept this objection and decided that the candidacy would be accepted for the second time. Since no upper objection could be made to the decisions of the Board, the result became final. According to Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey on Presidential Candidacy and Elections, a person can be elected President a maximum of two times. This is the most obvious finding of the violation of candidacy in the 2023 Election. However, this is not the first violation of the Constitution ([www.sozcu.com.tr/2015/gundem/erdogan](http://www.sozcu.com.tr/2015/gundem/erdogan)). President Erdoğan has consistently violated constitutional provisions with his dubious university degree, court decisions he did not comply with, and single - signature decisions in international agreements.

The future is dark, as it has never been in the lifetime of the Republic. Even the Republic is in existential danger. The economy is most probably on the verge of incomprehensible

destruction. The very essence of the Republic is probably about to change. His drift to the extreme right has been approved by the majority, and this will continue. The rightmost border was in the range of AKP (ruling party), now it is drawn by the Iran - supported Hizbullah Terrorist Organization. Women, LGBT+ people, opposition thinkers, and other marginal people can't survive in such toxicity like many such - minded people. His wrath is inflated by the regimes that tried aggressively to infiltrate the government of Türkiye.

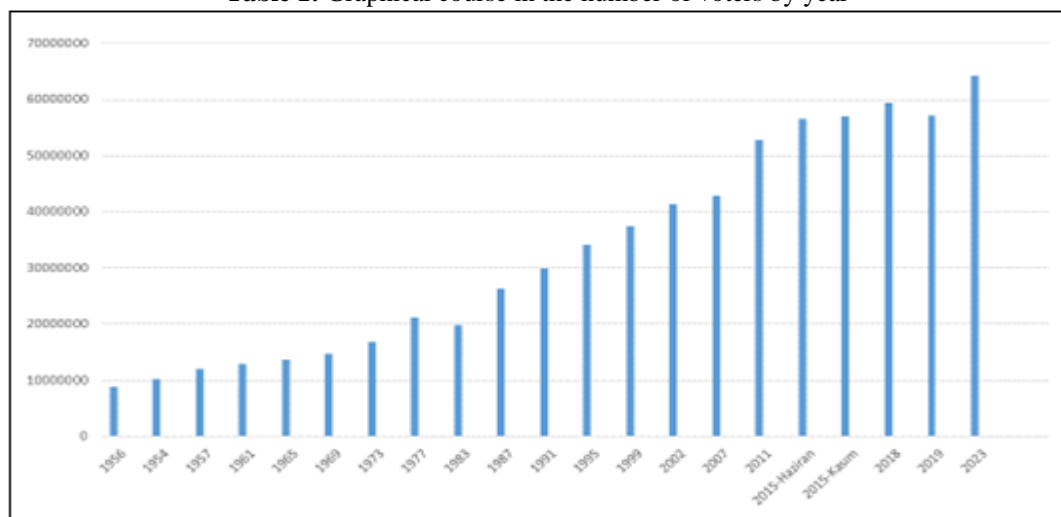
More than 50% of the population, at least, had to live another five years, forced into a life they didn't want, whose legitimacy was disputed. Unless, of course, a long - term dark regime is built with system changes (Tuncer 2023).

### Increase in the Number of Voters

In 1995, the law was amended and with the amendment, the voting age was regulated as "to be over the age of 18" instead of "to be at the age of twenty".

According to the official data of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUİK) ([tuik.gov.tr](http://tuik.gov.tr));

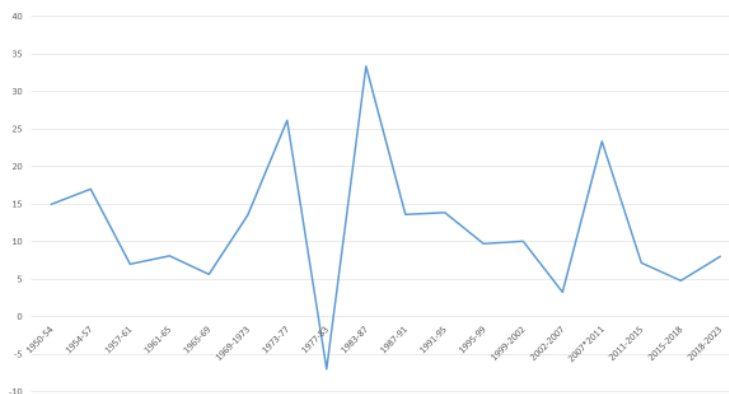
**Table 1:** Graphical course in the number of voters by year



**Table 2:** Official data on the number of voters by year

Years	Numbers
1950	8905743
1954	10262063
1957	12078623
1961	12925395
1965	13979753
1969	14788552
1973	16798164
1977	21207303
1983	19767366
1987	26376926
1991	29979123
1995	34155981
1999	37495217
2002	41407027
2007	42799303
2011	52806322
2015 (June)	56608817
2015 (Novem.)	56949001
2018	59367469
2019	57093410
2023	64150651

**Table 3:** The percentage of increase in the number of voters in the elections (%) (There is a 7% decrease between 1977 - 83)



The remarkable situation in Table 3 is the unreliable and mathematically unexplainable change in the number of voters announced by the Supreme Election Board several times in history. The most important of these took place between 2007 and 2011 during the time of the current ruling party, the Justice and Development Party.

Of the 1 million 853 thousand foreign voters, 57 percent was taken by Erdogan and 39 percent by Kılıçdaroğlu. For the 14 May 2023 presidential election, the turnout in the elections abroad was 53.85 percent.

The highest turnout in the elections was 93, 33% in 1987 and the lowest turnout was 66.34% in 1969. Participation in the 2023 election was 85% (tuik. gov. tr).

According to TUIK official data, while 507, 938 people died in 2020, the number of deaths increased to 565, 594 in 2021.

In addition according to TUIK official data, approximately 1.000, 000 new voters are added every year. In this case, 5.000, 000 voters are added between 2018 and 2023.

Since an average of 500, 000 people lost their lives annually, nearly 2.5 million people should be dropped from the voter

list between 2018 and 2023, but these numbers are not visible in the 2023 elections. In addition, while wet - signed election documents should be found in each party to verify the results, 15% of these records could not be reached. According to official data, there is an increase in the number of voters of 4, 783, 182 between 2018 and 2023. However, mathematical data shows that this should be 2, 280, 000. In other words, there are 2.5 million more voters between the voter number and the expected numbers. Some of this difference may come from naturalized Syrian immigrants and foreigners, but how much has not been officially disclosed. It should not be forgotten that the difference between the two candidates in the presidential election is 2.538.671 (ysk. gov. tr).

**Inadequate Reaction of Opposition to Legitimate Elections**

Unlawfulness and Unconstitutionality in the Election Process were noted and recorded.

The Main Opposition has serious shortcomings in voicing its concerns about the legitimacy of the election.

It was well known that the government, whose serious crimes were documented in official records, would not leave the administration easily.

- 1) State officials see themselves not as the protector of the state but as the party's servants, and not to speak out against lawlessness.
- 2) Despite being a parliamentary candidate for the interior minister, his unlawful attempts to be responsible for election security. This is unconstitutional.
- 3) Erdogan unlawfully distributes citizenship to an unknown number of Syrian immigrants and imports voters.
- 4) Again, with the means of the State, by abusing his office, to have the votes of the opposition written to himself by having them shifted.
- 5) No legal action was taken against the testimonies of the witnesses, who stated that they were involved in the corruption with the Erdoğan family, and an attempt was made to divert attention to this issue.
- 6) To abuse the religious feelings of the people, to openly use the official institution of Religious Affairs and Mosques for this purpose, even though it is illegal. This is also unconstitutional.
- 7) There is an unexplained increase in the number of voters of 2.5 million between 2018 and 2023. Some of them are immigrants who have been granted citizenship on the condition of voting for Erdogan. The more important issue is that those who died during this period are not dropped from the electoral list. Instead of these voters, it is focused on the suspicion of adding illegal collective votes.
- 8) Adding at least 4 million ghost voters to the election results from the Supreme Election Board.

### **The Language of Threat During the Election Process**

The opposition to the forefront of the election led the government to take more drastic measures. The meeting of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, who is expected to be the vice president, in Erzurum was provoked by about 200 militants on 7 May 2023. Ekrem İmamoğlu and his entourage were stoned. Erzurum Governor and Police Chief preferred to remain, spectators, rather than intervene in the events. On the same day, President Erdoğan gave hints of this attack at his meeting in Istanbul. While addressing the public, the people of Erzurum said that no one could walk without permission. In an interview, Interior Minister Soyulu declared that they would finish the job they could not complete in the July 15 coup attempt and have launched a chaos plan ([www.facebook.com/GlobalSavunma/videos](http://www.facebook.com/GlobalSavunma/videos)). There can be no greater threat to the survival of the country than this overt threat to democracy made by a minister. This is a clear Constitutional offense to the justice system, prosecutors just watched.

Black propaganda was made through the mouth of the opposition under the responsibility of official institutions through technology. The aim was to intimidate the opposition voters and prevent them from going to vote.

### **Biased Attitudes and Reasons of European Democratic Countries**

Democratic Countries in Europe, through their observers, had to take this legitimacy issue seriously and do what was necessary. It may be too late when they realize that with this

behavior they are creating a close neighbor that creates problems similar to Nazi Germany in the middle and long future.

What is the major criticism and fear of democracies for the European Union is political instability. More recently, democracy is criticized for not offering enough political stability. As governments are frequently elected on and off there tend to be frequent changes in the policies of democratic countries both domestically and internationally (Stier S 2020).

EU Countries believe that they must build a truly multi-racial, multi-cultural democracy that works for every one of them but not the others outside Europe ([www.circle.org](http://www.circle.org)).

In Europe, the national-level courses related to these governmental levels are important in shaping public attitudes toward welfare state policies in industrialized nations, and situational and ideological factors play a role (Blekesaune 2003).

Recent years have witnessed rollbacks in liberal rights and freedoms, the loosening of institutional constraints on executive power, and the rise of radical and ethno-populist parties. Poland and Hungary – once leaders in democratization – face serious attacks on representative institutions and civil society. Other countries in the region are also experiencing democratic backsliding (the loop. [ecpr.eu/dissatisfaction-drives-democratic-scepticism-in-eastern-europe/](http://ecpr.eu/dissatisfaction-drives-democratic-scepticism-in-eastern-europe/)). Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban not only welcomed the election results but also stated that he was praying for President Erdogan's victory, adding, "It would have been a tragedy for us if Erdogan had not won." said. These words are the most important indicator of the egoistic approach of European leaders ([www.ensonhaber.com/dunya/macaristan-basbakani-viktor-orbandan-secim-aciklamasi](http://www.ensonhaber.com/dunya/macaristan-basbakani-viktor-orbandan-secim-aciklamasi)).

Many European Country Leaders, including the NATO Secretary General, who attended the royal coronation ceremony rather than the presidential change ceremony, do not express the legitimacy of the elections in Turkey by considering their temporary interests. However, they do not realize that he is at the door of danger yet.

The main reason why the NATO Secretary General was able to attend this magnificent ceremony was to remove Turkey's veto, which prevented Sweden from joining NATO. Turkey is one of the rare countries where country decisions can be made related to such personal weaknesses (Tuncer 2022).

## **2. Conclusion**

What happened in Turkey will go down in the history of World Democracy as an exemplary case. The whole civilized world must understand how the people of Turkey have endured and defended democracy. From another point of view, it is necessary to understand what kind of a threat to the civilized world is being turned away from at the bottom of Europe.

The founder of the Turkish Republic, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, established democracy and the Republic and gave it

to the people of Turkey. For this reason, the importance of Democracy and Republic, achieved without effort, has not been noticed much. By 2023, the people, who were oppressed under a heavy fascist dictatorship, defended their republic by fighting a real democracy war. Now the true value of the Democratic Republic is understood.

Although the price of experience in Turkey is paid heavily, it has been an example in World History where dictatorship can not end by democratic methods easily.

The most important issue for European countries in international politics is short - term human and country interests. While technology and industrial developments are advancing rapidly, people preserve their medieval characteristics.

In the election, there were both unconstitutional and biased attitudes that did not fit into political ethics. Aside from the injustices and unlawfulnesses committed during the election, many issues beyond moral legitimacy will question real legitimacy. The issue of moral legitimacy expressed by the opposition on legitimacy is a subject that can be discussed for political discussion. However, there are some important reasons for the discussion of legal legitimacy;

- 1) The debate over President Erdogan's four - year university diploma could not be ended.
- 2) The clear article of the constitution was violated when Erdoğan was nominated for the third time. Candidacy and Election Article of the Constitution (Article 101); A person can be elected President a maximum of two times. The English translation of this article is as clear and concise as to leave room for discussion (adalet. gov. tr).
- 3) It is not possible to obtain from any source how many people who were given citizenship voted, how many citizens who were granted citizenship, and how many Syrian illegal immigrants voted.
- 4) 15% of the signed ballot box minutes required for control cannot be reached.

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