



Финансирано од
Европска Унија



ГРАЃАНСКИ
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ЦЕНТАР



REPORT LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025

first and second round Local Elections 2025,
Republic of North Macedonia

www.izborennavigator.mk 

The Center for Research and Analysis NOVUS implements the **Electoral Navigator for Strengthening Democracy and the Electoral Process in North Macedonia** project. This project represents a sub-grant awarded under the EU Support to the Civil Society Resource Centre – Phase 2, funded by the European Union. The content of this platform and report does not reflect the views of the European Union or the Civil Society Resource Centre.



ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE PLATFORM

The project “Electoral Navigator for Strengthening Democracy and the Electoral Process in North Macedonia” aims to reinforce democratic governance through an improved electoral process marked by greater transparency, credibility, and inclusiveness. The project focuses on empowering civil society organizations and enhancing their active involvement in electoral processes, with special emphasis on the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups. The project is implemented by the Center for Research and Analysis NOVUS. It represents a sub-grant awarded within the framework of “EU Support to the Civil Society Resource Centre – Phase 2”, funded by the European Union.

The platform is designed to provide:

- Full accessibility: Ensuring usability for persons with disabilities and marginalized communities from rural areas.
- Diaspora inclusion: An English-language version of the platform is available to keep emigrants informed.
- Monitoring tool: An interactive digital instrument where citizens, observers, and journalists can report electoral irregularities, media bias, hate speech, and misuse of public resources.

The core objectives achieved through the platform include:

- Providing additional, impartial information about mayoral candidates and councilor lists.
- Helping citizens understand the positions of local candidates through questions focused on municipal competencies.
- Promoting civic participation in local politics and fostering political literacy.
- Offering insight into the programs and priorities of local candidates and political parties/coalitions.
- Enabling informed and independent decision-making on the day of the local elections.

For the purposes of the platform, the following methods and tools were employed:

1. Comprehensive analysis of electoral programs and public statements of the candidates in order to accurately determine their positions.
2. Development of 25 customized questions addressing key municipal competencies (urban planning, communal services, local economic development, education, and environment), including additional tailored questions for each of the eight target municipalities.
3. Processing of the collected responses and their algorithmic alignment with the candidates' positions within the platform's backend system.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

During the 2025 Local Elections campaign, the platform recorded substantial public interest among citizens seeking to assess their alignment with the offered electoral programs.

- Total number of submissions: **1,115 generated results**
- Coverage: **8 target municipalities across the Republic of North Macedonia**
- Average engagement: **~140 respondents per municipality**
- Highest interest recorded: **Municipality of Veles (13.3% of the total sample)**

These data indicate that the platform effectively served as a relevant digital “compass” for a segment of the electorate seeking an objective comparison of candidates’ programmatic positions.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025

Local elections in the Republic of North Macedonia constitute a cornerstone of local democracy, enabling citizens to directly elect their representatives to local self-government bodies. The decisions made during these elections have a direct impact on the quality of daily life for the electorate.

According to the electoral code, regular local elections are held every four years. For the 2025 electoral cycle, the following parameters were established:

- **First electoral round:** Held on Sunday, 19 October 2025
- **Second electoral round:** Held on 2 November 2025, fourteen days after the first round
- **Victory conditions:** A mayoral candidate wins in the first round if they secure over 50% of the votes cast, provided that at least one-third (33.3%) of the total registered voters in the municipality participate. If this threshold is not met, a second round is held, in which the candidate with the highest number of votes prevails.

Voting Rights and Voter Register

Every citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia who has reached the age of 18 and is registered in the voter register is entitled to vote. The 2025 voter register is based on updated data from the State Election Commission (SEC), with a reference figure of **1,815,350 registered voters from the 2024 parliamentary elections**. Transparency was ensured through the possibility of public access to the voter register via the SEC website.

In these elections, citizens cast their votes for the following positions:

- **Mayor of the municipality:** The holder of the executive function.
- **Members of the Municipal Council:** Elected through a proportional representation model, whereby mandates are allocated according to the votes received by candidate lists proposed by political parties, coalitions, or voter groups.
- **Specifics for the City of Skopje:** Citizens of the ten Skopje municipalities (Aerodrom, Butel, Gazi Baba, Gjorche Petrov, Karposh, Kisela Voda, Saraj, Centar, Chair, and Shuto Orizari) voted on two levels: once for the bodies of their respective municipalities and once for the Mayor and Council of the City of Skopje.

The significance of local elections stems from the broad spectrum of municipal competencies, which are crucial for citizens' quality of life:

- **Urban planning:** Decision-making on construction, preservation of green spaces, and public areas.
- **Communal services:** Water supply, waste management, public cleanliness.
- **Local infrastructure:** Maintenance of streets, public lighting, and parks.
- **Education and childcare:** Management of primary and secondary schools, as well as kindergartens.
- **Environment:** Measures to combat pollution and protect nature.
- **Culture and sports:** Support for local events and sports facilities.

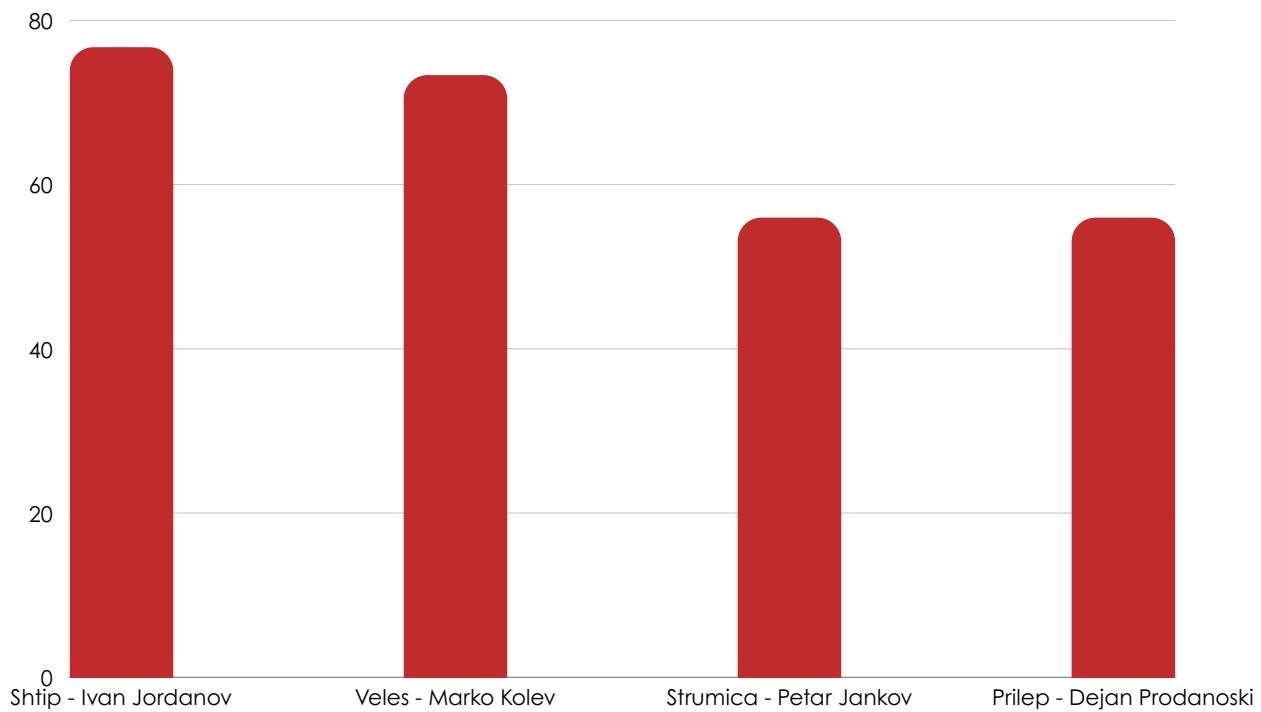
Through their vote, citizens elected leadership tasked with addressing the specific needs and challenges of their community during the upcoming four-year mandate.

OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

FIRST-ROUND WINNERS (19 OCTOBER 2025)

The following candidates secured over 50% of the votes and were elected outright in the first round:

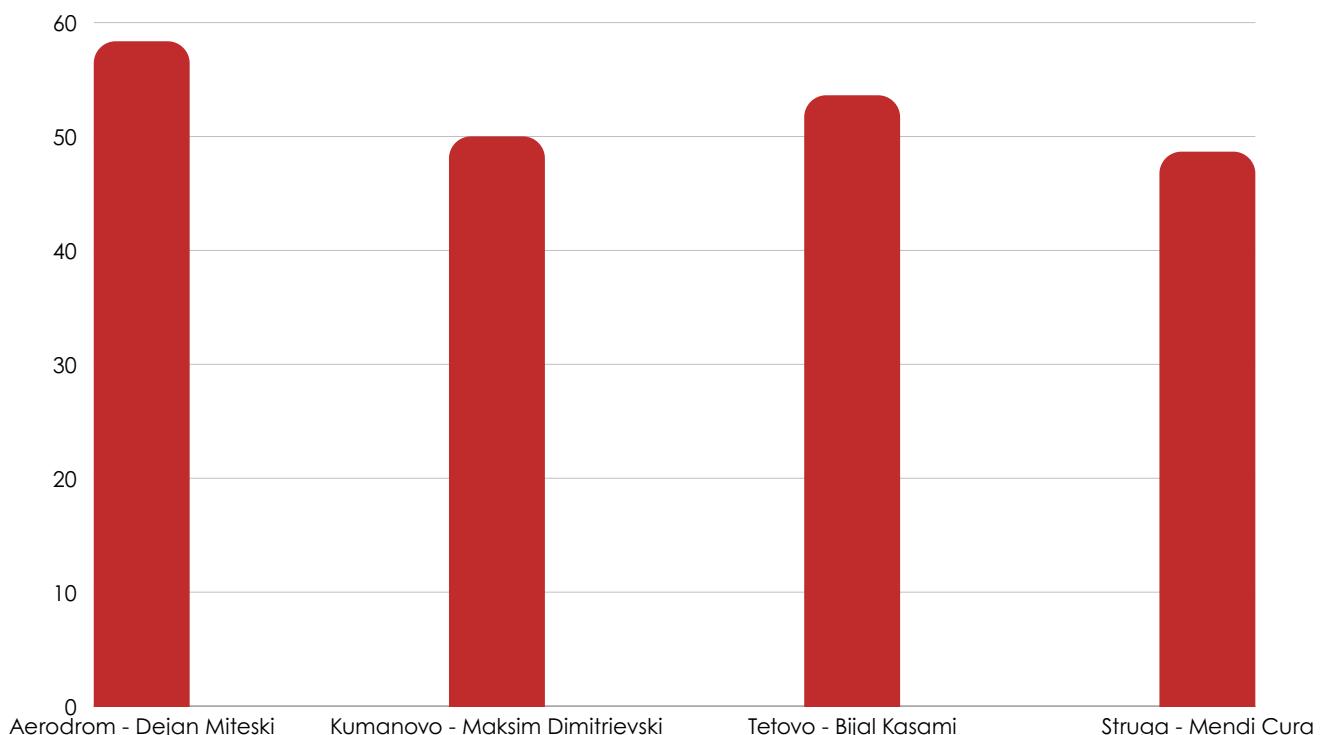
- Municipality of Štip: Ivan Jordanov (VMRO-DPMNE) – 76.74%
- Municipality of Veles: Marko Kolev (VMRO-DPMNE) – 73.34%
- Municipality of Strumica: Petar Yankov (VMRO-DPMNE) – 55.98%
- Municipality of Prilep: Dejan Prodanoski (VMRO-DPMNE) – 55.98%



SECOND-ROUND WINNERS (2 NOVEMBER 2025)

In the following municipalities, a second round was required between the two leading candidates:

- Municipality of Aerodrom: Dejan Miteski (VMRO-DPMNE) – 58.36%
 - Opponent: Aleksandar Trajanovski
- Municipality of Kumanovo: Maksim Dimitrievski (ZNAM) – 50.01%
 - Opponent: Goran Stojkovski
- Municipality of Tetovo: Biljal Kasami (VREDI) – 53.62%
 - Opponent: Bajram Redzepi
- Municipality of Struga: Mendi Ćura (Independent) – 48.67%
 - Opponent: Arsim Dalipi



RESULTS FROM THE “ELECTORAL NAVIGATOR” QUESTIONNAIRE

Within the platform www.izborennavigator.mk, a total of **1,115 respondents** completed the questionnaire. For clarity, the results are presented separately for data collected during the first electoral round and for the simulated second-round scenario.

FIRST-ROUND DATA

In this segment, users received a comparison with the complete list of candidates in their respective municipalities.

Region: Tetovo (93 submissions)

- Izet Zeinelović: 18
- Bajram Redzepi: 18
- Bilal Kasami: 17
- Samka Ibrahimovski: 16
- Katka Bozhinovska: 12
- Stevica Sarkovski: 12

Region: Kumanovo (83 submissions)

- Ninoslav Jakimovski: 13
- Maksim Dimitrievski: 13
- Selver Ajdini (DUI): 12
- Martin Kostovski: 11
- Miroslav Petković: 10
- Goran Stojkovski: 10

Region: Strumica (90 submissions)

- Risto Caskonoje: 27
- Dragan Koturović (Independent): 25
- Marjan Daskalovski (SDSM): 21
- Petar Yankov (VMRO-DPMNE): 17

Region: Štip (119 submissions)

- Ivan Jordanov: 60
- Pavel Ivanov: 59

Region: Struga (76 submissions)

- Arsim Dalipi: 32
- Jovana Mojsovska: 28
- Mendi Ćira: 16

Region: Veles (149 submissions)

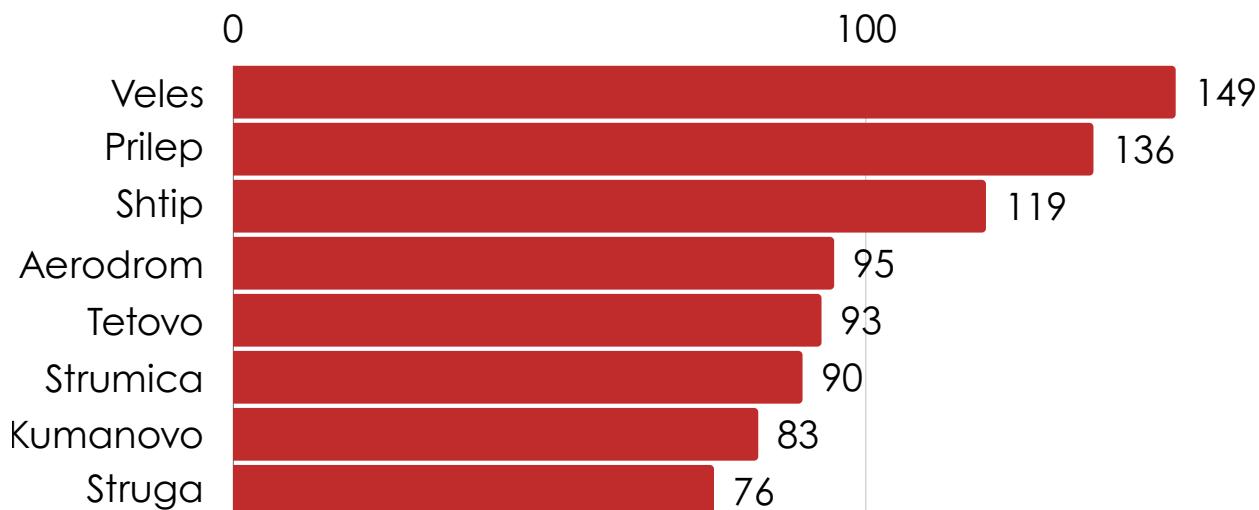
- Maja Hesko: 57
- Marijana Delovska: 48
- Marko Kolev: 44

Region: Prilep (136 submissions)

- Pavlinche Mateska: 20
- Gjorgjia Igleski: 19
- Ljupcho Dunimagloski: 17
- Petra Lukareska: 16
- Other candidates: Jasminka Stojkovska 15, Zharko Boshkoski 15, Borche Chupetreski 13, Dejan Prodanoski 11, Vladimir Gjorgioski 10

Region: Aerodrom (95 submissions)

- Aleksandar Trajanovski: 25
- Dejan Lazarevski: 16
- Dejan Miteski: 15
- Other candidates: Marjan Dimitriev 15, Vladimir Mihajlovski 14, Slavko Mishura 10



SECOND-ROUND DATA

This segment includes only the municipalities where a second round was held. Respondents completed a questionnaire comparing their positions exclusively with the two candidates who advanced to the final round.

Region: Aerodrom (101 submissions)

- Aleksandar Trajanovski: 52
- Dejan Miteski: 49

Region: Tetovo (67 submissions)

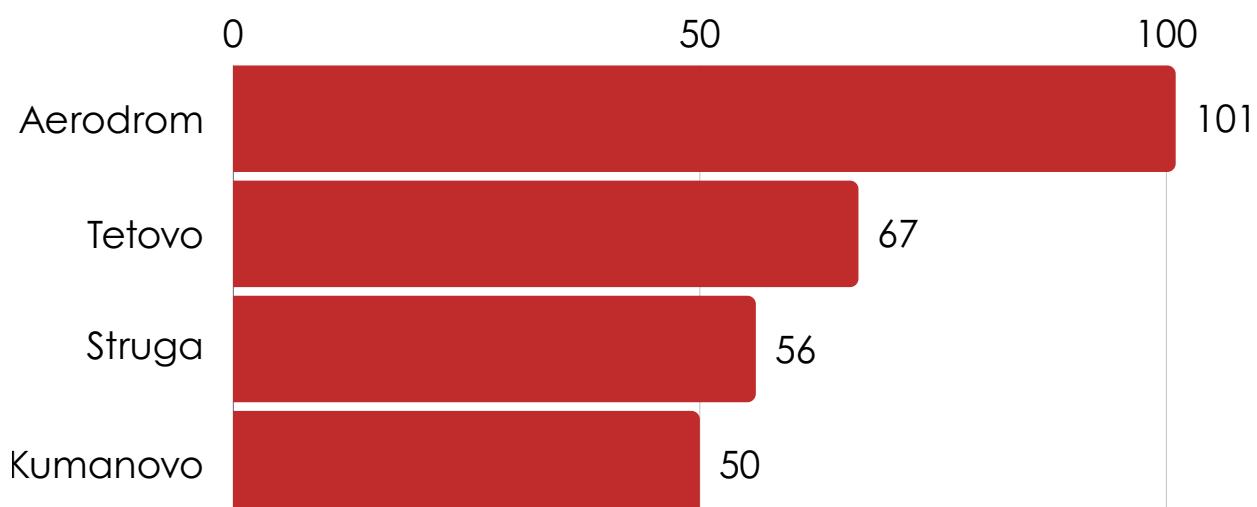
- Bajram Redzepi: 35
- Bilal Kasami: 32

Region: Struga (56 submissions)

- Mendi Ćira: 37
- Arsim Dalipi: 19

Region: Kumanovo (50 submissions)

- Goran Stojkovski: 26
- Maksim Dimitrevski: 24



CONCLUSION

The “Electoral Navigator” project successfully accomplished its primary mission, shifting the focus of public debate from personalities to policies and programmatic solutions. The number of respondents and their active engagement on the platform clearly demonstrate a significant and growing interest among citizens, particularly within the digitally literate population, in assessing their positions and making fact-based decisions.

A comparison between the platform data and the official election results reveals an interesting dynamic. While the platform often highlighted independent candidates or options offering specific solutions to local issues (as seen in Strumica and Struga), the final electoral outcomes reflected the enduring strength of traditional party structures. This discrepancy indicates the presence of a “silent majority” seeking change and concrete solutions, whose voices are not yet fully mirrored in the ballot boxes. Nonetheless, the platform’s accuracy in anticipating key shifts in certain municipalities (such as Struga in the second round) confirms its relevance as a tool for gauging public sentiment.

Our commitment remains steadfast: to support citizens in exploring diverse perspectives and to encourage them to make decisions that best reflect both their personal interests and the interests of their communities. The platform results serve as a valuable indicator of voter sentiment and a reminder to political actors that citizens are increasingly discerning and well-informed.

The success of Electoral Navigator during the 2025 Local Elections underscores the need for the continued development of digital tools for democratic participation. Moving forward, the focus will remain on expanding outreach to marginalized groups and rural communities to ensure even broader inclusivity in democratic processes.

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