

Presidential Elections

1st round preliminary results

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40-40 after the first round. During the coming three weeks the candidates will be buying the left's votes which are so crucial in the second round

After 94.89% of voting ballots were processed, the two favorites hit the finish line on par: 40.22% Yanukovich and 39.01% Yuschenko. More than 75% of the population voted.

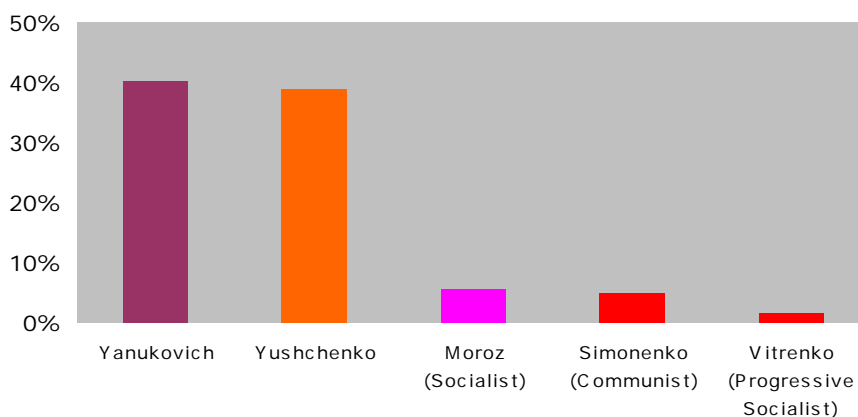
Yuschenko lead in 17 regions, while Yanukovich lead in 10 regions of Ukraine.

Four thousand international observers followed the elections in Ukraine. Their opinion was split – EU, OSCE, PACE and NATO were all disappointed, stated that Ukraine failed to meet democratic standards of the elections and commented that Ukraine had taken a major step back. Meanwhile, the CIS mission evaluated the election positively.

42,000 appeals to the court were registered for election violations – an amount unprecedented in Ukrainian election campaigns. However, no violent actions occurred.

Left-party candidates collected together about 12 per cent of the votes – now they will try to sell their votes to the highest bidder. They have already started bargaining – they want political reform to be adopted by Parliament before the second round. Yanukovich's team supports the idea. The reform means the lessening of power for the President to the benefit of the legislative body. In the end, the government would be controlled more by the Parliament – not by the President as it is currently. The reform benefits both Kuchma, who now leaves the Presidential chair and left-wing parties whose influence can only be seen in Parliament.

Preliminary Voting Results



Source: Central Election Commission of Ukraine

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