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Important Dates

Election Campaign Started	August 2
Campaigning Ends	Sept 28
Elections	Sept 30
Opening Of Rada Session	+30 days
Government Formation	+30 days

Latest Polls

Organization	Completed
Ukraine Sociology Service	August 19
Party of Regions	26.4%
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc	20.8%
Our Ukraine	14.9%
Lytvyn Bloc	3.9%
Progressive Socialists	3.1%
Shevchenko Institute	August 14
Party of Regions	27.8%
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc	26.5%
Our Ukraine	11.1%
Communists	3.2%
Sotsiolyvmir Center	August 14
Party of Regions	26.3%
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc	21.4%
Our Ukraine	14.1%
Communists	4.7%
Democratic Initiatives *	July 2
Party of Regions	33%
Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc	17%
Our Ukraine	17%

* Democratic Initiatives and Kyiv Institute of Sociology joint poll was the only poll to correctly predict the outcome of the 2006 Rada elections.

Note: There is a 3% threshold to enter the Rada.

Polls Show Tymoshenko Gaining On Yanukovich.

In separate polls released last week the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (BYT) appeared to have closed the gap with the leading Regions Party. The first poll by the Taras Shevchenko Institute of Sociology released August 14 had the Party of Regions leading with 27.8% of the vote followed closely by BYT with 26.5% and the President's Our Ukraine party trailing at 11.1%. The Sotsiolyvmir Center poll held over the same period, had Regions at 26.3% BYT with 21.4% and Our Ukraine with 14.1%. Yesterday the All-Ukrainian Sociology Service released a poll with Regions at 26.4%, BYT at 20.8% and Our Ukraine with 14.9%.

Generally in Ukraine, pre-election polls tend to sway in favor those funding them, but these reflect a growing feeling in both the orange and blue camps that Tymoshenko's support is growing following the Central Elections Commission's attempt to refuse the party's registration for the elections due to a minor technicality.

Though Tymoshenko's results at the polls will be the major deciding factor for which parties make up the future ruling coalition we still have a long way to go until September 30.

On The Campaign Trail:

Party of Regions: In a move clearly aimed at showing his party's desire for better ties with both Russia and Europe, Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich left for Russia yesterday to attend an air show and meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin only days after Russia announced that it had cancelled a scheduled meeting between Putin and President Yushchenko in Moscow.

Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc: BYT has focused its early campaigning in Crimea where it hopes to carve away a larger share of traditional Regions supporters and win the hearts of late summer holiday makers. In a sign that perhaps ties between Our Ukraine and BYT were not all that sturdy, Tymoshenko announced last week that she was shocked by the fact that Our Ukraine's members on the Central Election Commission had failed to vote in favor of a BYT-led initiative to hold a referendum to correct what the party sees as flaws in Ukraine's current Constitution during the upcoming elections.

Our Ukraine: Our Ukraine scored a small victory last week with the endorsement of the party by Crimea's ethnic Tartar parliament, the Majlis, which called on Crimeans to vote for the President's bloc. Our Ukraine support was also high in Ukraine's central Poltava region this weekend where the President attended an annual craft fair.

Others: The Lytvyn Bloc has been very active on the TV circuit, but still looks like it will have a hard time getting into the Rada. Lytvyn, a former Kuchma insider, had strong financial backing before the last Rada election but still failed to get over the 3% barrier. Meanwhile the Communist without Regions support seem to be having more trouble rallying support than most expected. Last week a new party, the KUCHMA Bloc, announced its electoral list. The party, which claims to have no connection to the former president, is focused on attracting voters disillusioned with both orange and blue and is filled with individuals that served in the government under President Kuchma.

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