

SLOVAKIA: Presidential Elections 2019

27 Feb 2019

The first round of presidential elections is scheduled on 16 March 2019. At the moment, 13 candidates remain and since no one seems to reach the 50% threshold, two most successful candidates from the first round will face each other in the second round on 30 March 2019. The most relevant candidates represent three major opinion groups which compete for dominance. Maroš Šefčovič, Vice President of the EC for Energy Union, maintains stable support at around 20% in all recent relevant polls. Anti-establishment group remains split between Marián Kotleba and Štefan Harabin with very little chance of yielding in favour of the other. Most dynamic is the third group represented (until today) by Robert Mistrík and Zuzana Čaputová, both representing pro-democratic opposition parties and competing for similar electorate.

Latest poll



Zuzana Čaputová

23.5%

*Progressive Slovakia,
broad opposition support*



Maroš Šefčovič

20.5%

*independent
support of SMER-SD*



Robert Mistrík

15%

SaS, TOGETHER



Štefan Harabin

10.5%

independent



Marián Kotleba

7.5%

ĽSNS

Source: Median SK, 11.-23.2.2019

Yesterday (26.2.2019) at 11:00AM, one of the leading presidential candidates Robert Mistrík announced he quitted presidential race and supported another opposition candidate Zuzana Čaputová (Progressive Slovakia). He decided for this step to unify votes of opposition voters and prevent candidate of SMER-SD Maroš Šefčovič and nationalist candidate Stefan Harabin from winning. Parties behind Mistrík, such as SaS or SPOLU, as well as opposition party OĽaNO all decided to support Zuzana Čaputová. This presents a major challenge, especially for Maroš Šefčovič, who was leading in the opinion polls.

Although Čaputová gained broad support, some conservative voters hesitate about voting for her due to her liberal attitudes towards ethical questions, such as same-sex registered partnerships and adoptions, or her support of the Istanbul Convention. Her reaction was that she considers it important to be honest with voters but points out that rather than ethical questions, her agenda will revolve around justice, care for the elderly, and environmental protection.