

The changing face of Parliament

7 statements on the new Hungarian Parliament

AN ANALYSIS BY REPUBLIKON INSTITUTE



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INTRODUCTION

Hungary's new parliament held its inaugural session on May 2nd, 2022, after the parliamentary elections on April 3rd resulted in an overwhelming two-third victory for Fidesz-KDNP, who took 135 seats in the chamber. United for Hungary (Egységben Magyarországért) took 57, while the Mi Hazánk (Our Homeland) Movement gained 6 seats. In moments like these, everybody is interested in who is seated in the chamber, what do we know about them, and what should we expect of them in the coming four years.

In the following analysis we shall examine the makeup of the new parliament; and offer seven points on what one should know about the Parliament, and how the people sitting there changed since the last election. The analysis will focus on, albeit will not be limited to, the body's makeup regarding age, gender, and level of education, as well as their years (or decades) spent in the chamber, and the number of new representatives, alongside the changes to the Parliament's makeup since the 2018 inaugural session.

STATEMENTS

1, Representatives from Fidesz-KDNP are, in general, older than representatives from the opposition.

- On average, the governing party's representatives are ten years older, than representatives from their opposition. While the mean age of the Fidesz-KDNP representatives is 55 years, on the opposition side, it is 45 years.
- Amongst the 15 oldest representatives, we find only one opposition-member. Amongst the youngest members, there are only two Fidesz representatives, and one representative from KDNP.
- In the opposition-camp, representatives from Momentum are the youngest, while representatives from DK are the oldest.

2, Representatives of Fidesz-KDNP have, on average, spent 14,2 years working in Parliament, while representatives of the opposition have only 4,7 years.

- There are 37 representatives who spent more than 20 years in Parliament, all of them members of Fidesz-KDNP's faction.
- Out of this group, five of them have been members of Parliament for 32 years.

3, In the new Parliament, there are 46 new representatives.

- Amongst members of Fidesz-KDNP, there are 16 new representatives, while in the 57 seats held by opposition, 27 were occupied by new members.
- This makes it so that in the Fidesz-KDNP faction, the percentage of new people is 13%, amongst the opposition, it is 47%, making almost half of the opposition representatives new blood. Looking at the whole Parliament, 23% of the members never held seats before.

4, Out of Fidesz-KDNP's 135 representatives, there are only 14 women; amongst the opposition's 57 representatives, 13 are women.

- This makes the percentage of women in Fidesz's faction 10%, while on the opposition it doubles to 23%.

5, The Hungarian Parliament has a decidedly "elite" bend, as 93% of representatives has a university degree. As for Hungarian society at large, this number as low as 22%.

- When it comes to Fidesz-KDNP, 97% of representatives has a university degree, while 88% of opposition representatives can say the same. Half of Mi Hazánk's representatives has a university degree.

6, The makeup of Parliament changed since the last cycle, the members grew older, the average time spent in the chamber increased, but the number of new representatives and women also saw an increase.

- The average age of Fidesz-KDNP members increased by 2 years since the last cycle, and the average time spent in Parliament saw the same increase.
- The percentage of women in Fidesz-KDNP saw a nominal increase, by 2%.
- The percentage of new members in the Fidesz-KDNP faction saw a decrease. While in 2018, 14% of them were new representatives, this number declined to 12% by 2022.
- The average age of the opposition members grew by one year since the last cycle, their time spent in the chamber, however, saw a decrease of two years. The reason for this, presumably are the primaries. Further supporting this claim is the fact that while the percentage of new members in 2018 was 28%, this number increased to 47% by 2022.
- The amount of women amongst opposition members also saw a nominal increase since the last parliamentary cycle.

7, Mi Hazánk has 3 new, and 3 ex-Jobbik representatives as they take their seats in the new Parliament.

- Mi Hazánk's faction has the lowest average age, at 42 years. The youthfulness of the old Jobbik faction is represented here as well, which is not surprising given the crossover.
- Half the representatives in the faction hold a university degree, and spent, on average, 5,3 years in Parliament already, which is a higher average than the members of the opposition.
- Dúró Dóra is the only woman in the Mi Hazánk faction.

SUMMARY

The data above shows the uniqueness of the Hungarian Parliament and showcases the – oftentimes sharp – contrast between parties and factions. The average Fidesz representative is a **55-year-old man, who has been a member of Parliament for 14**

years. The average member of the opposition is 45 years old and spent only a single cycle in Parliament. The average representative of Mi Hazánk is 42 years old and has been a member for 5 years. The low average age of the opposition members is helped greatly by the party Momentum, as their faction is made up of a large number of younger representatives. The average age of this faction is 33 years, making it the youngest.

The percentage of women is low in the Fidesz-KDNP faction; as only 10% of the faction is made up of women. While the opposition coalition more than doubles the percentage of women, even this way it is only 23%. In the whole Parliament, women make up 14% of all members, which is 1% better than in 2018. Given that about 50% of the Hungarian population are women, but only 14% of the Parliament is, we can say that women are severely underrepresented in the legislature. To contrast, In the European Union, on average, the percentage of women in the legislature is 33%. Hungary has the lowest number of women participating in Parliament in the EU, furthermore, many non-EU states, such as Turkey are doing better in this regard.

It is obvious that Fidesz-KDNP's personnel has barely changed since 2010. 69% of Fidesz-KDNP's members in Parliament have remained the same since 2010. In contrast, only 11 of opposition politicians have been members in 2010 (19% of current members). In comparison to the opposition, the percentage of new members is also lower; 37% of Fidesz-KDNP member have been living off the representatives' wage for 20 years or longer, while half the opposition members have changed since the last parliamentary cycle. One reason for this is the primaries, which brought many new representatives into the opposition. Both the amount of new people, and the lowering time spent as representatives of opposition members supports this argument. Opposing trends can be seen in the two large camps. While Fidesz-KDNP's members grow more and more entrenched in their positions, the last 12 years has seen an almost full changing of the opposition in Parliament. By now, only a few leading politicians remain in opposition who were there before 2010.

| | Whole Parliament 2018 | Whole Parliament 2022 | Fidesz-KDNP 18 | Opposition parties 2018 | Fidesz-KDNP 2022 | United for Hungary 2022 | Mi Hazánk 2022 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Number of Reps | 199 | 199 | 132 | 65 | 135 | 57 | 6 |
| Men: | 174 | 171 | 121 | 51 | 121 | 44 | 5 |
| Women: | 25 | 28 | 11 | 14 | 14 | 13 | 1 |
| Percentage of women: | 13% | 14% | 8% | 22% | 10% | 23% | 17% |
| Average age: | 50 | 52 | 53 | 44 | 55 | 45 | 42 |
| Years spent in Parliament/Rep | 10,2 | 11,2 | 12,0 | 6,6 | 14,2 | 4,7 | 5,3 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of new reps | 37 | 46 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 27 | 3 |
| Percentage of new reps: | 19% | 23% | 14% | 28% | 12% | 47% | 50% |

Appendix: Makeup of Parliament 2018-2022.