

# Will there be change, should there be change?

Opinions on the chances of a change of government and preferences for the next prime minister

ANALYSIS BY THE REPUBLIKON INSTITUTE

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## SUMMARY

- According to a survey conducted by Republikon in February, 45 percent of respondents would like to see Péter Magyar in the prime minister's seat, while 37 percent still prefer Viktor Orbán.
- Péter Magyar is the most popular among uncertain voters. Thirty-five percent of uncertain voters would prefer him, while 20 percent would prefer Orbán, meaning that Magyar has more than one and a half times the support of Orbán in this group.
- According to 46 percent of respondents, the 2026 election will result in a change of government, while 40 percent believe that another Fidesz-KDNP victory is more likely, meaning that the majority expects a change of government.
- 90 percent of Tisza voters believe that Tisza will form a government, while 87 percent of Fidesz-KDNP supporters believe that Fidesz-KDNP will form a government again after the elections. However, Fidesz voters are more confident of victory, with 68 percent ruling out a change of government, while only 39 percent of the Tisza camp are completely certain that Tisza will win.
- 28 percent of those who are uncertain believe there will be a change of government, while one-third believe there will not, meaning that those who expect Fidesz to win are in a slight majority, despite the fact that their sympathies otherwise lie with Magyar.

## FINDINGS

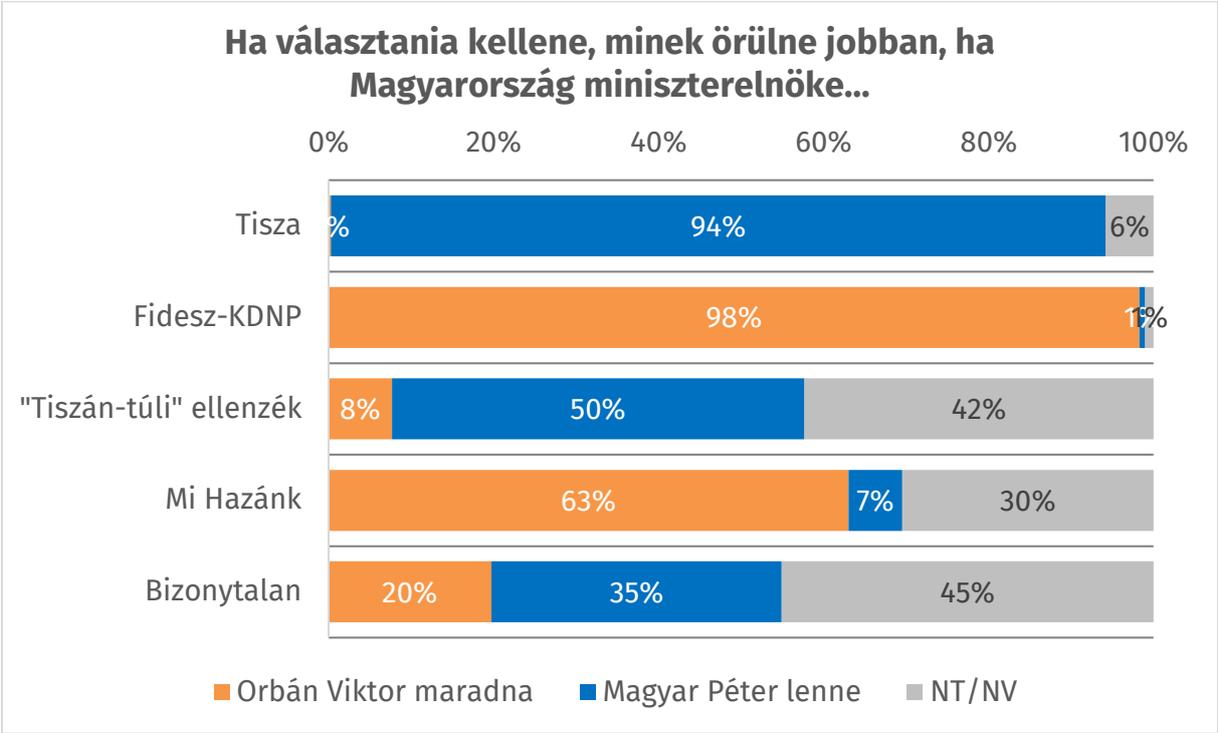
Hungarian political campaigns often revolve around the prime ministerial candidates. This is particularly true of the current election campaign, which is clearly a contest between Viktor Orbán and Péter Magyar, after Magyar was able to win over the overwhelming majority of opposition voters with his promise of a change of government following a complete shift in the opposition over the past two years. In line with party preferences, the majority would like to see Péter Magyar in the prime minister's seat, with 45 percent choosing him, compared to Orbán's 37 percent. Eighteen percent were unable to choose between the two. Based on this, both Magyar and Orbán have some pulling power beyond their own party voters, with the former having a 10 percentage point lead and the latter a 7 percentage point lead over party preferences.



1. This graph showcases the prime minister preferences of voters between Viktor Orbán and Péter Magyar

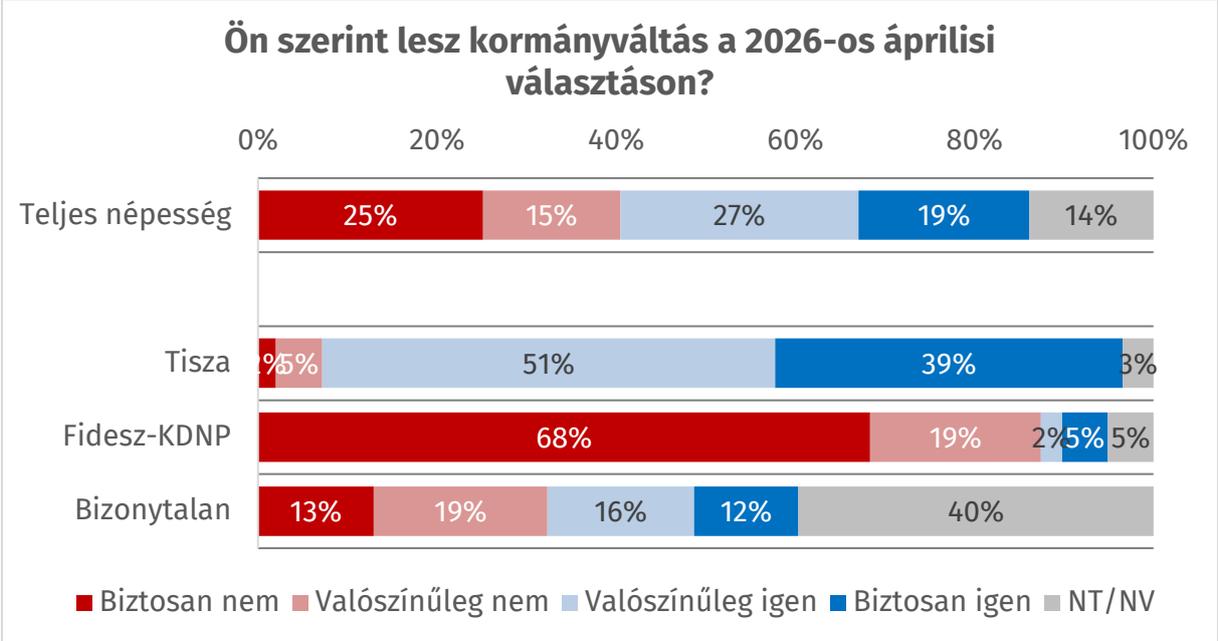
The two major parties have loyal supporters: 94 percent of Tisza Party voters want Péter Magyar to be prime minister, while 98 percent of Fidesz-KDNP voters want Viktor Orbán to retain his position. Fifty percent of non-Tisza opposition voters chose Magyar, 8 percent chose Orbán, and 42 percent were undecided. Here and in the case of Mi Hazánk, the results must of course be taken with a grain of salt due

to the small sample size, but only every second opposition voter outside the Tisza region is comfortable with the idea of Péter Magyar as prime minister. Two-thirds of the Mi Hazánk camp would choose Orbán, while only 7 percent would be happy with Péter Magyar as prime minister, which shows that Mi Hazánk's current voter base is leaning toward the ruling parties and that the two right-wing formations are successfully drawing closer together. Although the sample size is small, it appears that the Mi Hazánk camp is slightly more open to Orbán than the non-Tisza opposition is to Magyar. It is clear that the two leading political forces exert significant gravitational pull, which tests the ability of smaller parties to retain their votes and could jeopardize their entry into parliament. Among undecided voters, Péter Magyar is more popular than Viktor Orbán. 35 percent of undecided voters would like to see Magyar as prime minister, while only 20 percent would prefer Orbán, meaning that Magyar has more than one and a half times the support of Orbán in this group. Less than half of those who are undecided were unable to make a decision, which shows how difficult it is to avoid political influences in an intense campaign.



2. This graph shows the prime minister preferences according to party-preferences

The two strongest parties are both communicating that they are on the verge of victory because they know that voter perception is important; belief in victory mobilizes voters who want to share in their party's success. In light of this, it is particularly important to understand what the public mood suggests about who is winning the election race. 46 percent of respondents believe that the 2026 election will result in a change of government, while 40 percent expect another Fidesz-KDNP victory. Only 19 percent are certain that change is coming, while a quarter of all respondents are certain of another Fidesz victory. Tisza leads in party preferences, and by now the majority believes that Magyar's party will change the government in April, although respondents who support Fidesz are more confident.



3. The graph shows the chances of change of government according to party-preferences

Two-thirds of Fidesz-KDNP voters are certain of Orbán's victory, another 19 percent say they consider a Fidesz victory likely, and 7 percent believe Tisza will win. 39 percent of Tisza voters are certain of Tisza's victory, while another 51 percent are not certain but believe Magyar's victory is likely. Only 7 percent of Tisza voters believe that Fidesz-KDNP will win the election. The narrative constructed by Péter Magyar and the Tisza Party, according to which 2026 is a foregone conclusion and the ruling parties are already preparing for defeat, is working. Unlike in previous

years, opposition voters really believe in change and believe that a change of government is possible. Pro-government supporters are more confident in their convictions, even though they are fewer in number, but they have been proven right four times in a row, while the opposition has been disappointed several times, so it is understandable that fewer people believe with complete certainty that change is coming, even when the general mood and party preferences predict a change of government. Those who are uncertain are uncertain on this issue as well, but 28 percent of them believe there will be a change of government, while one-third believe there will not, so those who expect Fidesz to win are in a slight majority here. Since those who believe in change are in the minority in this group, despite the fact that Péter Magyar has a larger share of the vote, it may be important for Tisza to convince them that he has a chance of winning.

**Methodology:** The survey was conducted between February 12 and 17, 2026, with 1,000 respondents interviewed by telephone. The survey is representative of the adult population of the country in terms of gender, age, educational attainment, and type of settlement. The margin of error is +/- 3.5%.